

## PROHIBITION OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS

—*Con.*

bers of the Dominion Alliance, which for years has been working for the cause of temperance throughout Canada. Canada, as we know, is inhabited by people of various creeds and various nationalities. We differ on many questions, but prohibition is one upon which we can all agree, because on the solution of this problem rests the efficiency of the nation, 1452. Claims temperance movement organized in Montreal. Quotes petition and circular asking Government to take action, 1452-4. Lord Kitchener and others quoted, 1454-70.

*Stevens, H. H. (Vancouver)*—1442.

There are two aspects to this question: the moral and the economic or social aspect, and with the moral aspect I do not intend to deal at any great length, 1442. I ask the indulgence of the House while I point to the opinions expressed on this question by various sections of Canada, 1443. Quotations from different sources, 1444-7. I come to another phase of the question, which is probably the reason for objection to prohibition more than any other, and that is the cry of personal liberty, 1448-9. Compensation dealt with, 1450-1.

*Thornton, C. J. (Durham)*—1482.

In the discussion which has taken place here to-day, it would seem that almost everything that could be said on this question had been said. The economic side of the problem has been fully treated both by the mover and seconder of the resolution, and it would seem that scarcely anything further could be said without repetition, 1483. Statistics showing percentage of paupers caused by drink, and success or failure of prohibition in United States referred to, 1484-5. The most serious question before the people of Canada and Great Britain to-day is: Are there some things that we and the people of Great Britain, and perhaps of our Allies, are indulging in that prevent God from answering the prayers of His own people, 1446.

*Thomson, Levi (Qu'Appelle)*—1479.

I do not purpose discussing the financial effects of prohibitive measures. I think most people who are open to conviction are already convinced that it pays to pass and enforce such measures. And after all, we cannot place a money value on the conduct and habits of the people. We cannot estimate in dollars and cents the value of vigorous manhood, 1479. It seems to me that the present is the time when this matter ought to be thoroughly dealt with. Notwithstanding anything that may be said, the people of Canada are ready for such legislation as is proposed. They are anxious that we should pass the most stringent legislation in this matter, 1481.

*Weichel, W. G. (Waterloo North)*—1470.

I am opposed to prohibition on the ground that it will have a tendency to degrade

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the public service; that it dulls the public conscience, and will make the nation hypocritical, 1471. If one half of the time now devoted by the moral reformers and prohibitionists to this propaganda were given to aid in securing legislation to improve the conditions in factories, where thousands of men are yearly mangled and killed, there would be fewer victims of our industrial machines, 1472. I honestly believe that prohibition is not necessary to make the world sober. Economic considerations force a man to be temperate. No one trusts a man who habitually drinks to excess, nor can he hold a job, nor can he get life insurance, and if he seeks the company of idlers he will find that he cannot find much company because the sober men are all at work, 1473. Opinions of eminent men quoted, 1474-8.

*Wright, Wm. (Muskoka)*—1489.

This evil is so great that I think the people of this country have delegated to us the power to deal with it, and they expect us to take the position of responsible representatives, and to say yes or no to the proposition that is here before the Chair, 1489-90.

## PROHIBITION OR RESTRICTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

Bill in aid of Provincial legislation introduced, read the first time and explained.—*Mr. Doherty*, 1901-3.

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Motion:

That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that necessary action should be taken by the Government during this session to secure an amendment of the British North America Act so as to empower the Legislature of any province to prohibit the importation of intoxicating liquors into such province and the manufacture of such liquors within the province.—*Mr. Hughes*, 1949.

*Hughes, J. J. (Kings, P.E.I.)*—1949.

We have been told that legislation of this kind is an infringement upon personal liberty, 1951. It is well known to every member of this House that nearly all legislation infringes more or less upon the personal liberty of the individual. The best legislation is that which has for its aim the greatest good for the greatest number, 1952.

*McLean, A. A. (Queens, P.E.I.)*—1953-6.

Years ago it would have been considered legislation which a socialist, or an anarchist, would ask for, but to-day it is legislation which the whole of the people agree is proper and in the interest of the workmen and of the employers, 1953. Those people who come here and say that it is against the interests and the will of the people to pass this Act are taking a position against the interests of the people, 1954. Prohibition Act of P. E. I. referred to, 1954-6.