

prepared and submitted to the House, which would avoid any clash of jurisdiction between the Dominion parliament and the legislatures of the provinces. I do not always agree with the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster), but I heartily concur in what he said to-day, and I am also strongly in accord with the remarks of the hon. gentleman from Dundas (Mr. Broder). I can hardly see how we can expect to carry any legislation of this kind through this parliament, considering the number of smokers who are amongst our members. I do not suppose there are half a dozen members in this House to-day who are not smokers.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. KENNEDY. Well, I am glad to know that there are more than half a dozen who do not smoke, but I doubt if there are fifty. I agree with the hon. member (Mr. Broder) that there is very little use in our legislating against an evil which we seem to endorse by our actions. The boy is very apt to follow in the steps of the old man; he's sure to reason that if his father smokes a cigar he may smoke a cigarette, which to his mind is only a small cigar. It is human nature for the youth to reason in that way, and it is pretty hard to get him to understand anything else. The best way for us to discourage this bad habit is to set a better example to the boys. I think there is no doubt but that there is a great increase of smoking in our community. We hear a great deal from medical men about the value of pure air, but I will defy any man to walk down any of our public streets and get more than half a dozen whiffs of pure air in the whole length of the street.

Mr. BRODER. What street?

Mr. KENNEDY. Any well travelled street in this city. For curiosity, yesterday while walking along Bank street from the corner of Albert street to Sparks street I counted ten men smoking, some smoking cigars, some cigarettes, and some pipes; and between that street and the corner of O'Connor street I counted twelve more. There is one characteristic about tobacco smoke, and that is that you can smell it a long way off; after you have passed a smoker you can smell him for fifty feet, if not more.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. KENNEDY. I know that I can. I would not say that smokers intentionally annoy their neighbours, but the smoking habit is certainly very annoying to those who do not like it, and it must be particularly annoying to the ladies. If you go to a lacrosse match, or a hockey match, and get an upper seat you are in a cloud of smoke all the time. I do not think it is right, and I do not think it is healthy. It would be well for smokers to consider a little, and to remember that they are responsible through their example for the great harm

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that is being done to our youths. The example of the older people is at the bottom of the evil, and until we can get rid of that there is very little use of our legislating against cigarette smoking.

Mr. B. B. GUNN (South Huron). I hope I shall have an opportunity of supporting by my vote the resolution introduced by the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Blain). The Prime Minister expresses a great deal of sympathy with this resolution, and he seems to think that legislation of the kind proposed by my hon. friend (Mr. Blain) should be enacted. Well, the right hon. gentleman has the power to enact legislation of that kind if he chooses. The Prime Minister reminds me of the man who stood at the top of a well, and who said to the boy down below: I am exceedingly sorry for your plight, I would like to help you but I don't feel disposed to. The right hon. gentleman has the rope in his hand; he can haul that boy out from the well if he chooses, but so far as I can make out from his remarks to-day he does not feel disposed to do so. In some respects this is the most important proposition that has been submitted to the House since I have had the honour of a seat here, and I cannot conceive how any hon. gentleman who represents a respectable constituency could refuse to support a measure of this kind. We are told that the session will be brought to an early close, but whether that is so or not, there is plenty of time to put a measure of this kind through, if the government wishes to. It is not a new question by any means: before I was elected to this House the question was discussed and a large majority declared they were in favour of legislation of this kind. It was said by one hon. gentleman to-day that a law of this kind would be hard to enforce. Well, most of us Canadians believe that sumptuary laws like this are harder to enforce in the United States than they are in Canada, and yet in the state of Wisconsin there is an anti-cigarette law and you cannot buy a cigarette in any city of that state without being subject to a heavy penalty. I, for one, have no doubt that in Canada such a law as this could be enforced, and I trust the hon. gentleman from Peel (Mr. Blain) will press his resolution so that we may know where the members of this House stand on the question.

Hon. SYDNEY FISHER (Minister of Agriculture) This is a very important question and it is one as to which we should not act hastily. In 1903, this House, by a considerable majority, accepted the principle of the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of cigarettes in Canada.

Mr. FOSTER. And the importation.

Mr. FISHER. And the importation also. I do not want to go back on that in any way or shape. I think that we ought to keep that before us and we ought to try