

## A STATEMENT BY THE DISTILLERS OF CANADA

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**T**HE Government of Canada having announced its intention to submit to the forthcoming session of Parliament legislation dealing with the manufacture, transportation and sale of alcoholic beverages, and there appearing in the daily press paid advertisements, published by those interested in the passage of prohibitory laws, the distillers feel that in justice, not only to themselves, but to that large body of people throughout the whole Dominion who have legitimately and temperately used their products, they should place their position before the public: for the business of the distillers of Canada has existed only in response to demand from the people of Canada without which it could not have been created and maintained.

For years there has been spreading over the American Continent a strong sentiment in favor of temperance. This sentiment is by no means the monopoly of the total abstainer, but is shared by the vast majority of those who use alcoholic beverages, and is directed almost wholly at the public drinking bar and saloon. There has been very little popular agitation that went beyond the abolition of public drinking. It was felt that the public bar with its ever-ready invitation to enter, its customs of "treating," its pernicious record of political activity, and in too many cases its dubious management, could only be dealt with by extinction.