

vince in connection with the taking care of boys, and I rather think this is important testimony given at that convention in the city of Toronto, and testimony that speaks for itself without further comment on my part. In the city of Montreal the Rev. Dr. Shaw, chairman of the Protestant Board of School Commissioners, in answer to a communication from the president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, wrote as follows :

Dear Madam,—In answer to your recent inquiries as to the use of tobacco by boys in the schools under the control of the Protestant school commissioners of this city, permit me to say :

1. Personally I heartily detest and lament the great and growing evil of the use by boys of cigarettes and of tobacco in any form, and I am in full sympathy with your efforts to reduce this evil. . . . . In the High School, regulation No. 8, as framed by the board, prohibits the use of tobacco and this and other regulations are required 'to be read and explained to each class at least once a month.' Probably there is greater danger in this matter in the High School than in others, as boys here have reached an age of rash independence which more readily exposes them to temptation.

The influence of the former rector, the Rev. Dr. Rexford, and of the present rector, Mr. Dixon, has done much by moral, rather than by legal means, to reduce this evil. It is well known that their attitude to it is one of decided opposition.

I made it my business to write W. G. Taylor, Esq., a gentleman in the city of Montreal who is superintendent of what is known as the Old Brewery Mission, which is doing a very important work in the reclaiming of men and boys. He sent me a letter in reply. I will just make a quotation from it :

To have such a Bill passed would be a great boon, and I pray that the legislators of this glorious country may be led to give this obnoxious business of making and selling cigarettes a death blow. The good to be accomplished is immeasurable for there is no doubt of the baneful effects from smoking those 'death dealing cigarettes' especially on boys.

Further he says, giving an example or two :

Here is the case of a doctor—a man of talent who has filled and could fill a good position, so addicted that though he has been told by the best physicians that his eyesight will be gone in a few months and has fought for months for victory, yet cannot give up the habit.

Another :

Some sad cases have come our way. Men who have been saved from drink tell me that they find the desire for cigarettes stronger than that for liquor. . . . I have had many others cry out to me about their slavery and curse the day they began to smoke the cursed things. I believe these statistics will show that in the majority of cases where boys have begun stealing from their employers they have

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been cigarette smokers. I would be glad if these few words will help even to the slightest degree in having the Bill passed. No cigarettes means less drinking of intoxicants.

I have also here some letters from some very worthy workers in connection with the Dominion Women's Christian Temperance Union. I will not stop to quote them all. I have one dated London, Ontario, January 27, 1907 :

We of the W. C. T. U. are moving along this line and have instructed our solicitors, Perkins, Fraser and Gibson, to prepare a Bill.

They have had under consideration the introduction of a Bill into this House for the abolition of cigarettes in this country. I will not further quote these letters, because they are very numerous. I have, however, a very important document here that I want to make one or two quotations from. I quote the following opinions on cigarette smoking from business institutions, colleges, United States army and navy schools, etc.:

2. Business college.—This is our experience in teaching more than fifty thousand young people: cigarettes bring shattered nerves, mental weakness, stunted growth and general physical and moral degeneracy. We refuse to receive users of tobacco in our institution. (Henry C. and Sara A. Spencer, Spencerian Business College.)

4. Omaha schools.—No two ways about it. Either let cigarettes alone, or go without an education. The use of cigarettes impairs the faculties of the pupil, and sooner or later will ruin him.—Superintendent of Omaha schools.

5. Swift & Company (Packing House, Chicago), and other Chicago business houses employing hundreds of boys, have issued this announcement, or similar ones: 'So impressed with the danger of cigarette using that we will not employ a cigarette user.'

9. United States Army positions.—Thousands of young men rejected by medical examiners because they had tobacco heart, the result of cigarette smoking. In one examination for West Point, one-fourth of the candidates were rejected. Cause: tobacco heart from cigarette smoking.

10. United States Naval schools.—Out of 412 boys examined by the naval enlisting officer (Peoria, Illinois), only 14 were accepted. Of the 398 rejections, the greater number were on account of weak hearts, and in the majority of cases this was caused by cigarette smoking.

12. Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad bars cigarette smoking.

14. High schools.—I will not try to educate a boy with the cigarette habit. It is wasted time. The boy couldn't learn. Trying to teach him would be like talking to a block of wood. Cigarettes are poisonous. A boy who smokes cigarettes can't learn.

Boys who smoke cigarettes are always backward in their studies. They are filthy in their personal habits, tending to viciousness; they are hard to manage, dull in appearance. There is danger of such boys making weak and undesirable citizens.—Principal W. S. Strickland. (All of these instances are from the school principals of one large city.)