

Surely we cannot but greatly sympathize with this point of view, and I don't see how we can conscientiously support any movement which will have this effect on property, unless we are prepared to pay full compensation.

3. Another immediate effect of Prohibition in British Columbia would be the increase of taxation. The revenue at present derived from the liquor business, both Municipal and Provincial, would have to be procured from some other source, and if it does not come through the hotels, it will have to come from other channels, and with the war taxes and voluntary contributions toward various war objects, I sincerely believe that the business community would feel this extra burden most intensely. The loss of one hundred and three thousand dollars in Vancouver alone would have to be placed onto the present taxes, which are already soaring too far skyward.

Why, therefore, should we at present go in for anything that would increase our burdens?

4. Besides, Prohibition would naturally increase the expenses of civic administration. I want you to disabuse your minds at once of the erroneous idea that Prohibition lessens the cost of civic administration. It does not. It always increases it, for you got to increase your detective and private inspectors' forces, if you mean to enforce the regulations, but you do not and cannot reduce any standing factor in the administration. You say there will be less drunkards. May be, but that won't mean less policemen, less magistrates, less court houses, less wardens; so in the final analysis, less drunkards always spell greater cost of administration, for there are less fines.

But does Prohibition mean in the aggregate less transgressors of law and order? Statistics prove no! So here again we do not really derive any benefit, but a serious loss.

5. There is another serious aspect of this question which should appeal to us as business men. With Oregon and Washington dry—at least temporarily, for I don't believe they will remain so more than a year—and with Alberta and Saskat-