

<p>SPECIAL ARTICLES</p>	<p>Our Contributors</p>	<p>BOOK REVIEWS</p>
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THE USE OF TOBACCO BY THOSE UNDER SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

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The "Act to Restrain the Use of Tobacco by Young Persons," passed by Parliament a few weeks ago, is a very important law and its enactment under Government leadership, with the support of both sides of the House, the chief criticism to which it was exposed being that it does not go far enough, is significant. It means that Parliament is increasingly favorable to Moral Reform legislation if persuaded that it is necessary, reasonable and practicable, and it means that the world of hard-headed business and professional men in and out of Parliament is convinced by observation and scientific opinion that the use of tobacco by growing youths is so seriously harmful as to imperatively call for legislation interference with liberty in order to save the lives and preserve the health of Canadian boys and girls—that the National well-being demanded such action.

The law is not perfect. The age limit might well have been raised to eighteen as was done unanimously by the Commons on motion of Mr. H. H. Miller, M.P., though it was subsequently reduced to sixteen by the Senate. This may be remedied some future session, along with other defects that may emerge with experience.

The W.C.T.U. and the Methodist Church Courts asked for the absolute "prohibition of the manufacture, importation and sale of cigarettes." Both Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. R. L. Borden considered this extreme and impracticable. It has not yet been demonstrated that the cigarette per se is worse than the cigar or pipe. It has not been proven as sometimes claimed that cigarettes or their wrappers are doped with opium or similar drugs. It seemed, therefore, unreasonable to prohibit cigarettes absolutely and not tobacco in other forms. It seemed also a radical and drastic step to take, to deprive all men of cigarettes in order to put them beyond the reach of boys. It was therefore resolved to limit the prohibition to youths and to make it apply to all forms of tobacco.

The following is a summary of the provisions of the Law:—Section 1 makes it a crime to "directly or indirectly sell, give or furnish to a person under the age of 16 years any cigarettes or cigarette papers, whether for his own use or not," or to "sell, give or furnish to such a person tobacco in any form other than cigarettes" if he knows or has reason to believe it to be "for the use of that person." The maximum penalty is for a first offence \$10 for a second \$25, for subsequent offences \$100.

It is noteworthy that in the case of cigarettes the prohibition is absolute, but in the case of other forms of tobacco the prohibition is limited to tobacco for the personal use of the youth purchasing or receiving.

Section 2 provides for the forfeiture of tobacco. This section makes it "the duty of any constable" or other person having similar powers, "to seize any cigarettes, cigarette papers, or tobacco in any form in the possession of any person apparently under the age of 16 years whom he finds smoking or chewing tobacco or about to smoke or chew tobacco in any street or public place."

Note—(a) It is the duty of constables to seize, etc.; it is not left optional.

(b) This is limited to "any street or public place."

Section 3 makes it a crime for any person under 16 to "smoke or chew tobacco in any street or public place, or to purchase or have in his possession whether for his own use or not, any cigarettes or cigarette papers," or "purchase or have in his possession tobacco in other forms" if for his own use.

The penalty is for a first offence a reprimand, for a second offence \$1, and for subsequent offences \$4.

Sub-section A makes it "the duty of the Justice to examine under oath all persons brought before him who are found guilty" under this section "as to where and from whom such persons" obtained the cigarettes or tobacco and "the refusal to give such information shall be deemed a contempt of the court" which is punishable by imprisonment.

Section 4 deals with the sale of cigarettes, cigars and tobacco in automatic slot machines. Persons under 16 are not to have access to them. The magistrate may order the removal of such machines or give any other order necessary in order to prevent persons under 16 from making use of them for the getting of tobacco.

The owner of such machines or his agent may seize cigarettes, etc., obtained by a person apparently under 16 from such machine.

Section 5 exempts employees or tobaccoists in handling tobacco for business purposes.

Section 6 defines "cigarette" as "including any small cigar made of tobacco rolled up in paper, tobacco leaf, or any other material."

Section 7 puts upon the defendant the onus of proving that he is above 16 years of age, and failing this, he is to be held as under 16 if he "appears to the Justice" to be so.

See Section 984, "The Criminal Code," whose provisions apply to offenders under this section.

The fact that such a law has been passed by Parliament gives to parents, Sunday school teachers, day school teachers, ministers, and others a golden opportunity of effectively warning boys against the use of cigarettes and tobacco. It is not a crime for any youth under 16 to use or have in his possession cigarettes. Why did Parliament make it a crime? Its members are not much influenced by merely moral and religious considerations—not as much as they ought to be—but they are powerfully influenced by the teachings of science and economics in considering such a question. They were persuaded that the use of tobacco by boys is so harmful to their physical, mental and moral powers that to allow them access to the weed is a crime against human progress and national welfare. Cannot those who teach the young on this ground make an irresistible appeal to boys to abstain from tobacco apart from the enforcement of the law altogether?

PRINCE RUPERT HOTELS.

An interesting event in the progress of the new city of Prince Rupert occurred on the evening of August 6th last, when the "Prince Rupert Inn and Annex," owned and operated by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, were opened for business with a grand reception and ball. Announcement cards have been issued which advise the public that these hostleries are now open for business on the American and European plan, with absolutely first class accommodation. Mr. G. A. Sweet is the manager.

LAYMEN'S MISSIONARY MOVEMENT.

The Laymen's Missionary Movement has been introduced into several cities and towns in the older parts of Canada. Wherever it has entered it has been the means of greatly intensifying missionary zeal. Men have had their spiritual life quickened, their conception regarding the mission of the church to the world enlarged and their interest in the expansion of Christ's Kingdom made more practical. In these places better means of educating the people on Home and Foreign Missions are employed, and Scriptural, business-like and systematic methods of giving are being introduced. Already congregations are doubling or trebling their missionary contributions—in many cases even more generous offerings are being made. Though the largest results of this Movement are spiritual, yet it is interesting to note the greatly increased standards of missionary giving for 1908 set by some of the cities touched by this Movement, such as:—

Halifax	150 per cent.
St. John	100 " "
Montreal	150 " "
Toronto	200 " "
Hamilton	150 " "
Brantford	100 " "
London	100 " "
Sarnia	100 " "

This Movement has proven so valuable as a stimulus to larger missionary effort and as a means of interesting men in the church that the Canadian Council, in conference with Mr. J. Campbell White and representatives of the Mission Boards of the various churches, decided to enter upon an extended campaign, having for its object the development of the Movement throughout the whole Dominion. In this project the Canadian Council is fortunate in having the leadership of Mr. White, he having consented to spend about seven weeks in Canada, visiting all the centres where meetings are to be held.

The Home and Foreign Mission Boards of the churches have decided to join forces with the Laymen's Missionary Movement and make this campaign the chief feature of their work during the coming fall and winter. The Canadian Advisory Council of the Young People's Missionary Movement has also agreed to co-operate, and its secretary will co-operate with the secretary of the Laymen's Missionary Movement in directing the work of organization.

The plan in brief is to hold a series of meetings of about three days' duration in each of the following cities: Halifax, St. John, Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton, London, Winnipeg, Brandon, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and Victoria. Possibly, also, it may be deemed advisable to hold meetings in other cities. The programme will be of a character that will secure the attention of business men. No appeal will be made to arouse the emotions, but each address will be a sane, straightforward statement of facts calculated to convince men that never before were the opportunities so great, the responsibility so pressing, nor the call so claimant as at the present moment for the Christian Church to press forward in a wisely-planned, determined effort to extend Christ's Kingdom throughout our own and other lands. In each city the series will begin with an afternoon meeting, the general theme of which will be "The Spiritual Basis of