

In the discussion which took place in the Commons, the mover of the resolution argued that the diminution in revenue, caused by the abolition of the license system, would be temporary, and that if the money wasted on the traffic was employed in other channels, giving employment to the people and increasing their purchasing power, the duties on the dutiable goods consumed, would, from the increased consumption, more than bring about an equilibrium in a short time.

Hon. G. Foster, Finance Minister, defended his position, and declared his views on the subject of prohibition to be the same now as they were fourteen or fifteen years ago, and added, "I do not count a gold dollar one single moment in the balance against one single ray of light or happiness that comes into the humblest home in this country; I do not count your handful of dollars against the happiness or well-being of one single man, if it is attacked and in danger, and I am here to-night to state that I do not look at the \$7,500,000, as worth one moment's argument if it is put in the balance against the strong demand of the people to-day, to do away with what I consider to be an evil, and to bring about a state of things, which I consider would be better for the home, the happiness and the material prosperity of the country." Admitting that the loss of revenue was a serious difficulty, he added:—"Sir, if this country and this Parliament agree to it, I am here to state, that no better thing could be done in this country than to exchange \$7,500,000 of revenue to the country for a country blessed with sobriety and peace and consequent plenty that I believe would come from a well ordered and well enforced prohibitory law."

Surely these are not the utterances of an enemy to our cause? yet hindrances strew all the way, and "believing in the feasibility of prohibition under certain circumstances, these circumstances being a preponderating public sentiment in its favor which would tend to its maintenance and enforcement," he proposed that a Royal Commission be appointed, and as an amendment to Mr. Jamieson's resolution, moved the following resolution, which was carried by 107 to 88:—"That it is the opinion of this house, it is desirable, *without delay* to obtain for the information and consideration of Parliament, by means of a Royal Commission, the fullest and most reliable data possible, respecting:

- 1st. The effects of the liquor traffic upon all interests affected by it in Canada.
- 2nd. The measures which have been adopted in this and other countries with a view to lessen, regulate or prohibit the traffic.
- 3rd. The results of these measures in each case.
- 4th. The effect the enactment of a prohibitory law in Canada would have in respect of social conditions, agricultural, business, industrial and commercial interests, of the revenue requirements of municipalities and the Dominion, and also as to its capability of efficient enforcement.

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