

I am in fullest accord, and I have given it the very best support I could. But I have yet to see or hear any Government appeal to the people to drink less and buy bonds. Indeed, because the liquor industry is bringing huge revenue into the federal treasury it seems to be an accepted idea that Canada can drink her way to victory.

Here is an argument that was presented to me only yesterday by an honourable member of this Chamber. I hope he will not mind my using it. He said, speaking entirely from a material, not a moral, viewpoint: "Does it make any real difference whether the Government receives this money from the tax on beverages or through the purchase of war bonds, so long as the money goes into the treasury?" I submit, honourable senators, that it will make a tremendous difference five or ten years from now. When the war is over and the period of readjustment follows, it will matter greatly whether our young men and young women—I am sorry to have to include them too—have spent their spare dollars on beverages or have put them into war savings certificates and bonds. It will matter to them and to the country in that period of unemployment and readjustment which must come after the war. We in this Chamber are all old enough to know something of what happened after the last war. Many people who had made high wages all through the war had nothing at all when the depression came. For this reason, if for no other, I would heartily commend the Federal Government on its compulsory war saving plan, especially as it affects the younger men and women of this country.

The Press of July 17 carried an article headed, "War needs will curtail production of liquor." This article goes on to say that war necessities will accomplish what the Government has hesitated to do: they will curtail production of spirituous liquors, because Canadian distilleries will have to turn over to synthetic rubber requirements large quantities of alcohol which are at present in store, and these will therefore not be available for the manufacture of liquor. But when we read further in this same article we find that no effect of this will be felt for two or three years. What of the interval? If we are to release men and money for war purposes, action is needed now.

Another editorial has this to say:

War necessities are helping to some extent to solve the problem of curtailment temporarily, but the fundamental question is untouched.

Then the editor asks this question:

Who is going to find a method of decreasing the demand for intoxicating beverages? The Federal Government? The Provincial Governments? The trade itself? Or those who appreciate the evils of excessive use.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS.

I would respectfully point out that it might be done by a combination of all these agencies under the leadership of the Dominion Government, and I would venture to make the following suggestions:

(1) The Dominion Government could call a conference of representatives from each Provincial Government—conferences have been called upon less vital problems—and endeavour to reach an agreement on shorter hours and restriction of sales.

(2) The Dominion Government could institute a campaign through Press and radio, as it has done on everything else it wished to put across, and urge people to divert some of their money from beer to bonds.

(3) The Dominion Government could take men from this non-essential industry and use them for essential war work.

(4) The Dominion Government could enlist the aid of all national organizations in a campaign to bring before the people the necessity of curbing spending in this particular direction in order to have more funds available for certificates and bonds.

Honourable senators, I am confident in my own mind that if the Dominion Government would take steps along these lines to give leadership in the solving of this problem, it would have the support of the majority of our citizens, certainly the support of an overwhelming majority of the women of Canada.

Hon. A. B. COPP: Honourable senators, I rise, not to take exception to the remarks of the honourable senator from Peterborough (Hon. Mrs. Fallis), but rather to express some appreciation of the splendid suggestion she has made to this House and, through this House, to the country in general. We all understand how difficult it is for the Federal Government, regardless of the powers that it may have in other fields, to step in and impose any authority with respect to the liquor traffic upon provincial governments, which control this traffic within their own boundaries. I listened to a part of the debate on this question in the other Chamber, to what was said by the honourable leader of the Opposition and by some honourable members on the Government side, and, I think, by the Prime Minister himself. It was pointed out there how difficult it is under present conditions to enforce any attempt at prohibition or semi-prohibition of the liquor traffic in the Dominion.

I think the suggestion of the honourable senator from Peterborough (Hon. Mrs. Fallis) to the effect that an attempt should be made to influence the people to decrease