

Mr. J. E. ARMSTRONG: The statement I have already placed on Hansard entirely bears out the argument I have made.

Mr. CARVELL: Then, there is nothing to prevent the importation of liquor from Quebec into Ontario so long as a man is going to consume it himself.

Mr. R. B. BENNETT: So long as the province does not prohibit it.

Mr. J. E. ARMSTRONG: I am inclined to say the provinces are hardly dealing fairly with the Dominion on this question. They have absolute power to forbid the sale and use of liquor, and they can stop that liquor from coming into the province. Still, they will not do it. So far as I can learn no province has taken advantage of the legislation which the Dominion Government has placed on the statute books. Let me go a little further.

Mr. ROSS: Could not the Government effect the very same purpose by prohibiting the manufacture and importation of liquor in a province?

Mr. J. E. ARMSTRONG: Then it would be interfering with the autonomy of the provinces, and my hon. friend would be one of the first to argue that that would be seriously interfering with provincial rights.

Mr. ROSS: Let the Government try it, and I will show you what I will do.

Mr. J. E. ARMSTRONG: Not only did the minister, in 1916, advance temperance legislation in this regard, but he brought in a further Bill, No. 121, which has further restricted wholesale quantities to certain persons. I am glad to say he has been able to give the provinces the power to control the distribution by mail of advertisements for the sale of liquor. Section 3 (a) of the Bill says:

3a. Any person who by himself, his clerk, servant or agent, and any person who as clerk, servant, agent, officer or employee of any other person, sends or attempts to send, through His Majesty's mails, to, from or in any province, any advertisement, letter or document with respect to the sale, purchase or furnishing of intoxicating liquor, the publication or circulation of which is prohibited by the law of such province, is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a penalty of not less than ten dollars and not exceeding one hundred dollars, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding thirty days, or to both fine and imprisonment.

In the district I have the honour to represent they have felt it has been a very great injustice to allow the Post Office Department to be used for the purpose of

distributing advertisements for the sale of liquor. The same contention is made in different parts of the province of Ontario and I am sure I am voicing the sentiments of every member of the House when I say we appreciate the efforts of the minister in bringing about this legislation.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I am surprised that the mails of His Majesty are polluted by liquor. When I had the honour to be Postmaster General of Canada I issued directions to every mail carrier not to carry liquor with His Majesty's mail. I do not see how the next section can be made effective, because it prohibits the circulation of liquor literature or advertisements through His Majesty's mail. The Montreal Gazette is full of liquor advertisements. Many of the Montreal papers contain advertisements of the licensed victuallers, and include the names of the various port wines, Scotch whiskies and so on. They pass through the mails without anything to prevent them, and they circulate largely in other provinces.

Mr. DOHERTY: But, this law is to prevent that.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Would my hon. friend undertake to say that the Montreal Gazette, or La Patrie, or Le Canada, or Le Devoir, or any other Montreal newspaper containing liquor advertisements will be forbidden circulation in provinces where they have prohibition?

Mr. R. B. BENNETT: It is being done in the United States.

Mr. DOHERTY: If the province prohibits it. This has been done in many cases.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I think that is a very drastic section. It means that if the Government of Ontario is sincere it will have to prevent the Montreal Star, the Montreal Gazette, La Patrie, Le Canada, and nearly every paper published in Montreal from circulating in Ontario. The only paper that does not publish any liquor advertisements is the Montreal Weekly Witness, which lives up to its professions, and has always been a temperance paper. But all the press of Montreal will be suppressed by the Ontario Government.

Mr. R. B. BENNETT: No, the advertisements will be suppressed but not the papers.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I would be very much surprised if the Toronto Government would notify the Montreal Gazette and the Mont-