

tion, which has been put forward as an insuperable difficulty. We hear of "vested interests"; and these are covered with a cloak which seems to justify putting them in a class with rights and privileges which must not be tampered with and which must hardly be spoken of except in a suppressed tone. But compensation, I think, is not a serious problem. As a matter of fact, the difficulty is largely solved for us. In Britain they are taking over the whiskey distilleries for the purpose of manufacturing denatured alcohol. Furthermore, the British Government for reasons which I shall not dwell upon now has placed a ban upon the importation of barley for the purpose of manufacturing liquor. I suggest to the Government for their serious consideration the abolition of "the booze", while providing reasonable safeguards for vested interests. I propose that this shall be done by the Government taking over the distilleries of Canada and nationalizing them as a new industry for the production of denatured alcohol and spirits for industrial purposes. That may sound like a revolutionary suggestion, but let us consider it for a moment. Here is a new industry, the manufacture of denatured alcohol. It has been demonstrated by science that a gallon of alcohol is equal to a gallon of gasoline in power. I learn that in Great Britain some of the distilleries have been for years manufacturing starch, and the alcohol, which is a by-product, and which costs 8 cents a gallon to manufacture, has been largely going to waste. As the result of the discoveries of scientists in the last few years it has been found that alcohol can be successfully used in internal combustion engines. In Canada, we import petrol, gasoline and other materials for internal combustion engines, whereas there is going to waste upon the farms and in the cities of Canada sufficient refuse of various kinds out of which to manufacture all the alcohol necessary to supply our needs in this line. I hope I shall not weary the House if I read briefly to show how we can take another leaf out of Russia's book:

The Russian Ministry of Finance is offering a series of prizes for inventions relating to the use of alcohol, and covering a varied field of investigation. The various prizes offered are as follows: Three prizes of 50,000 roubles for a satisfactory method of denaturing alcohol. Three prizes of 100,000 roubles for a new product derived from alcohol. Three prizes of 75,000 roubles for a new method of applying alcohol to the preparation of a product in which it, or its derivatives, constitute a part. Three prizes of 50,000 roubles for new methods for the application of alcohol in an industry

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in which the spirit, or its derivatives, serve as a transitory dissolving agent, or an extracting or precipitating substance. Four prizes of 175,000 roubles for an apparatus for utilizing alcohol for feeding internal combustion engines. Four prizes of 175,000 roubles for improvements in apparatus relating to utilizing alcohol as fuel. Four prizes of 100,000 roubles for apparatus for applying alcohol to lighting purposes.

I have quoted this to show what Russia is doing, and I lay on this Government the responsibility of developing an industry in Canada for which Canada is peculiarly fitted. There is no reason in the world why the Dominion Government should not take advantage of this opportunity to do two things: To solve the compensation question with regard to these distillers and their vested rights, and, before any more vested rights are established, to nationalize a new industry for this country. If we do not do that, in a year or two we shall be putting Bills through this Parliament incorporating such and such a company for the manufacture of denatured alcohol, and the first thing we know the country will be dotted with factories for this purpose; large vested interests will be created, and the opportunity for the Government taking over the industry will have vanished. I again urge the Government to seize this opportunity to deal with this important question, and to prevent such a happening as I have described. What are other countries doing? France has made long contracts with distillers and brewers for motor spirits. Germany, in 1914, consumed 26,000,000 gallons of alcohol for motor spirits. This means a great deal to the farmer; it means cheaper power, light, and heat, and a larger market for his waste products.

Another suggestion has been made with regard to this question of prohibition, and that is, that we should leave it to the provinces. Some one says, "Oh, this is a matter for the provinces to deal with, not the Dominion Government; let us leave it to them, and they can deal with as they think fit." With all respect for those who hold this view, I submit that it is simply a subterfuge. If I remember rightly, the Government presided over by the right hon. gentleman who now leads the Opposition took a plebiscite throughout Canada in 1898, and the reason why that plebiscite was not given effect to—I am speaking subject to correction—was that one of the provinces, or possibly two, gave a majority against prohibition. I am not questioning the action of hon. gentlemen at that time