

Mr. Abbot Makes Vigorous Speech

In Support of Prohibition Measures

MR. ABBOTT—Mr. Chairman, I rise to make a few brief remarks in reference to the matter now before the Chair. In the first place, Mr. Chairman, I wish to inform this Hon. House that I am wholly and solely in favour of Total Prohibition of the sale, manufacture and importation of this gigantic evil that is blighting the lives of thousands upon thousands of the human race.

There are many evils in the world, sir, but the license liquor traffic is the greatest evil of all, and the mightiest enemy of God and man. If the sale, manufacture and importation of liquor was not an evil it should not be restricted as it is; but as it is an evil it should be licensed. We are sure, Mr. Chairman, that it is an evil, and we are absolutely positive that ten thousand times ten thousand has been worse than murdered by it, hence we cannot favor licensing it without acting contrary to reason and outraging the very idea of law. Some people say, sir, that a prohibitory law cannot be enforced. I say it can be enforced, sir, as well as any other law. Shall we license theft and murder because some people will steal and kill?

Some people have such a strange idea in their heads which forces them to say that Prohibition is unconstitutional and interferes with a man's freedom or at least interferes with British freedom. Such persons are entirely wrong in their statements. We prohibit stealing, murder, cruelty to animals, catching trout out of season, killing game out of season, slaughter houses in town and many other things.

We have a prohibitory law on our Statute Book concerning strong drink. We won't allow it to be sold on Sunday's in this town. We won't allow it to be sold to children. The liquor sellers are forced by law, sir, to close their shops every evening at six o'clock. Moreover, sir, the restriction in the license system prohibit nine hundred and ninety nine out of every thousand from selling, surely then we have the right to stop the other fellow from selling it and have Total Prohibition. In any case, Mr. Chairman, we cannot tolerate and be justified.

There is not a father in this Legislature, sir, there is not a father outside the Bar of this Honourable House, there is not a father in Gallery, and there is not a father the length and breadth of this land or any other land who can conscientiously teach his boy not to drink, and then vote for a place where he may be taught to drink. He cannot do so with a clear conscience.

Some people say, sir, that the liquor traffic is absolutely necessary because of the Revenue. To such persons I say the traffic must have victims. You can no more run bar-rooms without sons, fathers and husbands than you can run a steamship without coal, fire a gun without powder, or sail a schooner without sails. The traffic must have victims, as I have already said.

I say, Mr. Chairman, never mind the Revenue. A country is enriched not by liquor, sir, but by the muscle and mind of the inhabitants. Anything that destroys muscle, brain and mind robs our country.

Strong drink, sir, cannot be helpful to the human system, because instead of nourishing it poisons, instead of strengthening it weakens, instead of stimulating it narcotizes and paralyzes, instead of increasing the vital forces it diminishes force, produces disease and is an agent of degeneration and death. The greatest minds, sir, has been overcome by this great evil. Can't we point out many good people ruined, many homes of suffering and misery in this land which has been the direct result of strong drink, Mr. Chairman, we do not want a Commission to investigate the evil brought about by this traffic, we can plainly see the result without any investigation whatever.

Total Prohibition stands upon many strong reasons. The overwhelming weight of medical testimony is in favour of total abstinence. The experience of thousands has shown us that teetotalism means happy homes, educated families and well-conducted business.

Pastoral inquiry has shown us that innumerable families have been ruined by strong drink.

Not one solitary advantage has been traced to the use of strong drink as a beverage.

The cases against strong drink, sir, are overwhelming.

Who did it ever bless?

What family did it ever save from poverty and misery?

What young man was ever promoted in business because he was addicted to the use of strong drink?

Nobody can say a good word in its favour.

The history of drinking, Sir, is written within and without in mourning lamentation and woe. War cannot equal its ravages. Pestilence cannot rival its statistics of desolation. It stands above, Sir, as a record of sorrow, shame and murder. And let us who are representatives of a people who are living in a Christian Country in this enlightened age. Let us I say discountenance it, abhor it, denounce it with all our might, soul and strength.

In this country, Mr. Chairman, this evil has had its victims. Strong drink Sir, has robbed many a once pure and honest servant girl, not only of her situation but her virtue.

Drink has robbed many a once well-stored home of its abundance, and sent the once comfortable and happy family to penury, want and misery. Drink has wrecked the fortunes of thousands and sent respectability to hide its head in a poor house. Drink has blighted the most precious hopes and blasted the most noble and sacred of man's treasures. Drink, Sir, give poverty for riches, sickness for health, misery for happiness. In short it gives the opposite of all that is God-like and calculated to make man holy and happy, but Mr. Chairman I believe, Sir, that the axe is laid to the root of the tree, that huge tree of which we cannot say, we have come seeking fruit and found none. It bears fruit, Sir, and bears fruit abundantly; but the fruit is so baneful, so poisonous, so deadly, that without a syllable of intercession, I cry out it down. Why, tumble it to the ground. We have been scraping and pruning too long, Mr. Chairman. Scraping and pruning, Sir, will not remove the monster. What we want is to wield the axe of total legal Prohibition and cut it down and keep it down, because it is the most contemptible business on the face of God's footstool.

It is so contemptible, Sir, that men are ashamed to be seen going in a saloon, and in many cases the liquor seller is ashamed to serve his customers. His conscience smites him, so that he gets his servant to attend the bar and hand the rum to the poor man who cannot control his appetite. When people, Mr. Chairman, cannot control their appetite against their greatest enemy, then I say the law should step in and protect them for their families sake.

Before concluding, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a few questions—Does it pay to have fifty workmen poor and ragged in order to have one saloon keeper well dressed and flushed with money?

Does it pay to have one man belonging to this town in jail because another sells him liquor?

Does it pay to have a dozen intelligent young men turned into thieves and vagabonds, that one man may get a living by keeping a saloon?

Does it pay to have a hundred homes blasted, ruined, defiled and turned into hells of misery, strife and want, that one brewer may build up a fortune?

Does it pay to have 50 mothers and their children dress in rags, live in hovels, and daily famish, that one saloon keeper's wife may have plenty?

Does it pay to tolerate a traffic which breeds crime, poverty, agony, idleness, shame, and death, wherever it is allowed?

You know perfectly well, Mr. Chairman, that it does not pay.

On the other hand, Sir, do you think it will pay to have Total Prohibition of the sale importation and manufacture of this awful evil in Newfoundland?

Let us go to Kansas for our answer. "Kansas tells us that in her 30 years of Prohibition of the sale of alcoholic liquors, that in 37 of her 105 counties, there are no insane. In 54 of these counties there are no inebriates; thirty-eight of her country poorhouses are empty; fifty-three of her jails were recently empty, and 65 countries had no prisoners in the State penitentiary. The entire number of paupers in the state falls short of 600."

Some countries have not called a Grand Jury to try a criminal case in ten years. Not long ago Kansas had two hundred millions of dollars in her banks, her farmers owned live stock valued at two hundred and twenty-five millions of dollars, and in one year the people have added forty-five millions of dollars to their taxable

Proceedings at the House of Assembly

THURSDAY, May 20th, 1915
House met at 3.30 p.m.

MR. WALSH presented a petition from the inhabitants of Placentia referring to setting of salmon nets in North East and South East Arms of that place, and in setting forth the claims of petitioners, was supported by his colleagues—Messrs. F. Morris and Devereaux.

Messrs. Clapp, Winsor and Lloyd tabled notice of questions.

Minister of Fisheries Piccott tabled answers to questions.

The questions on the Order Paper were then considered as follows:

(1)—MR. HALFYARD—To ask the Hon. Colonial Secretary to lay upon the table of the House a statement showing the names and ages of the Old Age Pensioners residing at Colliers, in the District of Harbor Main.

(2)—MR. HALFYARD—To ask the Minister of Public Works to lay upon the table of the House a statement showing the amount of money sent to Collier's Harbor Main District, during the years 1913 and 1914, on account of Main Line, Local and Special Grants, and the copies of all returns for same, wherever returns have been received by the Department.

(3)—MR. HALFYARD—To ask the Hon. Colonial Secretary to lay upon the table of the House copies of the returns for Poor Relief in the District of Fogo, for the quarter ending March 31st, 1915.

(4)—MR. HALFYARD—To ask the Rt. Hon. Premier, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture and Mines to lay upon the table of the House a statement showing the number of sheep, bulls, and pigs; the prices paid for each; and all vouchers for same; bought from Messrs LeMoine Bros. of Sydney, during the years 1912 and 1913.

Order of the Day followed and the act relating to the Newfoundland Patriotic Association past its third reading and was sent to the Upper House for its concurrence.

House then went into Committee on the Council's amendments to the Saw Mill Act, which were read for a second time and passed back to the Upper House.

In Committee on the Products Corporation Regulations, an amended resolution relating to assigned water powers was adopted, and two amended resolutions—one by Mr. Kent, the other by Mr. Coaker, were put and lost. Committee rose, reported having passed the Resolutions with some amendments, and asked leave to bring in a Bill, and at this point a division was called for and all the amendments that had been proposed by the Opposition which resulted of course in a straight party "veto."

The Products Bill was then read for a first time, and comes up for a second reading on the morrow.

The Prohibition Bill and Grand Bank Water Company Acts got their second reading and go to the committee stage to-morrow. In the committee the Bank Fishery Act was introduced by Minister of Fisheries Piccott, who briefly stated that he had nothing further to add to what he had already said, only that he hoped it would be supported by all Hon. Members.

MR. COAKER gave the Bill his hearty support, and in doing so stated that a measure of this nature should have been introduced long before now. He complimented Mr. Piccott for having taken exceptional interest this year, in the welfare of the fishermen of the Colony. Mr. Coaker also commented strongly on the treatment meted out by the Upper Chamber, to all Bills that had emanated from members of the F. P. U., and in expressing the hope that Mr. Piccott would continue his efforts on behalf of the fishermen, Mr. Coaker assured the Minister of the entire support of the F. P. U.

MR. STONE, as a member of the F.P.U., gave the measure his whole-hearted support and stated that a

measure such as this should have been introduced long ago. Mr. Stone also made brief reference to his native town of Catalina which had been a great centre for the Bank fishery in the past, and he expressed the hope that the Minister of Fisheries would continue introducing Bills of a similar nature for the protection of the fishermen.

Messrs. Currie, Moulton and LeFevre also spoke briefly in favor of the Bill, when committee rose, and reported the Bill passed without amendment, and it will have its third reading on the morrow.

In committee on Ways and Means the Finance Minister (Cashin) read his Budget Speech, the usual type written document, which will be printed and placed in the hands of Hon. Members on the morrow, and the debate on same will take place on Tuesday next.

The Clerk of the House read the list of articles on which a 10 per cent ad valorem duty has been imposed, ad valorem duty has been imposed.

This new taxation refers to all articles that have hitherto been on the Free List.

The resolutions relating to the exportation of timber brought in by the Finance Minister were deferred till the morrow.

MR. KENT'S motion relative to the appointment, at the beginning of every session, of a Standing "Committee of Public Accounts" was unanimously adopted by the Assembly and will be placed in the rules of procedure for future sessions.

THE PREMIER'S amended Bill relating to the Volunteer Force will be read for the second time on the morrow.

Messrs. Clapp and Stone gave notice of questions, and the Finance Minister (Cashin) gave notice of introducing two Loan Bills.

House adjourned at 6.15 p.m. till the morrow at 3 p.m.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

Expenditure by the Board of Agriculture from July 1st, 1914, to May 3rd, 1915

(Continued.)		
Wm. J. Anthony, do C. Beach	5.00	C. F. Snelgrove, Sec. Catalina
Jos. Ralph, keep ram, C. Beach	5.00	Wm. Arnott, Sec. Channell
Beach, do	5.00	C. F. Snelgrove, Secretary
Wm. Wells, do	5.00	Catalina, do
Sam. Snow, do	5.00	Ronald Ralph, Sec. Heart's
Daily News, amt. a/c	27.50	Content, do
Geo. Knowling, plow, Musgrave Hr.	90	L. Guy, Sec. Musgrave Hr.
Clement Hudson, keep ram, Black Head	5.00	A. B. Stares, Sec. Brooklyn
Mark King, keep ram, Broad Cove	5.00	J. A. Eustace, Sec. Codroy
Geo. Francis, do	5.00	O. W. Laing, Sec. Port Rexton
Arthur Miles, bal keep bull, Bonavista	3.43	Geo. Moss, Sec. Seat Cove
Tessier, Co., storage a/c	20.25	W. B. Andrew Roberts, Sec. Cape Shore
Geo. Neal, amt. a/c	2.00	Joseph Gough, Sec. St. Joseph's
E. F. Bradley, Sec. Epworth	20.00	M. B. Greene, typewriting
Francis Lee, Sec. Riverhead	20.00	Pope's furniture factory, boxes
Patrick Martin, Trepassey	20.00	Rev. J. G. Nolan, Sec. Fortune Hr.
C. A. Oldford, Sec. Musgrave-town	20.00	Reid Nfld. Co., freight
W. T. Costello, Sec. Ferryland	20.00	P. D. Hannon, Sec. Hr. Main
Wm. Foley, Sec. St. Bride's	40.00	J. F. Downey's Salary
Ed. Fahey, keep bull, Hr. Main	10.00	R. T. Devereaux, do
Geo. Chant, Sec. Belleoram	20.00	James Ryan, do
John Moore, Sec. Dildo	20.00	M. B. Greene, typewriting
Angus McDonald, keep stallion	50.00	A. B. Clarke, Sec. Grand Bk.
Peter Brien, keep bull	25.00	A. T. Burditt, Sec. Marystown
F. J. Connors, amt. a/c	1.00	L. Wheeler, Sec. Curling
Anglo Am. Tel. Co., telephone	20.00	Geo. K. Simms, Sec. Channell
Jos. Sheehan, Sec. Hant's Hr.	20.00	C. C. Pittman, Sec. Lamaline
C. D. Cove Society, keep ram	4.00	Joseph Ralph, Sec. C. Beach
Jos. Gough, Amt. a/c	1.82	Salvage B. Society, keep ram
L. T. Bishop, Secty. Fogo	11.67	Reid Nfld. Co., Fgt. and cartage
C. F. Lester, cartage	6.50	Eve Rioux, Sec. C. Bk. Cove
Martin Hardware Co., 1 key	20	Martin Hynes, Sec. P. aux
Gray & Goodland, amt. acct	13.11	Chas. White, Sec. Twillingate
A. J. Bayley, sundries	1.20	Isaac King, Sec. Broad Cove
Salvage Bay Socy, keep ram	5.00	Manuel Hollet, Sec. Arnolds
Wm. Turner, Sec. Salvage Bay	20.00	Cove, do
M. F. Murphy, Sec. Argenta	20.00	A. J. Bayly, extra services
J. E. Roberts, Sec. Bonne Bay	20.00	Stephen Hawco, keep bull
Jas. Gladney, cab hire	1.00	James Sparks, re W. Towns, extra 1910
L. E. Mercer, Bay Roberts	20.00	Wm. Butt, Sundries

property; only two per cent of the entire population is illiterate.

The mortality rate has dropped from seventeen to seven per one thousand. Does Prohibition pay the people of a State?

(Kansas certainly answers the question with wonderful figures.

Wm. Verge, Secty. Change Islands	20.00	Albert Pottles, Sec. Freshwater	20.00
Samuel Lake, Sec. Fortune	20.00	Joseph Flynn, Sec. Bartaven	20.00
J. F. Downey, salary	125.00	P. G. Butler, Sec. St. John's	40.00
L. J. Chollet, Sec. Flat Islands	20.00	R. J. Devereaux, salary	125.00
Jas. Ryan, do	41.50	Reid Nfld. Co., freight	10.50
M.B. Greene, typewriting	20.00	H. T. Gosse, Sec. Hermitage	6.66
Stephen Parsons, Sec. Carman	20.00	Jas. M. Shears, Hermitage	15.00
Martin Hardware Co., re St. Mary's	46.00	Thos. Curran, Hay	25.67
Farmers' advocate, subscription	30.15	Harry Fraser, re statistics	20.00
Wm. Duggan, re do	20.00	Wm. Gabriel, Sec. Lark Hr.	20.00
Gilbert Gosse, Sec. Crabbes	20.00	Alex. Serrick, Sec. Briggs	20.00
J. L. O'Quinn, Sec. Stephenville	30.00	W. E. Parsons, Sec. Hr. Breton	20.00
Arthur Sharpe, Sec. Port Blandford	20.00	John Neville, cab hire	1.50
C. J. Denning, statistics re eggs	7.50	Thos. Legge, Sec. Robinson's	20.00
M. B. Greene, typewriting	7.00	J. F. Downey, salary	125.00
M. B. Greene, typewriting	25.00	R. T. Devereaux, salary	125.00
Jas. Ryan, salary	44.50	H. J. Stabb & Co., gasoline	19.35
Little River Thresher	1.25	J. C. Lawrence, Sec. salary and keep bull, Bonavista	28.33
S. S. Stephano, freight seeds	1.95	F. Withy Co., do	56.54
Daily News, printing	15.00	Wm. Tulk, keep 3 bulls	30.00
Britannia Cove	20.00	E. C. Noseworthy, Sec. Campbell's Cove	20.00
S. Irving, Sec. Channell	10.00	Wm. Harnett, Sec. Channell	3.34
P. Ellard, cab hire	1.20	Nfld. Express Co., expressage	60
Wm. Whelan, services	1.50	R. Walsh, cab hire	2.00
Mrs. Crockett, cleaning	5.20	C. P. Lester, feed bull	24.50
S. R. Garland, amt. acct	3.30	P. Henderson & Co., seeds	159.00

(Continued on page 6)

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