

## TOTAL CONSUMPTION OF CIGARETTES IN CANADA.

|      | Exports from<br>Canada. | Imports into<br>Canada. | Manufactured<br>in Canada. | Total<br>Consumption. |
|------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1896 |                         | 1,513,440               | 85,994,400                 | 87,507,840            |
| 1897 |                         | 900,240                 | 106,493,180                | 107,393,420           |
| 1898 |                         | 1,546,560               | 87,945,567                 | 89,492,127            |
| 1899 |                         | 1,617,120               | 105,359,828                | 106,976,948           |
| 1900 |                         | 2,519,760               | 123,267,072                | 125,786,832           |
| 1901 |                         | 2,719,200               | 125,073,134                | 127,792,334           |
| 1902 | 2,983,250               | 5,058,250               | 138,266,934                | 140,341,934           |
| 1903 | 1,085,000               | 6,056,000               | 178,734,031                | 183,705,031           |
| 1904 | 1,022,000               | 6,331,500               | 215,882,930                | 221,197,430           |
| 1905 | 1,308,000               | 5,698,750               | 253,324,037                | 258,014,787           |
| 1906 | 549,000                 | 7,092,500               | 270,877,350                | 277,420,850           |

These, Mr. Speaker, are the latest figures that can be procured, and I am sure the country will be alarmed at the enormous increase, not only in the importation, but in the manufacture, and particularly in the consumption, of cigarettes by our own Canadian people. Of course this is a question that will be regarded from many different standpoints. Some will say that it is a question that ought to be dealt with by the fathers and mothers; that if the fathers and mothers cannot control their own children and keep them from contracting these habits that are so detrimental to the youth of our land, it is useless for schools or collegiate institutes or local legislatures or parliament itself to attempt to do what the home is unable to do. I am of the opinion that a very large number of the fathers and mothers have done their very best to prevent their children from using cigarettes. The primary schools in many parts of Canada have given this question special consideration. The churches of all denominations, I am glad to say, have also given it consideration, and the local legislatures of the different provinces, all or nearly all, have passed what may be regarded as strict legislation on this question. Speaking for the province of Ontario, I may say that this Act was placed upon the statute-book in 1892:

'Chapter 52, An Act respecting the use of tobacco by minors. Her Majesty, by and with the consent of the legislative assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

I will read clause 1:

Any person who either directly or indirectly sells or gives, or furnishes to a minor under eighteen years of age, cigarettes, cigars or tobacco in any form, shall on summary conviction thereof before a Justice of the Peace, be subject to a penalty of not less than \$10, or more than \$50, with or without costs of prosecution, or to imprisonment, with or without

hard labour, for any term not exceeding thirty days, or to both fine with or without costs and imprisonment to the said amount and for the said term, in the discretion of the convicting magistrate. And in case of a fine, or a fine and costs being awarded, and of the same not being upon conviction forthwith paid, the justice may commit the offender to the common jail, there to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding thirty days, unless the fine and costs are sooner paid.

This Act was assented to and came into force on the 1st of July, 1892, and is upon the statute-books of the province of Ontario at the present time. I will not make special reference to the other provinces in Canada which have legislation upon their statute-books of a similar kind. Notwithstanding these restrictive measures—and I think the people in the main have made an effort to enforce these statutes—there has been, and it is going on to-day in Canada, an enormous increase in the consumption of cigarettes. It would be worth our while to ask some people who have given rather special attention to this question what they think about the use of cigarettes by boys and, in some cases, I am sorry to say, by girls as well, although not to any great extent, in my opinion. I have here a testimony from an educationalist in regard to the harmfulness of the cigarette:

The annual meeting of the Toronto Teacher's Association was recently held in that city. The teachers discussed various questions relative to their work, among others, that of obstacles to the proper development of child-nature. Mr. Ferrier, Superintendent of the Mimico Industrial School, who has abundant opportunity to know whereof he speaks stated that he could most unhesitatingly affirm that the greatest evil he had to contend with among the boys in his care was the use of cigarettes. He found this proved the starting point on the road 'that leadeth to destruction' to many a boy. Mr. Ferrier bore this further testimony to the pernicious use of cigarettes. 'I have never yet met a cigarette smoker who was a truthful boy, and I also know when the habit is once fastened upon a boy he will do anything to obtain tobacco.' And yet how slow our country's law-makers are to put the ban of their condemnation upon an evil which, when once learned, will so surely sap and undermine the best in the characters of our Canadian youth.

The cigarette habit, now ranging like an epidemic among boys and girls, in high as well as low life, has come to be recognized as one of the principal crime producing agencies. The use of the cigarette seems so to deaden the moral sense as to make the victim lie, steal and even shoot to kill, with little compunction of conscience. Character is utterly demoralized, and weaklings and degenerates are being made by the thousands.'

That is the testimony of a gentleman who has had very wide experience in the province of Ontario. The Mimico Industrial School is one of the foremost in the pro-