

and 5,000 men are out of work, and 16,000 people are suffering! But you say: "John Doe may spend his \$1.00 extra in the grocery store, or in the meat market! He may, but that won't create a new industry; it won't give any more employment, and 40 per cent. of that \$1.00, in fact, may be exported out of British Columbia. In fact, no one is directly benefitted, while at least 5,000 men are put out of employment.

So it is evident that Prohibition will be a great hinderance, a great burden, a great loss to the Province. It destroys one legitimate business and industry, and does not create another to replace it.

2. In the next place, it will depreciate property. Our present hotels, which have been remodelled to meet with the requirements of the splendid "Bowser Act" have been erected or remodelled at a tremendous expense.

There is approximately \$20,000,000 invested in the hotel business alone in British Columbia, all in good faith. There is no denying the fact that if Prohibition came into force that the bulk of this investment would become useless. We can very easily say that the buildings could be converted into rooming houses and stores; talk is always cheap. But supposing this could be done, would it not be done at a sacrifice? Besides, we must not lose sight of the fact that a large number of our hotels have been bought under lease, and a large number of those men got their all invested in these leases, and if Prohibition came about, it would ruin these people, for they could not afford to remodel these places under their present leases.

Then consider present conditions in B. C. While the present rooming houses and stores are not paying normal rents, would a man be justified in spending thousands of dollars to make his place suitable for a store? So there is no denying the fact that Prohibition would greatly depreciate property—ruin many good, honest men and women, and practically render incomeless many widows and orphans who are now depending upon the income from these investments. This is no sentiment, but a hard and serious fact.