

for mechanical purposes and for medicinal purposes. So that is a complete answer, I think, to what the hon. member said in regard to that point. Although I belong to a different church from that to which the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Anyot) belongs, yet in my own church wine is used for sacramental purposes, and, I suppose, will continue to be so used. So that is a point we are not discussing, and one we need not quarrel about in any way. It is conceded on all hands that the use of wine for sacramental service and the use of all alcoholic liquors for medicinal and mechanical purposes will be allowed to continue. Now, with regard to the arguments of my friend, the hon. member from Muskoka (Mr. O'Brien), I think the first strong attitude he took in reference to prohibition was, that the position of the prohibitionists is unscriptural, and that we are seeking for the prohibition of something that is recognized in Scripture, and not only recognized, but the use of it countenanced. I do not know whether or not I am taking unorthodox ground, from a Methodistical point of view, so to speak, but, if so, I hope the reporters will not take any note of it and will allow it to remain silent and keep it out of their papers. Now, while I am prepared to admit that the Scriptures do recognize, and to a certain extent countenance the use of wine, yet the use of strong drink, to the extent to which it prevails at the present time, is entirely contrary to the principles laid down in the Scriptures for our guidance. There were other things which were recognized by the Scripture as not being evil in early times, but which are evil now. For instance, what we now consider the crime of slavery is recognized in the Bible and the same argument might be applied to that, as to intoxicating liquor, but as soon as it was found out by the advancement and development of society, that slavery was not only a great evil but a great crime, it was considered that it was essentially necessary for the well-being of society, and in order that the principles of the Scripture might be followed out in daily life, that slavery should be abolished. Consequently, it was abolished. I believe we have now arrived at the same point in reference to the traffic in strong drink. It is many years ago since the use of intoxicating liquor was felt to be an evil; it is many years since we have been trying to restrict it in every way; it is many years since we began to curb it within proper limits, but notwithstanding every effort put forward by the people, notwithstanding the local option law, notwithstanding the work of temperance people for many years, the evil still goes on. Although this evil has been abated to a material extent, yet it still exists to such an extent that it is the duty of the people to curb it, it is the duty of Parliament to take hold of it, and if we can see our way clear to pass such a law as will either suppress or lessen this evil, we will be doing something that our country in future years will be glad to boast of. The hon. member from Muskoka (Mr. O'Brien), also questioned to a certain extent whether the amount of crime which is generally attributed to strong drink, is really traceable to that source, but the hon. gentleman did not produce any statistics in support of his argument or to refute the statistics presented to the House by the hon. member for Lanark (Mr. Jamieson). These statistics presented by the mover of the resolution are fresh in the minds of the House, and the hon. member for Muskoka did not attempt to show that they were not correct. We have in the annals of our country the clearest evidence that a very large proportion of the crime and imprisonment in Canada is directly traceable to the use of strong drink. Indeed I think the hon. member for Muskoka was rather unhappy in the illustration he used to show that crime was not traceable to drink. His illustration, in my opinion, rather tended to show that if the man who murdered his wife had not got the strong drink, he would never have nerved himself to commit the murder, and, therefore, the illustration of the hon. gentleman reacts upon his own argument and tends to support the resolution which we are now discussing. I will not repeat the statistics which have been brought forward, for we all know very well that a large proportion of our crime is entirely produced by the liquor traffic and by the indulgence in strong drink. The hon. member for Muskoka (Mr. O'Brien) referred to the possibility, or impossibility, of restricting this traffic and enforcing total prohibition. He properly referred to the fact that we have a very long border line connecting us with the neighbouring nation, and that all along the border line there would be danger of smuggling, so that we would probably have a great deal to contend with in order to prevent liquor from being smuggled across the line. I do not pretend, Mr. Speaker, that we will not have very great difficulties, in the outset, at any rate, in enforcing a prohibitory law. I do not think that even the most ardent prohibitionist is prepared to say, that when we put that law in force it would run along so smoothly that we will have no trouble about it. Like all great measures which have been brought forward, we will have difficulties for some time in coping with the evil which the law is intended to suppress, but I feel sure that with the sense of the people in favour of the law, as I believe it is, and with a law passed by this Parliament backing up that public sentiment, I believe that such a law, if it goes into force, will be faithfully carried out, and that in a few years we will see prohibition from one end of the Dominion to the other. Nearly all great reforms have met with more serious opposition than this reform which we are now asking for. I do not know whether it is fair to compare this liquor traffic with the traffic in slaves, but if the hon. gentleman thinks so I hope he will pardon me if I compare it to that traffic for a moment. You will remember that the suppression of the slave traffic cost the nation to the south of us a long and bloody civil war, entailing an expense of millions of money and engendering a feeling of antagonism between North and South which has not yet abated. Therefore, in dealing with a question of this kind, by which it is proposed to suppress a great moral evil, we will always find great opposition, but we who favour prohibition are firmly convinced that if this law is passed, and if there is an honest endeavour to carry it out, that we will soon have prohibition throughout our country. Another difficulty which the hon. member for Muskoka referred to was the probability of extensive illicit distillation. That will not be a new evil, for notwithstanding the fact that we have at present a law against it, it is well known that there are illicit stills, although the

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