

say that if they succeed the people of Canada will save an untold number of millions of dollars every year. No doubt they will save a great deal; so my advice is, out of all these millions we are to save, let us devote a fair proportion to providing rational and legitimate amusements for all, but especially for the younger members of society. Recognize the fact that men need amusement, excitement and society, and that

MORE THAN HALF THE DESIRE FOR DRINK

arises from the fact that in a bad and coarse way it gratifies these natural and (in one sense) reasonable instincts,—nor are there any greater foes to the tavern and worse places still than the gymnasium, and the glee club, and the debating room. (Applause.) And so I add to the list of my suggestions of proper subjects of discussion this other, How best to organize and provide for a fair share of rational amusement. True, it will cost money. I don't deny it. But it is wonderful how easy and how cheap it is to provide a great deal of amusement by a little forethought and united action where there are a good many of you. I dare say the cost of a cigar a day or a drink a day (only you are in a Scott Act county, and of course there are no drinks here)—(laughter)—would provide the annual cost of keeping up a good gymnasium and half a dozen kindred amusements besides. And here let me put in one word to my elder hearers. They may say that this will cost too much money. I will admit it will cost money. But mark this. There is a danger in holding young folk too tightly, and many and many a father has found, to his loss and grief, that the cost of one day's profligate dissipation outweighs the cost of a month's, aye, or a year's outlay for purposes of honest recreation. (Loud applause.) Again I say it is your own fault if you choose to pervert my meaning. I am a sworn foe to extravagance. But wise outlay is really true economy. Now, as to the charges made against me. I am accused of wishing to make Canada a cheap country to live in. Sir, I admit that charge. (Hear, hear.) I do want to make Canada a cheap country to live in, in the sense that I wish to see Canada a country in which an honest man's daily earnings can purchase enough to enable himself and his family to live in comfort and decency. But I want something more. I want to see Canada a pleasant country to live in—(applause)—a country which men will be loathe to leave and glad to come back to. I would like to see Canadians justify

THE NOBLE PANEGYRIC

pronounced upon Canada by Mr. David Wells, which I have quoted more than once before, and which I will not hesitate to