

CHAPTER IV.

Money Spent on Liquor in B. C.

The Prohibitionists say that approximately \$11,000,000 was spent in B. C. on alcoholic liquors. They don't say when this money was spent. It is an approximate estimate of what has been spent sometime. Perhaps when the boom was on—we cannot say. Now notice this approximate report says what has been spent on liquor, but the compilers failed to give even an approximate estimate in this wonderful report of theirs, of how much the liquor people have spent out of this \$11,000,000 on wages, improvements, investments, interests, material, benefactions, insurance, taxes, licenses and revenues.

"Look," they say, "you people of B. C. have spent \$11,000,000 on booze. This \$11,000,000 has been practically thrown into the sea. It has been an enormous waste. The only benefit you have derived from it, is a paltry little sum which these liquor people paid for licenses. In Vancouver, they say, you spent \$4,500,000 on booze, and you get a paltry \$100,000 in licenses, that is all. That means, that you have thrown into Burrard inlet practically \$4,400,000." That is the way these Prohibitionists put this question, and I claim that it is most unjust, untruthful, one-sided, and purposely deceptive. In fighting an enemy, let us be fair. In the name of fair play I plead, be correct, and above board, and don't try to deceive the public for once your one-sidedness is exposed, you lose more friends than you make.

So let us take the figures for Vancouver. Here the Prohibitionists claim that we spent \$4,500,000 on liquor. Out of this the liquor people, we are told, spent \$100,000 on licenses, leaving the impression on the mind that the liquor people made a clear profit of \$4,400,000.

But every man and woman knows this to be ridiculous. What about wages? What about buildings? What about taxes, stock, and numerous other things, some of which I have already mentioned?