

best, let him look at the issue, immoral and absurd, in which the principle of license will ultimately land the government.

When the government undertakes to license and regulate a traffic, it ought to see that every stage in the process, from the manufacture to the ultimate sale, is done honestly and legally. Our millers have their merchant-flour inspected, even though they are not licensed; our drapers must have legal measures, and our grocers legal weights.* Now, if the liquor-traffic is to be under government license it ought to be under government inspection. A government chemist ought to be stationed with his tests in every brewery and distillery, to watch what goes into the barrel. That same government official ought to follow that barrel in its peregrinations, and watch what comes out of it. Again, the same official, with his chemical apparatus, must visit every bar to know what is put into the bottles on the shelves, and what comes out of them. Then, as the baker is forced by law to give his customer full weight of bread for the price, so surely ought an honest government to see that each buyer receive full measure of alcohol for the price he pays. All this is sufficiently absurd. Why? Because we started from the absurd premise that a Christian government ought to license traffic in distilled liquors.

If the traffic cannot be *free*, and if it must not be *licensed*, it ought to be *prohibited*. This is the conclusion to which thoughtful men are coming in Britain and America. On this important question we can now and here only make a few general and brief suggestions, as our contribution to the discussion now going on everywhere in the Dominion.

1. *Prohibition is urgently demanded on moral considerations.*—To set on foot extensive and diversified religious and philanthropic agencies, and then, in the face of these, to license the traffic in strong drink, is like building up with one hand and casting down with the other. To send forth and sustain pastors and preachers to make

* In the last government returns we find many thousand dollars paid for inspecting articles of food and milk, and many fined for breach of law. Why not inspect liquors also?