

With reference to the observations made by the honourable gentleman from Pictou (Hon. Mr. Tanner), who has spent some time in the United States, I may say that I too have spent some time there, and my observation is that the liquor which goes over there from Canada does not saturate even the frontier. That liquor is met very close to the border by a flood of liquor coming from the interior States, which keeps it from flowing any farther. I have been to Nassau, in the Bahamas, and I have been in Cuba, and I am sorry to have to tell my right honourable friend (Rt. Hon. Sir George E. Foster) that I have there been shown vessel after vessel loaded with liquor leaving for the United States. Nevertheless, the quantity which goes from there and from Canada, as my honourable friend from Pictou (Hon. Mr. Tanner) has said, is only a small proportion of what is consumed in the United States.

I am satisfied that the United States can never reach the point desired by the so-called dry law, because in order to do so they would have to do certain things which they never will do. To begin with, they would have to pass a law preventing the farmers from planting corn. That would bring about a reduction of millions of quarts of liquor.

Hon. Mr. GILLIS: What would they feed their hogs?

Hon. Mr. GORDON: In addition to that, they would have to pass a similar law to prevent the raising of barley, they would have to wipe out their prune industry—

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: Potatoes too.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: —and they would not only have to stop our potatoes from going over there, but would have to stop growing any more of their own. Any practical man must know—I should not put it in that way, because my right honourable friend from Ottawa is a practical man; but perhaps he has not been around in the same places in the United States that I have—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: —but any practical man must know that all the products that I have mentioned can be easily utilized to make whisky, and that no law will ever accomplish the end they have in view, namely, the wiping out of the liquor traffic. It is impossible. After observing the situation in the interior of the United States, my conclusion is that conditions there are very much worse than here. I was informed that if anyone in a certain city in the State of Georgia wanted liquor, he had but to go to

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a telephone booth and get into communication with almost any person whose name he might pick at random from the directory—except, perhaps, some lawyers—

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: What about the preachers?

Hon. Mr. GORDON: I do not know about the preachers. Liquor is as easily obtainable there, I think, as in Canada. I should like honourable gentlemen to understand that I was not looking for liquor over there, nor do I look for it here. I am a temperance man, and I should be glad if everybody were an advocate of temperance, but I am sorry to have to say that some time ago I was forced to come to the conclusion that the net result of all the talking that is done in favour of prohibition, not only in the United States but elsewhere, is a waste of time. If my right honourable friend (Right Hon. Sir George E. Foster) and all others who are so deeply interested in this matter would endeavour to educate the people to become supporters of temperance, I believe that some real good would be accomplished.

When it was first suggested that there might be trouble over the smuggling of liquor from Canada into the United States, I thought we should take some action with a view to helping that country to cope with the situation. I think now that Canada, in taking the steps to which my right honourable friend (Right Hon. Sir George E. Foster) referred, has gone as far as it should go in that direction, and I say that we should co-operate no further until our good neighbour shows it is able to control its own citizens.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I should like to remind my right honourable friend (Right Hon. Mr. Graham) that in the course of his interesting remarks he omitted to answer the question asked by the honourable gentleman from Pictou (Hon. Mr. Tanner).

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: I have no authoritative information, but I shall get it for my honourable friend. My understanding is that of the total quantity of liquor shipped into the United States, the percentage from Canada is very small.

Hon. Mr. TANNER: I had the impression that at the conference which was held here between officials of the two countries it was admitted that Canadian liquor represented only 5 per cent of the total importation into the United States.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: I shall ascertain the facts and get a statement for my honourable friend.