

Church Deliverances

Nearly every religious body in Canada has declared its opposition to the bar-room system, and its desire for such legislation as can most effectually curtail the drink evil. The deliverances made by many ecclesiastical courts and officers are strong and comprehensive. The limited space available in this manual will only permit of the reproduction of brief extracts from some of these statements:

Anglican

A report from the committee on temperance adopted by the general Synod of the Anglican Church in Canada says:

In glancing over the several provinces of the Dominion, it is manifest that there is a great consensus of opinion concerning the bar under our present licensing system, namely, that it is a public menace, and your Committee would urge upon the Synod that it is the duty of every man to endeavor to further the effort to abolish the bar. Until such time as the bar is abolished it recommends:

That full advantage should be taken, when practicable, of the adoption and putting into force of Local Option under the present license law.

The Committee, after wide gathering of evidence from the different provinces of the Dominion, report that the Scott Act has worked out successfully in the Maritime Provinces, as has Local Option in Ontario.

Methodist

The Report on Temperance adopted at the last session of the Methodist General Conference was a forceful document, of which the following is only a part:

That the liquor traffic is a business antagonistic to every interest of the Church and State.

That we condemn the license features

of all statutes by which money is accepted for the legal protection of an immoral traffic.

That the Government (Dominion, Provincial or Municipal) that accepts money for liquor licenses becomes a partner in the business justly declared to be an enemy of God and man. We protest against the unholy alliance.

That civic righteousness demands the extirpation of a traffic so fruitful of corruption in every department of Civil Government.

Whilst prohibition is the unchanging purpose of the Methodist Church, we advise our people, wherever possible, to obtain Local Option as one of the best means of curtailing the evils of the liquor traffic.

Presbyterian

A report from the committee on Moral and Social Reform adopted by the general assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, contained these paragraphs:

The Assembly would re-affirm the deliverance of former Assemblies, that nothing short of the prohibition of the traffic in intoxicants for beverage purposes can satisfy as the goal in temperance reform, and would recommend our people in those provinces where there is no immediate prospect of carrying and enforcing Prohibition, to unite with others in working towards this, and by:

(a) The curtailment of the traffic by local veto.

(b) The abolishment of the bar-room (i.e., the sale for consumption on the premises), and the public treating system associated therewith.

(c) The prohibition of the residue of the traffic (that is, the sale in shops for consumption off the premises), with this proviso, that where in cities and towns the said sale is demanded by a majority of the qualified municipal electors, such sale shall be conducted under such conditions as will eliminate the elements of private gain.