

If the total expenditure for drink as above stated is divided by the figures for the population of Canada, as shown by the Government's estimate made at the beginning of the fiscal year under consideration, it will be found that the actual per capita expenditure for intoxicating liquor was \$10.84 as against \$12.72 in 1915.

It is not a very big sacrifice, to ask a Canadian who has at heart the interest of his country and the triumph of this Empire to abstain from this reckless waste of money, money that could be so well used for other purposes in the great cause for which we are fighting. The hon. member for Vancouver (Mr. Stevens) has gone so fully into many of the arguments in favour of this motion that I shall omit many of the arguments which I intended to advance, as I do not wish to weary the House and many other hon. members desire to speak.

We have made efforts of various kinds in Canada to cope with this question. The various provinces, during the last 30 or 40 years, have taken all the measures that could possibly be taken by them for the purpose of putting down this evil. The people in my own province especially have always taken the broad view that in this matter the great change could best be brought about by the inculcation of sentiments of temperance, by persuasion rather than by coercive measures. I am glad to say that to-day an immense change has taken place, that more than 900 municipalities in the province of Quebec have already gone dry, and that 42 out of the 72 constituencies in Quebec have taken that stand. In the provinces we have always had to contend with the fact that as long as the manufacture and importation of liquor is not stopped, it is practically impossible for the provincial authorities to put the traffic down. They can prevent the sale, they can refuse to issue licenses, but they are unable to prevent its importation into the province. In the province of Prince Edward Island, which is the sole province in Canada where they have prohibition for the whole province, they are at the mercy of our Federal Legislation. They can prevent the sale of liquor, they can refuse to issue licenses, but they cannot prevent the importation of liquor and it is imported into the province. The same thing happens in Nova Scotia. The people of Nova Scotia by an overwhelming majority have declared in favour of prohibition. The same thing has happened in New Brunswick, in Ontario and Manitoba, and so on all the way to the coast.

[Mr. Marcell.]

Therefore, the duty of the Federal Government is imperative. If for no other reason than as a war reason, we should act now. We have had liquor for a long time. There is no hon. member within the hearing of my voice who cannot, on a moment's reflection, recall all the evil and all the harm that has been done by it in his own environment, say among the boys whom he knew at school. Let him give a moment's thought to the solution of this great question. If we have tried liquor for many years in this country, why should we not try to abstain from it for three years, at least while we have a death struggle on; and if in three years from now the Canadian people, in their senses, with these boys coming back, covered with laurels, from the field, feel that they must repeal this legislation, then let them do it freely. But my contention is that after three years of prohibition the people of this country would never repeal it. I am not asking for an innovation, for anything of a startling character. I have here statements from two men who represent fairly well the Conservative and the Liberal views, at least of the English-speaking part of the people of this country, and I shall quote them. One is the hon. the Minister of Trade and Commerce who said on September 9, 1915, at the Insurance Underwriters Association banquet:

I confess to you that every time I see the open bar and see the young soldiers of this country coming out and going in, every time I pass the open bar and see the unemployed who, perchance, have got a day's employment, making a bee line for the bar, I confess that my soul cries out for the closed bar in this great Canada.

Then the leader of the Opposition in the Ontario Legislature, Mr. Rowell, speaking on the same occasion, said:

If we have in our midst to-day an institution which is demanding sums of money for its perpetuation and is giving no return in value, but is impairing the earning capacity of the men who go there, there is only one patriotic duty for every patriotic citizen: that to the extent of his ability that curse will be wiped out, the curse of the open bar. Russia has had the courage to do it; France has largely undertaken the task; some sections of our own country are doing it; in Great Britain they have cut down the hours to five and a half. Let us have the courage in this supreme hour of crisis to rise to the height necessary in order that this thing shall be done, and done promptly.

I have here an extract from one of the leading newspapers of Ontario, the Toronto Globe, which represents Liberal opinion in that province. The Globe quotes a few lines from the Spectator of London, one of