

You have earned a dollar. Who does it belong to? As the head of the family it belongs to you. By every law of God and man that dollar is yours. No other man or . . . you what to do with your money and not insult your intelligence. Of course, if you spend it foolishly, you suffer the consequences. If wisely, you reap a reward. But each individual is entitled to this experience in the development of his manhood. You cannot give him your experience. He must have one of his own, or he will never amount to anything. One time, down at Lawton, Oklahoma, I declared that no other man had a right to tell me—the other fellow—what he should do with his money, and a minister jumped up and yelled at the top of his voice: "What about that man's wife?" I yelled back in the same tone of voice: "You let that man's wife alone." Well, he did not expect a come back like that, and he fell back in his seat as if shot. I said to him: "Brother, if you have a wife and children of your own, you have got a life time job, and it is an insult to any other man, rich or poor, for you to assume for a moment that he does not love his wife just as much as you love yours and is not just as capable of taking care of her. You cannot mention prohibition in the presence of a man and not insult his intelligence. (Applause.)

DESTROYS HUMAN EQUALITY.

But prohibition is destructive of human equality. You know, we people in this country, Canada and the United States, believe that men are equal in their rights. We do not believe that we are equal physically or mentally, because some are wise and some are otherwise. We do not mean that we are equal morally, because some are good, some are bad and some are just half and half. What do we mean then by this talk of human equality? Only this, that every man is equal in his rights to life—not existence, because you can have existence and be in jail; you can have existence and be a slave; you can have existence and wear a muzzle; but you cannot have life without liberty. And therefore we believe that men have a right to life and to have a voice in their own government, and a right to pursue happiness in their own way. Nobody can tell you how to pursue happiness. Few overtake it in this world anyhow, and the most unhappy people in the land want to dictate to others how they shall pursue happiness.

In these respects, ladies and gentlemen, men are equal, but prohibition destroys that equality. Suppose I tell you that you shall not drink a glass of beer. You respond, believing in your equality of rights, that I shall drink a glass of beer. Then we must compromise or fight. If I lick you, I will take it away from you; if you whip me, you will pour it down my neck. That is savagery; that is not civilization. The only way is to compromise, for me to say to you: If you want to drink beer, go to it. You respond to me: if you don't want it, leave it alone. The fight is over. All the bitterness and turmoil and ill-feeling in these elections grow out of the fact that one man is trying to take away the equal rights of other men. That starts a fight, a dispute; but here is the reason you cannot stand for that proposition. Suppose I tell you today: you shall not drink something you want. How do you know I won't change my mind tomorrow. If I am a fool, I won't change my mind, and that will be worse still to take a command from a fool. But if I am not a fool, I may change my mind tomorrow and by changing my mind tomorrow make a monkey of you, and make you drink something you do not want.

Think of the ridiculous position in which prohibition places a man, and you can never accept it while you live. The dregs have gone through this country making it appear as if they have the arguments on their side. They assume that they have, but when it comes down to bedrock argument, prohibition has not got a leg to stand on, not one.

Again. You cannot afford to surrender this idea of human equality, because this old world was hardly fit to live in until our fathers wrested from King John the great charter, until they commenced to preach this glorious doctrine of equality of human rights to the world. Why at that time the world was in darkness. Might made right. Rapine and murder were committed in the name of law. Every ship of state was a pirate craft, every ensign of sovereignty a black flag, and almost every statesman in the world a bloody butcher, while freedom was chained to dark dungeon floors of despotism, her white breast stained with blood. But at the birth of the idea of human equality and liberty, the human race rose from its knees; shackles fell from fettered limb, prison bars melted away; the sun broke through the clouds of darkness and despotism, and