

6. And finally for this time, this is not Prohibition. Ye gods! The liquor men concerned for Prohibition! Just think of their heart-rending, pathetic appeals not to jeopardize Prohibition by passing this British Columbia Act. But to proceed:

Under the present law liquor for drinking can be had in three ways.

- (a) By the glass in a bar.
- (b) By the bottle in a store.
- (c) By importing it into your home from outside the province.

This so-called Prohibition Act proposes to cancel all the licences which the province of British Columbia has given for (a) and (b) of the above. This province has never given any one a licence to import liquor into the home, and therefore cannot take away that which it never gave, nor could give. The importation of liquor into a province is a matter of inter-provincial trade and by the terms of Confederation no provincial law can stop that. Only a Dominion Act can do that.

## **B. C. Prohibition Act is Strong Measure**

The Privy Council of England declared the Manitoba Act was a good Act because it distinctly stated that it did not forbid importation. If that clause had not been there the act would have been beyond provincial powers. The B. C. Act has wisely followed the Manitoba Act along the safe road of constitutionality.

It is true that by reason of recent Dominion legislation the provinces are supposed to have received permission to forbid the importation, but that Act was not passed until the B. C. Prohibition move was on the way several months. And besides, the Doherty Act referred to has not itself been tested, nor do we know what it means. We do know that it was moved by those who were opposing the motion for total Prohibition for all Canada during the war. If, however, at any subsequent time the Doherty Act is proved of real value the Prohibition forces will be glad to back up the liquor men in having this B. C. Act amended to take advantage of the Doherty Act.

This is the fact—THIS BRITISH COLUMBIA ACT IS PROHIBITION TO THE LIMIT OF THE PROVED POWERS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA. TO HAVE INCLUDED IMPORTATION UNDER ITS CLAUSES WOULD HAVE BEEN TO RETAIN THE BAR AND THE SHOP BECAUSE THE ACT WOULD HAVE BEEN "ULTRA VIRES." (Ultra vires is the way a lawyer says it so he can charge \$5.00 for advice. It means "no good" in law.)

Do you really want TOTAL PROHIBITION? Vote for this Act on September 14, and then you strengthen the hands of temperance leaders to secure total Dominion Prohibition from the only place it can be secured, that is the Dominion House at Ottawa.

In a final word, the Labor movement has stood for Right things. It cannot afford to stand for the open bar-room. Winnipeg Labor gave a majority for this same Act. B. C. workers will do the same. Our hopes, our children, our better selves are all arrayed against the traffic in the depraved tastes of men and that profits in our undoing. Vote dry and refuse to accept responsibility for the continuance of the legalized traffic.

