

### 1. IMPAIRS INDUSTRIAL EFFICIENCY.

This growing conviction on the part of the public is due to many causes. One is the demand for industrial efficiency. In the United States, in Canada, and in Great Britain, among men engaged in manufacturing enterprises, in charge of great transportation interests, and at the head of important financial institutions, there is a growing conviction that the man who is addicted to strong drink, particularly if on occasions he takes it to excess, is not a safe man to be trusted in any position of high responsibility. (Applause.)

This very important fact has brought about a remarkable change in the attitude of captains of industry towards the liquor traffic. In the 12th Annual Report of the Commission of Labor of the United States for the years 1897 and 1898, the relation of the liquor traffic to industrial efficiency is dealt with. After a most careful investigation, after corresponding with leading manufacturers, the great transportation interests and other large employers of labor, the report states that more than one-half of the total number of establishments reporting, 3,527 out of 6,792, required in certain occupations and under certain circumstances that employees shall not use intoxicating liquors. The two main reasons given for requiring total abstinence were "to guard against accidents" and "because of responsibility carried in such position." An investigation in Canada would, I am sure, establish similar conditions.

### 2. PRODUCES MORAL AND SOCIAL DEGENERATION.

Another cause is the growing recognition of the menace to society of moral and social degeneration, and the recognition of the fact that the liquor traffic is the parent of much of the moral and social degeneration which afflicts society to-day.

It has long been admitted that the liquor traffic is a prolific cause of crime, poverty and insanity. In recent years, with great care and patience and at considerable expense, Governments have carried on enquiries to see how far they could trace the source of crime, poverty and insanity, and to see how important a factor the liquor traffic has been in producing these forms of degeneration. The members of the house will be interested to know the situation as it appears not only in our own province, but elsewhere.

#### A Cause of Crime.

In the 12th Annual Report of the Inspector of Prisons of the Province of Ontario for the year ending September 30,