

A veterinary surgeon when he goes to treat a sick animal may also carry along with him a gallon of whiskey, and when that is all gone he is at perfect liberty to purchase another gallon. If liquor can be thus freely procured and disposed of, is the Liquor Act a prohibitory law? Decidedly it is not. If it were passed the country would not be one step nearer Prohibition than it is under the existing law. At present the sale of liquor is prohibited except in licensed and authorised places. The proposed Act would do precisely the same, except that there would be certain restrictions. Why then should any change be made when that change is bound to result in evil? The experience gained from other so-called prohibitory laws such as the Scott Act, should be remembered as a warning. That measure not only failed utterly to accomplish its purpose, but it was followed by a noticeable increase in drunkenness. And it will be the same in the event of the passage of the Liquor Act. The open hotel, it is true, will be done away with, but it will be replaced by something ten times worse—the private canteen—for a man will be allowed to keep liquor in his home. In nearly every instance the reason why a man goes into a saloon is because he does not care to drink alone, and a man who drinks at home in secret is, ten to one, a drunkard. With a bottle before him and in the privacy of his own home he is far more likely to get drunk than one who meets a friend and drops into a saloon for a social glass.

While druggists are allowed to keep liquor for sale, under the Liquor Act, they are not allowed to sell it by the glass. Still, can it honestly be said, in view of past experiences, that there will be drug stores who will not oblige a customer who is known to them, with a glass of whiskey, rum, brandy or other liquor?

It is obvious, therefore, that the Liquor Act does not prohibit. Why, then, should it be passed? Thousands would be thrown out of their lawful employment. Millions of dollars of capital invested in the business would be lost, and a general depression would follow, the effects of which cannot be estimated. The financial system of the whole Province would be