

cigarette. I have here evidence adduced at the 26th National Conference of Charities and Corrections, held in Cincinnati. The section on reformatories and industrial schools was addressed by George Torrence, of Pontiac, Ill., superintendent of the Illinois State Reformatory, on 'The Relation of the Cigarette to Crime.' After reciting his experience with boys coming to his institution, Mr. Torrence said :

I am sure cigarettes are destroying and making criminals of more of them than the saloons.

Here are some statistics which he gave on the subject. In his reformatory there are 278 boys. Of 63, averaging 12 years of age, 58 were cigarette smokers. Of 133, averaging 14 years of age, 125 were cigarette smokers. Of 82, averaging 15 years of age, 73 were cigarette smokers. This demonstrates that 92 per cent of the whole number were cigarette fiends at the time of committing the crimes for which they were sent to the reformatory. This is surely very pregnant evidence demonstrating the evil effects of the habitual use of cigarettes on the morals of those who become addicted to the habit. Dr. C. A. Clinton, of the San Francisco Board of Education, gives the following testimony :

A cigarette fiend will lie and steal, just as a morphine or opium fiend will lie or steal. Cigarette smoking blunts the whole moral nature. It has an appalling effect upon the system. It first stimulates and then stupefies the nerves. It sends boys into consumption. It gives them enlargement of the heart, and sends them to the insane asylum. I am physician to several boys' schools and I am often called in to prescribe for palpitation of the heart. In nine cases out of ten it is caused by the cigarette habit.

Other evidence as to its effect in tending to produce insanity might be adduced, but I do not wish to weary the House. I am pleased to notice that this question is attracting widespread attention, not only in our own land and throughout the United States, but in England. Some of the states of the Union have adopted legislation imposing restrictions upon or prohibiting the manufacture and sale of cigarettes, and now the movement is assuming form in Great Britain. I received yesterday an English paper, by which I notice that a large meeting had been held at Bolton, in the north of England, by an association called the Anti-Tobacco and Anti-Narcotic League. The member for the county, speaking on the subject, said :

They had not yet been successful in the ballot for the introduction of a measure in parliament dealing with juvenile smoking, but he was convinced that the time was coming when no government, Liberal or Conservative, would dare to refuse their claims. They would meet with opposition from interested quarters, but it was becoming more and more widely recognized that great harm was done to the rising generation by the indulgence in cigarette smoking

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which, he felt sure, was a contributing cause of the physical deterioration in this country. He hoped that before Whitsuntide a resolution on the subject would be introduced in the House of Commons.

It has been said that national deterioration has been a marked result of the widespread use of tobacco. One hon. member speaking in the House of Commons in England not long ago, made some reference to the cause of the ignominious defeat of the Spaniards in the recent war with the United States. He attributed the loss of their manhood, their virility, and courage largely to the widespread excessive use of tobacco in the form of cigarettes among the youths of that country. This question is one that appeals to us on moral ground. I know that it has been stated in this House that improper attempts are made, not only here, but in various legislatures to relegate to the state the duties which ought to be performed in the home, such as the education of the morals and the religious teaching of our children. But, Sir, what is the use of giving that teaching and instruction in our homes, if immediately the boys leave our homes, they are surrounded with temptations and with examples that tend to break down all the teachings they receive in the home. A boy goes to school and sees four-fifths of his companions indulging in the habit. He is tempted to indulge in it too, and if facilities for that indulgence are furnished in the cheap and convenient form of cigarettes, it does not matter what the teaching of the home may be, temptation is too strong and he gives way to it and becomes subject to the habit. This resolution appeals to us very strongly on moral grounds because we wish to save our boys, to save them from all degrading tendencies, from everything that will lead them unnecessarily into temptation. We want to make it as easy as possible to do right and to live right in this country and as difficult as possible to do wrong. It appeals to us on patriotic grounds. We love our country. I believe that every man, whatever his political views may be, he has a strong and earnest desire for the well-being, prosperity and advancement of this great Dominion. We have great hopes for the future of this country, but if we would further advance its best interests and secure the realization of these hopes, we must pay attention to large questions like that which is before us to-day. Our future well-being as a country will not be entirely determined by the development of its material wealth, by the extension of its commerce and by populating it with immigration or by other material influences. It will be determined by none of these things, so much as by the character of its people, and of the boys who will take our place in the near future, who will be in future the leading citizens and will have the direction of the material interests of this country. Therefore it becomes our