

The dilemma is that either the civilians must go short of things which they are accustomed to in peace times or the armies must go short of munitions and other indispensable supplies. Which is it to be?

The reading of that simple statement, Mr. Speaker, should place the question in a very fair light. We are in the same position as they are in England; when we realize what the outcome of this struggle may mean to us, we are in practically the same position as they are. Surely we can give up our whisky at a moment when our children, our brothers, our sons, our relatives, are shedding their blood for the cause of Empire. The time has come for the civilians of Canada, even, if necessary, at the cost of great sacrifice, to show that those who, by circumstances of age or for other reasons, have been unable to join the boys at the front, are animated by the same patriotic spirit which is evidenced by those who have gone to the scene of battle.

Permit me, Mr. Speaker, to read a paragraph from a speech delivered by Mr. McKenna at the same gathering. He said:

The only method is the diversion of capital and labour which are now engaged in peace services for the nation to employment for the army and navy.

Every one, he said, ought to take stock of his daily habits and see what he could give up. What was needed now was to teach the people to postpone their expenditures.

And the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, speaking on the same occasion, made this statement:

The question of personal expenditure was a difficult and delicate one. It was easy to lecture other people, but what was important was to make every man understand that he should examine his own expenditure to see how much in the national interest he could cut it down. It was for the man who benefited from additional income derived from the war to show why this expenditure should not be postponed until the war was ended.

The time has come for Canada to economize, not only in public matters but in the daily routine of every day life. There is no man within the sound of my voice who will not admit that drinking is a luxury and of course if we were to stop at that argument there would be a great argument in favour of doing away with the liquor traffic. But the moral consequences that have followed in the train of liquor are well known to every member. One of the last things I did in the old House of Commons—and I am sorry that the book was destroyed by the fire—was to spend an evening reading the admirable speech made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir George Foster) in 1884 when he introduced

a resolution in this House in favour of prohibition. That effort was a classic masterpiece, which I read with the greatest delight and in which I found the inspiration for many of the arguments I am advancing to-day. If he failed in those days there is no reason why to-day, under war conditions and changed public sentiment, he should not succeed. If no action is taken now, I am satisfied that by the close of another twelve months the people of Canada will take such a determined stand on this question that action will have to be taken because our economic circumstances and our realization of the necessity for saving every dollar, would make us blush if we continued to waste \$100,000,000 or \$125,000,000 a year on a luxury. When we are preaching economy to the people and asking our boys to enlist for the war and to risk their lives, if we have not the courage to do away with this luxury I think we are not worthy of the position we occupy. I shall not weary the House by reading all the statistics of the cost of liquor in Canada, but I shall venture to give the totals. The latest report shows that the total quantity of intoxicating liquors entered for consumption in Canada for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1915, was 56,797,704 gallons. After consultation with experienced men, the following prices have been taken as a reasonable basis for a calculation to ascertain the amount actually paid by the consumers for the quantities of liquor upon which duty is collected:

Canadian spirits.. . . .	\$6 00
Imported spirits.. . . .	8 00
Canadian malt liquors.. . . .	0 70
Imported malt liquors.. . . .	2 00
Imported wines.. . . .	5 00

The application of these estimates to the quantities already quoted will give the following table as the expenditure on intoxicating liquors in the Dominion of Canada for the year:

Canadian spirits.. . . .	\$24,126,540
Imported spirits.. . . .	23,775,496
Canadian malt liquors.. . . .	33,569,163
Imported malt liquors.. . . .	2,122,130
Imported wines.. . . .	3,938,325
	\$87,531,654

The official Government estimate made by the Inland Revenue Department of the quantity of liquor taken for consumption during the year, gives the following as the average for every thousand persons:

	Gallons.
Spirits.. . . .	872
Beer.. . . .	6,071
Wine.. . . .	95
	7,038