

The WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT of CANADA

THE QUESTION
OF THE
MONTH

SHALL WE HAVE
TOTAL PROHIBITION?

The Affirmative

WHY I AM IN FAVOUR OF TOTAL PROHIBITION

By HATTIE A. STEVENS

President Ontario Women's Christian Temperance Union

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead
Who never to himself hath said
'This is my own, my native land.'"

SURELY but few there are on this free soil of Canada who are not proud of their noble heritage, and who would not willingly sacrifice much for their young country's best interests; for that which would add enormously to her strength, and health, and wealth, and high and noble purposes; and who would not willingly fight any enemy that threatened her. So with confidence, I appeal to the readers of EVERYWOMAN'S WORLD to note a few facts showing why we should have Prohibition throughout Canada.

Because it would rid us of our greatest curse—the liquor traffic—which has, ever since the dawn of Creation, been the enemy of mankind, and always and ever a symbol of the bottomless pit.

Because, for years previous to Provincial Prohibition, it sent to drunkards' graves over 5,000 Canadians annually. A business that killed 5,000 citizens in one year should be summarily dealt with—it should not be allowed to do business a second year. But no! The evil traffic has gone on and on, and

innocent, heart-broken wives and children have suffered without redress, half-starved, hopeless, and neglected. What chance had such children of growing into strong and desirable citizens such as Canada needs? That some of them have is due to the mercy of God, the self-sacrifice of their mothers, and the kindness of friends; not to the State on which rested most of the responsibility. Truly,

"There's a wrong in all the land, and the beautiful are slain.
Amid her graves the nation counts her revenue of shame."

What a heritage is left to these children of drunken parents, even to the third generation! Particularly is this noticeable in its effect on the brain and nerves, causing dullness, feeble mindedness, idiocy, and imbecility.

Careful research work has been made along this line, and the family histories of 3,711 school children have been traced through three generations. They were divided into two classes, viz.: those free from hereditary alcoholic taint, and those with hereditary taint, and it was found that of those free from the taint, 96 per cent. were proficient, while only 23 per cent. of those with alcoholic ancestry were bright, and one-third of the remaining 77 per cent. were very deficient.

Dr. L. S. Forbes, the famous English scientific expert, makes the damning

statement that the world is rapidly going mad. "I only hope," he says, "that the national conscience may awaken to some sense of the nation's awful peril. To-day there is one lunatic to every 269 of our population. The true causes of insanity are the vices, not the worries, of civilization. I would put the causes of insanity in the following order:

First, Drink. Second, Cigarette smoking. Third, Heredity."

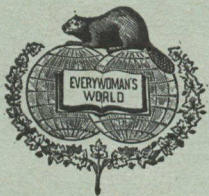
Though a young nation, we, in Canada, have our own share of feeble-minded children; it being ascertained that there are 7,700 defectives in the schools and homes of the Province of Ontario in all stages from weak mindedness to insanity.

Now, let us contrast this with statistics in Kansas, which has been a Prohibition State for a generation, and we find that 54 of its counties are without an idiot, and 87 have no insane. Is not this significant and worth emulating? Again, this traffic is a robber of our country's resources, turning wholesome foodstuffs into that which, as Shakespeare says, "Steals away the brains" of its victims and their posterity, and causes disease, and poverty, and death.

Listen! During the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1916, there was consumed in Canada 3,071,443 bushels of grain and 4,884,460 pounds of molasses in the production of our various brands of beer and spirits, which, at a fair market price, would bring about \$4,244,000, besides the \$87,000,000 spent on drinking these death-dealing poisons, and the loss to the country of the labour of the drinkers while incapacitated for work, which, at a careful estimate, would amount to at least \$66,000,000 more, making in all over \$157,000,000 wasted by the liquor and its traffic during the year. Truly it decreases our efficiency at every turn.

The "Strength of Britain" movement tells us that the actual loss of foodstuffs through the drink trade since the War began would have been enough to feed the great metropolis of the world, London, during that same time. It uses up more sugar than the army, while the soldiers on duty and the wounded in the hospitals must go without, or with a negligible quantity. A story comes to us from one of the hospitals of old London of a man returned from Egypt, ill and wounded, in this hospital, which is not far away from the docks where sugar arrives in thousands of tons; but he asks in vain for sugar in his tea. This luxury is not for him; it is for this enemy trade which is making its millions by destroying the sugar and grain which are so needed for food.

Miss Ada Ward, a clever English speaker, (Continued on page 46)



THE OBJECT OF THIS PAGE

Is plainly to give the women of Canada a voice in the solving of great National Problems. Below are three ballots. Read the two sides of the debate, then mark your ballot, expressing whether or not you want Total Prohibition in Canada, and have any other women members of your household, or neighbours, sign the other two. Send them to

The Woman's Parliament
of Canada,
62 Temperance St.,
Toronto, Ont.

practical purposes. We also had Local Option and the "three-fifths clause," said clause being a prudent method of balancing the eagerness of the agitators against the constitutional apathy of the average voter towards reforms which aim to make people good by law. With this wise Local Option law, Ontario was becoming "dry" as fast as public opinion warranted. It was neither ahead of nor behind public opinion, but abreast of it, which was the proper place for it to be.

Nothing Sir James Whitney set his hand to showed his knowledge of Canadian character so well as this three-fifths clause, which was intended to protect the moderate drinker from the results of his own timidity. Timidity? Well—say, lack of courage. He doesn't see anything wrong in gladdening his heart with an occasional horn, but he doesn't care to boast about it. He knows that this is a mealy-mouthed generation and that the good people, who make a noise out of all proportion to their numbers, will call him a sinner. The three-fifths clause was a well-judged effort to even things up.

The Negative

WHY I AM OPPOSED TO TOTAL PROHIBITION

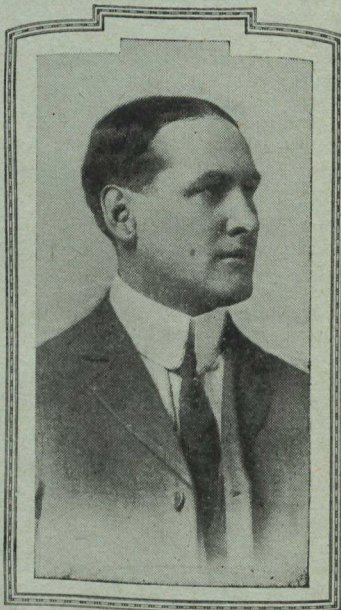
By H. F. GADSBY

Author of "Politicians I Have Met" and Other Sketches

LET me state right at the start that John Barleycorn has had nothing on me for five years. It was that long ago that I gave up drinking. Since then I have not had a glass even of the mildest beer. No moral reform overtook me. No good woman wooed me to rectitude. No rebellious stomach or peevish liver warned me to desist. I simply decided that I had had my share—perhaps a little more than my share—and I quit. I had been drinking twenty-five years, and so far as I can see it has not undermined either my health nor my strength of purpose.

Dominion-wide Prohibition would cause me no personal inconvenience whatever, and yet I object to it as I do to Provincial Prohibition or any other form of prohibition which is in advance of public opinion. That indeed is my first argument—that the goody-good people, spurning all considerations of fair play and good faith, are putting their mean little "ism" over while the country is in a general state of depression owing to the War, and our soldiers, who might be expected to vote "no," are absent attending to more important matters. As I have said in another place, prohibition in Canada is not a conviction—it is a mood—all blue.

To illustrate my complaint, take Ontario. There we had a good strong liquor law, not enforced, perhaps, so strictly as it might have been, but a good law nevertheless and equal to all



H. F. Gadsby

By the way, calling the other fellow a sinner is one of the best things the advocates of Dominion-wide Prohibition do. Sin, with them, is not necessarily wrong. It is oftener than not anything which is pleasant or comforting to the senses.

In one of our most advanced prohibition newspapers I read not long ago a tirade against ice cream soda—the argument being that it frittered away money besides being pleasant to the taste, and, therefore, wicked.

The Pharisees in all ages have taken that view. But Christ made no such mistake. At Cana He turned the water into wine for the delectation of the wedding party, and I see no reason to believe that it was unfermented wine He handed over to the merry-makers. If I know my Greek there is no difference between "glukus" and "oinos" save the difference between a light wine and a heavy one. I have noticed that bilious people, especially when they are of a religious turn of mind, choose as their favourite hatred and name their own stomachs. These crusaders are really great cowards. They distrust their own will power to such an extent that they would make the community pass laws to protect their health. As I said before, liquor makes some of them sick—ice cream soda makes others—therefore they are both sinful.

To get back to Ontario. Local Option was not quick enough for the moral reformers, so they started in to abolish the bar. With this movement I thoroughly agreed. The bar is a swinish institution. There are better ways for a gentleman to take his liquor than to stand up to a trough and stick his head in. One of the great political parties in Ontario, mainly through insistence of its leader, made abolishing the bar the first plank in its platform, promising to drop it if the thing were defeated at a general election. It was defeated at a general election, but the promise to drop it was shamelessly broken. The leaders went right on with their agitation.

Came the Great War, and the other great political party in Ontario, which happened to be in power, thanks largely to a campaign fund, raised among the liquor men, not only abolished the generally. The leaders of the other political party, glad to get so much more than they had bargained for, fell in behind the Hearst Government and made the transaction complete.

To make matters worse, the Hearst Government did not consult, nor did Leader Rowell and his followers advise the Hearst Government to consult the people. They simply joined together to put it over as "a war measure," while the people were looking in another direction. There will be a plebiscite after the War. Although there were many thousands of soldiers in Ontario at the time, the reformers did not consider it expedient to bring on a vote. (Continued on page 46)

BALLOT Mark X in Ballot in square indicating your vote

- ☐ I am in Favour of Total Prohibition
☐ I am Opposed to Total Prohibition

Name

Address

City

County..... Province.....
(Voters must be 21 years or over)

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