

(4) In Ontario, since 1875, 4500 license holders have been refused renewal. This is more than twice the number that now hold licenses, yet none of those who were forced to make their living in some other way have been compensated.

(5) Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Alberta and seventeen States of the American Union have passed prohibition laws without any compensation; and Russia has abolished the whole traffic in intoxicants, putting out of business 3000 distilleries and 500 rectifying establishments, representing an invested capital of 250,000,000 roubles, without any suggestion of compensation.

(6) The slave trade was abolished, gambling, and the lottery system were also prohibited as detrimental to society, but those engaged in these were not bought off from their evil practises nor paid for the tools of their trade which were thus rendered useless. "When a man by his manufacture or business creates an appreciable nuisance to those around him, his act becomes wrongful," and if the people decide that the manufacture and sale of drink must be stopped as an injury to the public, every principle of common law and every precedent to be found in parliamentary proceedings support the contention that the liquor dealers have no just rights to compensation.

III.—COMMON JUSTICE SAYS "NO!"

(1) Compensation would subordinate the public interest to the interest of the saloon-keeper, the brewer and distiller, who have already been enriched at the public expense by the enormous profits of their privileged monopoly.

(2) The common-sense justice of the community would never tolerate the plundering of those already plundered for the benefit of the plunderer, even though the plunderer had the consent of the plundered. Are the victims of this criminal traffic—the widows and orphans of drink-slain husbands and fathers, the families whose homes have been ruined, and the drunkards anxious to reform—to be further punished that the men who have ruined them may be still further enriched?

(3) Crimes forfeit rights. Prohibition is the result of the crimes of the liquor traffic, and the liquor interests cannot now demand compensation for what is compelled by its own acts.

IV.—CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLE SAYS "NO!"

The whole traffic in intoxicants is immoral, and compensation for relinquishing an immorality would be atrocious.

Compensation in respect of a traffic which is the main factor in the production of crime, pauperism, insanity and premature death is morally indefensible, and what is morally wrong can never be politically right.