

the drunkard and the pauper, or to the prison and workhouse.

I have looked into the tear-stained faces of a still larger army of fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, wives and husbands, as they have pleaded for the miserable wrecks that booze has made. I have seen with this army ten thousand pale-faced, hollow-cheeked, ragged, hungry, and starving children, cursed by booze.

Booze has caused 200,000 divorces in the United States in the last twenty years, and adds 25,000 more to this number every year. It divides more homes, fills more jails and empties more churches than all other influences combined.

Booze never built a park, a playground, a school, or a church, but is the enemy of them all.

War may be hell, but where it slays its thousands, booze destroys its tens of thousands.

I do not intend to speak at any greater length and I must thank the House for the kind and patient attention which it has given me. I have spoken to-day in fulfilment of what I consider a public duty; I am supported in what I am doing by the unanimous sentiment of my own constituency from which, to the great satisfaction of the people, the last license was banished three years ago, and I feel that I have the sentiment of Canada with me. I am sorry that circumstances and my age have precluded me from doing what many of us would like to do, that is, to take our share in the present great task which now lies before Canada of achieving on the other side of the ocean that great victory which we all have at heart. One thing, however, which I can do and which I intend doing, is to give my vote, my influence, my energy, my work, and all that I can do to retrieve what I did in 1898, when in a moment of forgetfulness, when the

9. p.m. country was prosperous, when we had not been brought face

to face with the trying ordeals which we have now to face, when the very existence of Canada is at stake, I cast a vote against prohibition. I am glad to say that twenty years have matured my experience and wisdom, and in the face of the present crisis, I feel it is the bounden duty of this Government, and this Parliament, to bring in a measure of prohibition, now. After the war, and the subsequent necessary period of reconstruction, if the people want to repeal the measure, let them do so. But in the meantime, when 250,000 of our boys have enlisted, and many of them are at the front, and when thousands more may enlist and go to the front, let them feel that we are doing something towards getting rid of all that is unnecessary, all that is

[Mr. Marcell.]

luxurious, and that we shall do what Kit-chener wants the civilian army to do, namely, to do our share in supporting those at the front. Then when victory has been won on the battle-field, the greatest victory will be, not the victory over Germany, but the victory won by the Canadian people over the greatest inherent weakness of mankind.

Mr. W. G. WEICHEL (North Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, at the outset of my remarks, I wish to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the motion under discussion, on the very eloquent manner in which they have presented their case. The liquor problem is as old as the hills; it dates back to the time of Noah because we all know that Noah made a mistake, although probably we may forgive him, because he had seen so much water at that time.

As long as human society has existed, the opinions of men have differed regarding that which is most vitally essential to human morals and human happiness. Opinions so expressed have always had a beneficial effect on the widely divergent views of matters relating to the moral and social uplift of communities, leading, as it should, and always does, to a discussion and interchange of thought wherein, after all, lies the root of all human progress. Our social fabric has not been built up in a day, a year, nor in hundreds of years, nor by the thoughts, opinions or achievements of one man, or one race of men. An interchange of thought has resulted in the compromise of many human minds and views, and has resulted in placing society in the position where we respect the opinion of our neighbour, no matter how much we may differ from him regarding the views he may hold, and besides, giving recognition of that great fundamental principle which is, after all, the foundation of a nation's stability, namely, the equal rights of all men.

We live in an age where the majority rules. If we did not subject that rule to certain limitations, however, by recognizing the rights of the minority, it would prove to be as tyrannous in principle, and as destructive to human rights and human happiness, as the most despotic and autocratic form of government, examples of which are in evidence in this world war.

Startling as the assertion may be, it is nevertheless absolutely true that the limitations so wisely imposed upon our modern form of government by our forefathers are to-day in great danger of being removed