

of this evidence. The first authority I shall quote is a well known physician, a gentleman who for nigh twenty years was a member of this House. I refer to the late Dr. Christie, M.P. He says with regard to the cigarette habit :

I believe it is the almost universal opinion of medical men that the cigarette habit is most deleterious to the young, producing impairment of growth and physical degradation before the full maturity of the system is obtained. Even the smallest amount of smoking is hurtful, as it often produces nervous functional diseases of the stomach, debility and irregular action of the heart, impaired vision and irritation of the throat, sometimes called 'smoker's sore throat.' I am fully convinced that it is a baneful habit, which should be denounced in trumpet tones, by all who have the welfare of humanity at heart.

This the evidence of a gentleman who was well known to many of the members now sitting in this House; a man standing high in his profession; a man standing high in public opinion. Then, looking at it from the physical standpoint, Dr. Benjamin King, of Philadelphia, who was military medical examiner in four states during the civil war gave this testimony.

I have been inspecting the papers in a number of cases under the present Recruiting Act (Spanish-American War), and I observe that most of the men who failed to pass the medical examination have weak hearts or lack the vitality necessary to make a good soldier. I had expected that the percentage of rejections would be greater now than in 1861, but I did not dream for a moment that it would be about three times as great. The examining physicians with whom I have talked have generally told me that the excess of rejections is due to the large number of young men applying for enlistment who have become victims of the cigarette habit.

This is startling testimony and it is well it should be paid attention to by the members of this House. I shall now adduce that evidence of men engaged in education, and I could quote more from them than this afternoon. J. M. Palmer, M.A., principal of Mount Allison Academy and Commercial College, Sackville, N.B., a gentleman well known in this House says :

Having had an experience of nearly twenty years as teacher in the schools and academies of New Brunswick, a large number of boys and young men from the ages of twelve to twenty-one years have passed under my direct notice. On such youths the evil effect of cigarette smoking have been very evident in the impaired physical development and especially in the retarded mental growth and deranged nervous system. Students addicted to the tobacco habit have less power of application and concentration of thought than those not using this narcotic.

As to its effects upon the vitality of youth, I would adduce the testimony of the principal of the Iowa State Normal School, who says :

Tobacco, used in any form, destroyed the ability to apply one's self to study, and prevented his comprehending or remembering his lessons. The mental faculties of a boy under the influence of the narcotic seem to be in a stupor, and since depraved nerve power multiplies and weakens the will power, there is but little use for the teacher to seek to arouse the dormant, paralyzed energies, or to interest and foster the fagged desire. I have not met a pupil that is addicted to the habit who will go through a single day's work and have good lessons. I have never had one whose scholarship record was good, and in almost every case the deportment was below the average standard.

I might read much more to the same effect; but I would turn to another aspect of the case. I will show how the habit is regarded by men engaged in directing some of the largest business enterprises on this continent. The following railways prohibit the employment of cigarette users: the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific, the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, the Central Railway of Georgia. Director Harriman, of the Union Pacific, makes this remark :

A railroad company might as well go to the county lunatic asylum for its employees as to continue to engage cigarette smokers.

General Manager Parker, of the Rock Island Road, says :

In my judgment it is impossible for a cigarette smoker to make a good railroad man. As a rule they are dull and half asleep most of the time. These are not the kind of men the Rock Island wants to operate its trains and its great system, which is daily responsible for the lives of thousands of people.

George Baumhoff, superintendent of the Lindell Railway, St. Louis, Mo., says :

Under no circumstances will I hire a man who smokes cigarettes. He is as dangerous on the front end of a motor as a man that drinks; in fact he is more dangerous. His nerves are bound to give way at a critical moment. If I find a car beginning to run badly and getting irregular for any length of time, I immediately begin to investigate the man, to find out if he smokes cigarettes. Nine times out of ten he does, and then he goes for good.

Much further evidence along this line might be adduced. The Chicago post office, a very large institution, bars out cigarette users. At a conference of the Chicago post office authorities it was decided to hereafter employ no boy who smokes cigarettes or who is known to have been addicted to the habit. Heretofore there has been a rule in force that boys employed by the office could not smoke while working, but, believing that smoking has a demoralizing effect, and because of the need of the most intelligent and active boys, it is thought wise to make closer restrictions.

Then, we might look at the question from a still higher standpoint—the moral effect of the habit upon the youthful users of the