

I draw the attention of the Government to the increase in the drug and opium habit, not only in our own Province but throughout Canada. Do they not realize that there are a certain number of human beings who, when deprived of one article, will seek another? And so I think that the increased use of drugs in this Province may be truthfully attributed to the lack of opportunity for people to obtain whatever alcoholic beverages they require. No one will say that drugs and opium are more conducive to sobriety and to the general morals of the people than spirituous liquors. If the Government does not care to put it on any other ground let me suggest that they make a choice of the lesser of two evils. If my facts are challenged, let them find out from their police department the amount of the traffic in these drugs. I fancy there must be some trace of it in that efficient and well organized force. Let them find out what permits have been issued for the importation into Canada of these drugs.

Those who desire to reform human nature must follow more closely the method of Christ. I have already quoted you an example. Let me give it again: Take the incident at the well where the poor prostitute gave Him a drink of water. He did not fear contamination and draw His garments about Him and run and look for a Roman soldier to come and arrest the poor thing, with the idea of having her sent to the contemporary Mercer or Burwash Farm, but with eyes filled with love He made her "go and sin no more." And oh, the answer he gave the godly Puritans of those days who murmured at his daring to converse with a poor sinner, and to accept a drink of water from her hands. How true it was then, has been ever since, and is now—and I humbly repeat those words for the benefit of the Pharisees and sin-hounds of to-day—"He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone." Humility, human sympathy, kindness and love, the love as shown to a sinful world by a Divine Master, will do much to bring us erring and sinful people back to the straight and narrow path; but hypocrisy, coercion, austerity and brutal laws never will.

I have more to say, but like my friend from Simcoe, who said he would wait for another time to indulge his thoughts more fully, I will leave this particular subject and pass on to others.

It gave me delight to see that the Government proposed to bring down a bill to allow women to sit in this legislature. I cannot understand why, when the franchise was given to them, this was not given also; but it is better late than never. I say this, that the women of Canada, the women of England, have earned absolutely by their marvellous devotion (applause), by their loving sacrifices, the right to full equality with men, because God knows they are equal. I am glad to think that the Province of Ontario is doing this and I hope that soon a member—possibly the member for Kenora—will wear petticoats. (Laughter).

There is another thing I want to congratulate the Government upon and that is its housing Bill. I am delighted with that. But I looked very carefully through the Speech to see something which we shall all be busy at next session if it is not done at this—I looked in vain for some word in the Speech, some message to the toiler or labourer that he was going to get his eight hours every five days a week and his four hours on Saturday; a message that we were going to have in the Province of Ontario, established by this Government, forty-four working hours a week. Surely the Government are aware that it is one of the subjects for discussion at the Peace Conference and that probably before this time next year it will be a universal law. You are helping the working man to get a house. Why not lighten his load by making a forty-four hour week of work absolutely obligatory? Let Ontario lead for once, that we may have a forty-four hour week so that the toilers may have the same rights to enjoy leisure, the same rights to enjoy their families and their homes and be happy in them, so that the day would be divided as I feel God intended it to be—eight hours work, eight hours play and eight hours of sleep. Give the working man what he is entitled to because if you don't he will take it.

Another thing I would like this Government to bring down, though it hasn't been mentioned in the Speech: I would like to see the Province of Ontario the first province of the Dominion of Canada to have a minimum wage. I want to see, and I ask the Government now, in this session, to