

diligent man in the prosecution of honest business, to punish him who would molest others. A sharp distinction should be drawn in law between sin and crime. The man who brawls in the streets in a drunken condition deserves to be punished; he is a danger and a nuisance. But it does not follow that it is good policy for the State to forbid even the moderate use in private of comparatively harmless beverages. By so doing the State may bring itself and its laws into contempt, and breed a race of anarchists. In justice it must be said that the Province of Ontario runs this risk at this juncture.

A high form of State would be one in which a good proportion of the people would be anxious to perform public service and where the Government would be willing to confine itself to guidance rather than to compulsion, whether restrictive or promotive. The trouble with the people usually is that they are selfish and indifferent and very often ignorant. And since, unfortunately, election methods are, and have always been, defective, the Governments that get into power are unable to give wise guidance. The result is that public action is usually clumsy, corrupt, costly and ineffective. The only cure is the increase of those who are willing to give service outside of government control. In the past too much stress has been laid on discussions regarding the forms of government. Should we cut ourselves loose from England? Should we join the United States? Should we be a republic or a monarchy? and so on, and so on.

These questions have some importance, but they probably have less than the question of, say, our future fuel. Questions regarding heat and cold, drought and rainfall, sand, clay or rock, etc., make enormous differences sometimes—make all the difference there is between Europeans, Esquimaux and Negroes. Our future civilization may be determined more by what we can grow than by the form of government we may chance to have, now or twenty years hence.

One may ask what kinds of service may be rendered the State outside of government control. One way presents itself in connection with the cultivation of our land. A good deal is being done by government agencies, such as the Guelph College, but a great deal still remains. There is room for the spending of many millions in the endowment of experimental stations up and down the Province in order to discover what re-forestation, orchard planting, cereal raising, etc., we could most profitably practice. The people of Ontario do not yet adequately know what their soil and climate can do. But private action might bring better results here than public. May there be more men like Rittenhouse of Vineland!

I have already spoken of our fuel problem. We have no coal, and what shall we do in the future? How shall we warm ourselves in our long, cold winters? The price of Pennsylvania coal is already almost prohibitive. We may perhaps in the future heat ourselves by using atomic energy, but meantime we must use simpler means. We ought perhaps to be producing wood on our bare blow-sand spots which will not grow cereals. Some of us have planted a little—enough to show what might be done. Then there is the question of petroleum. The world's stores of this precious substance are not inexhaustible. What is to take its place? Perhaps we might make alcohol from cheap farm products like potatoes, inferior fruits, etc. Another point is the many streams flowing into our lakes. They once furnished motive power for saw-mills, grist-mills, tanneries, etc. Is it possible to utilize them now for the production of electricity? We should be investigating, and any man who has money might help. There are also many problems connected with our fish, farm animals, leather-making, weaving, wood-working, minerals, building