

for it was, "We have had an increase of population in the services, and have had to supply the Army, the Navy and the Air Force as well as the civilians." If that is the answer, I say that something should be done to curtail the use of alcoholic beverages, particularly among the young men in our armed forces.

Hon. Mr. HARMER: Have you any suggestion to make as to how that could be accomplished?

Hon. Mr. FOSTER: Carried!

Hon. Mr. QUINN: No, honestly, I have not. But I commend the lady senator from Peterborough for bringing this matter to the attention of the Government, so that its experts and authorities may put their heads together and work out some scheme whereby the sale and use of intoxicating liquors may be reduced.

Hon. Mr. HARMER: I agree with everything you say. The difficulty is to find a solution.

Hon. Mr. QUINN: I agree with you in that.

Hon. J. H. KING: I do not want to prolong this debate, but I think I should say that when the Minister increased the duty on spirits from \$7 to \$9 he was worried by the thought that the increase might stimulate the bootlegging traffic. We had an experience of prohibition during and after the last war, and it was neither good nor healthy, and the results flowing from it were not good.

We have arrived at a system whereby eight of the provinces have taken over the control in this matter. It is true that the Government might prohibit the manufacture of alcohol in Canada, but it could not prohibit the manufacture in the United States, and it would not be able to enforce a prohibition against home manufacture. One of the strange things about alcohol is that it can be made from almost any vegetable matter, and it is amazing how people will learn to produce spirits and wines. The consumption of these articles is greater under prohibition than if they were sold under regulation. I have no doubt that, as was stated by the Prime Minister and by Mr. Ilsley, the Government is giving much thought to this question.

Speaking of people generally, and of young men going into the armed forces particularly, I may say that I do not think prohibition would bring the results desired. On the contrary, I think it would do more harm than good. I quite agree with the honourable senator from St. Jean Baptiste (Hon. A. L. Beaubien) that if the temperance people are

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really seriously interested in temperance or prohibition they would do well to organize the old-fashioned temperance lodges in the various communities throughout Canada and would there encourage temperance and show the people the injurious effects that come from an undue use of alcoholic liquors. If we could get back to that basis, I think, we might make some real progress.

I do not believe that governments can accomplish much. They may restrict the sale or the manufacture, but if the legal manufacture is curtailed there will be the underground manufacture by the illicit still, as was demonstrated in both Canada and the United States during prohibition days.

I am quite sympathetic to what the lady member has said. I do hope the ladies will be able to buy some dresses. I am sure that if there is any way in which governments can improve this condition, they will be glad to do what they can.

I was surprised to hear the honourable senator from Bedford-Halifax (Hon. Mr. Quinn) speaking about conditions on the trains. I do quite a lot of travelling between Vancouver and Ottawa, and I have not seen a great deal of drinking on the trains. Furthermore, in the centre of the city of Vancouver, in what was once known as the Vancouver Hotel, there are some fifteen hundred or two thousand soldiers in barracks. I have lived right next to them and have seen little drunkenness in that neighbourhood. In fact, I thought and still think that the officers have on the whole been exercising a satisfactory control over the activities of the soldiers under their command. Excessive drinking has not been really noticeable. One will meet with some cases, of course, but that is true at all times.

However, as the Prime Minister said the other day, it is desirable to lessen the consumption of liquor. A practical way must be found. I believe there is local option in the province from which my honourable friend from Bedford-Halifax (Hon. Mr. Quinn) comes. If so, the people in the constituencies concerned can, at any time they so desire, call upon the Government to hold a plebiscite on local option within their respective areas. The Scott Act was at one time in force in the Eastern Provinces, but the honourable senator to my left (Hon. Mr. Copp) tells me it no longer is.

I know we are all eager to do what can be done to reduce the evils of the liquor traffic. But let us be careful not to repeat the error that was made during and after the last war, when the provinces passed prohibition measures. As I think honourable members will