

graph 10 of that Committee's report. An effective method of carrying out the intent of the Treaty referred to would be to prohibit clearances to vessels or vehicles of all kinds carrying a cargo of liquor to the United States, contrary to the laws of that country.

It would be interesting, if time allowed, to trace briefly the report which was handed in by that Commission dealing with other phases of their investigation, but I will not take up the time of the Senate this afternoon for that purpose. Suffice it to say that there was revealed a state of active lawlessness and corruption—rank, slimy corruption, conducted in and by the illicit liquor interests—which gave great concern to all administrators of the Government and all honest citizens of the country who came within the range of that information, and gave them reason for serious thought. It would seem as though the administrative functions in some cases had almost ceased to operate fairly and honestly, and that we were really on the very edge of the Serbonian bog to which we were being pushed by the lawlessness and corruption of the liquor traffic.

So much, then, with reference to that. There you have, in the first place, from a special Committee of the House of Commons a recommendation which was agreed to and approved by the House of Commons itself, supposed to represent the will of the people, that there was one method amongst all others that might be adopted, and in the Committee's opinion should be adopted, in order as far as possible to cure the evil which was existent. Then we have a judicial investigating body of repute and capability, vigorously conducted and ably assisted, coming to the same conclusion after a most thorough investigation, agreeing upon that as one method of meeting the situation. Seldom has there been a more authoritative recommendation founded upon a wider and surer basis of investigation. So much, then, for the Canadian setting of the situation.

Let us now pass over to the United States of America. Our neighbour is the other party in these negotiations which have been lately going on, and which have now come to a head, though not, I hope, the ultimate head.

The United States of America, in a history of more than a hundred years of repeated and varied attempts to deal with the liquor traffic, to curb its power and diminish its evil influences, had, by perfectly constitutional methods, by the co-operation of its Federal Congress and the forty-eight States which make up the United States of America, embodied their conscience and conviction in reference to the treatment of this traffic in an

amendment to the constitution of the United States. That amendment, with the co-operation of all those bodies, had gradually developed from the doubtful field of contest to the undisputed and strong majority which was necessary for an amendment to the constitution.

From 1919, when the enabling laws for carrying out the purposes of that amendment were passed, the United States of America, particularly the Federal power, entered upon a struggle and an undertaking of supreme difficulty. No matter what may be our convictions as to the personal use or the legislative control of the traffic, we must as reasonable men agree that they were trying a new experiment on a vast scale, with a people 120,000,000 in number, made up of all classes, all creeds, and almost all colours—a polyglot democracy in which states and federal powers were often at odds with one another.

Now, that was an undertaking which in itself was a tremendous task. But consider, as well, the border-line of the United States, into which and against which all illegal operations were directed to defeat that law, as far as the importation of intoxicating liquors was concerned. It is of immense extent, with two long land borders, that of Mexico and that of Canada, 5,000 or more miles in extent, and two ocean borders of almost equivalent length, which were vulnerable to the attack of the smuggler and the law-breaker from abroad. Added to that was the herculean effort necessary to cover the illegal activities which were developed within the country itself. The mere mention of them shows us what immense difficulties must have been encountered.

The Federal authority went to its work, with the sympathetic co-operation of State powers in many cases, but in others with the absolute indifference, and—still harder to contend with—the actual animosity of some State Legislatures with regard to the enforcement of the Act. But it has persisted, and it is possible now for one to state that through the long ten years in which it has persisted the accordant sentiment and support of the United States people, so courageously shown in placing the amendment in the constitution under the difficulties which in the United States surrounded that process, have not diminished. On the contrary, as far as we can judge from legislative and electoral indications, they are stronger now than at any previous period, and the efforts have been to a large extent successful.

I have not very much sympathy with this attempt that is being made to create in Canada the impression that the United States has

Right Hon. Sir GEORGE FOSTER.