

to the effect that he did not believe in compensating the liquor traffic. "It is a gamblers' trade," he said, "and why should we compensate a gambler?"

I refer to this remark because it is typical of the unwise, unfair, unjust, and extreme views of some people. These people may be well meaning enough in a way, but they are carried off their sound common sense balance by a desire to say something that will be popular with a certain extreme faction.

Now I don't believe that any fair-minded British Columbian can, for one minute, consider such a position. We demand British justice; and I am sure that no one who studies the question, even superficially, will for one minute argue against giving fair, equitable compensation to all licensed victuallers should Prohibition carry in this Province.

Let us look at a few facts. The liquor trade is a legal trade today, and has always been so in this Province.

The Province, and by the Province I mean, not a few legislators at Victoria but the people as a whole, or the majority of the people. The few legislators at Victoria simply carry out the wishes of the people as expressed at election times.

Now what has been the situation here in British Columbia?

Did our breweries erect their plants, spend their money and manufacture a commodity against the law, and against the wishes of the people? Did those men who invested their hundreds of thousands in magnificent hotel structures, buying materials, paying huge amounts in wages, and for licenses, did they do all this against the law and against our municipal regulations; or did they comply in every particular with the demands of organized society? For the moment I am not arguing the merits of right or wrong; I am not arguing the merits or demerits of the liquor trade. But I, and I want you to notice this, the people wanted it, the people sanctioned it, the people made laws to regulate it, they demanded money to license it.