

Office of the Sheriff,
Montreal, February 1, 1916.

Hon. Charles Marcil, M.P.,
House of Commons,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir,—The question of prohibition will soon be discussed in the House of Commons. On this subject allow me to tell you what alcohol has done to people in the Montreal prison.

In 1915, out of 6,288 condemnations, 1951 were for drunkenness. Out of 5,101 sent to prison, 1,642 were sent there for drunkenness or 32 per cent. Three hundred and thirty-nine women were condemned for drunkenness.

What of the other offences for which delinquents have been specifically condemned; 75 per cent of these offences were committed by persons under the influence. The four cases of homicide reported in the statistics in the district of Montreal were committed while under the influence of liquor.

Alcohol plays such a large part in the prison statistics, that once it was removed there would be but few prisoners. My office as sheriff of the largest district in Canada has enabled me to ascertain this.

I have the honour to be yours truly,

L. J. Lemieux, M.D.,
Sheriff.

In addition to the evidence I have submitted, I have received from a large number of municipalities and societies all through the province of Quebec a resolution which is identical in terms. I will read it and then give the names of the municipalities and societies which have declared for it. The resolution reads:

That this council approves the resolution for prohibition of alcoholic liquors in Canada during the war, and for a period of three years after the war is over for the reconstruction of the country, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Hon. Mr. Marcil, and to the member of our constituency.

The following bodies approve of the resolution:

Council Notre Dame de Mont Carmel, Co. St. John; Cercle Agricole de Maniwaki, Que.; Temperance Society, Maniwaki, Que.; Township of Roxton, Que.; Council of Roxton Falls, Que.; Notre Dame de Mont Carmel, Que.; Village of Yamachiche, Que.; Temperance Society, St. Georges de Henryville, Que.; Parish of Ste. Ursule, Que.; Town of Pointe Claire, Que.; Town of Megantic, Que.; Council of St. Denis sur Richelieu, Que.; Medical Society District of Richelieu, Que.; Council Parish St. Mathieu (St. Maurice), Que.; Village of Massueville, Que.; Village of St. Joseph de Richelieu, Que.; Parish of St. Joseph de Richelieu, Que.; Council of St. Boniface de Shawinigan, Que.; Parish of St. Damase, Que.; Council of Stanbridge Station, Que.; Anti-alcoholic League, Longueuil, Que.; Council Parish of St. Marcel, Que.

In addition to these petitions from my own province, I have been honoured by receiving from the province of Ontario two other communications which were sent to

me direct, and which I would like to place upon Hansard, as I believe they agree pretty fairly with the trend of opinion in that province. The first of these petitions is from the town of Renfrew, which is represented in this House by the hon. member for South Renfrew (Mr. Graham). I had the pleasure recently, on the invitation of the citizens of that locality, of visiting Renfrew, for the purpose of assisting that noble work, the Canadian Patriotic Fund. The town of Renfrew, which has a population of 4,250, and from which liquor has been banished for the last five years, has subscribed this year \$42,000 to the Canadian Patriotic Fund, thus at one stroke placing itself at the head of the communities of Canada as regards contributions. We were received in a magnificent temperance hotel erected by the citizens, and men and women, young and old, said that the day liquor was banished from Renfrew was a blessing to that community. This is the resolution:

Renfrew, February 23, 1916.

Hon. Chas. Marcil,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ont.

At a meeting of the members of the Baptist Church, Renfrew, held on the 31st inst., it was moved by A. A. Wright, and seconded by T. L. Main, and carried unanimously, that in the opinion of this congregation, it was most desirable, in the interests of our fellow countrymen, that the resolution introduced in the House of Commons by H. H. Stevens, M.P., and seconded by the Hon. Chas. Marcil, M.P., looking to the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor for beverage purposes, should be adopted.

Resolved, also, that a copy of the resolution should be sent to our Premier, Sir R. L. Borden, and also one to the Hon. Geo. P. Graham, our representative in the House of Commons, urging them to do their utmost to have the resolution adopted.

Signed on behalf of the congregation,

W. G. Draper, Clerk.

Here is another resolution from North Bay, where liquor unfortunately has in the past played a very important part:

North Bay, Ontario,

March 3, 1916.

We, the undersigned ministers of North Bay, Ontario, do hereby express our strongest endorsement of the resolution which is to be brought before the Parliament of Canada by Mr. H. H. Stevens and the Hon. Charles Marcil, namely:

"That at this time, when the Empire is at war, in the opinion of this House, the conservation of the wealth and resources of the Dominion, and the promotion of the efficiency of our nation would be materially aided by the prohibition of the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage