

Hon. Mr. HARMER: How are you going to prevent it?

Hon. Mr. QUINN: I cannot offer a solution, but to me it looks as though a man, as soon as he dons a uniform, thinks he must learn how to drink whisky and soda. Not long ago an honourable gentleman opposite sat in the same railway coach with me while travelling from here to Montreal. Two high-ranking naval officers came into the smoking compartment. After lighting a cigarette, the first thing they did was to ring the bell and call the porter to ask him to put up a table and bring in cracked ice and glasses. Then they produced a quart flask of whisky and proceeded to drink it. Not long afterwards two high-ranking army officers arrived on the scene, and they went through the same procedure. You do not see civilians ordering up cracked ice and producing whisky and soda in that way.

Hon. Mr. DUFFUS: Oh, yes, you do.

Hon. Mr. QUINN: Very rarely.

Hon. Mr. DUFFUS: On every train.

Hon. Mr. QUINN: Do not be too hasty in your defence. The last time I went down to Halifax I rode on the Ocean Limited, which consisted of eighteen cars. Nearly every passenger on that train was an officer of the Air Force, the Navy or the Army, and when they wanted a drink they did not do what you or I would do if we wanted a drink—go into the smoking compartment and have it; they pulled out a flask or a bottle right in the main section of the car, irrespective of the presence of ladies, children or anybody else, and started their orgies, and there was drunkenness from the time we left Montreal till we got to Halifax. I was ashamed, and I am not a temperance advocate. I like a drink of whisky or beer, but I do not like to see boys in the condition that some of them were in on that train. As has been said, we cannot drink our way to victory.

I am glad this subject has been brought to the attention of the House, because some educational measures must be instituted amongst our armed forces in order to prevent the excessive use of intoxicating beverages. It is a shame and a crime. I almost cried at what I saw. As I was going through to the dining car I met two lovely young fellows whose fathers and mothers I knew—two of the loveliest young fellows on God's earth, and both were drunk. They were companions of my own son. I stopped one of them. I said: "Come here, boy. Do your mother and father know that you are doing this?" "Oh,"

he said, "we are just on our way overseas. Father and mother will not see me, because we will go right to the dock and straight aboard the ship."

I contend, honourable senators, that this is not right. I am not preaching a sermon, and I am not moralizing. But this thing hurts me. I say it is not right, and that is why I support the honourable senator from Peterborough in her effort to bring it to the attention of the Government. The Federal Government cannot evade its responsibility in respect to this any more than it can evade it in respect to any other commodity. It regulates the price and the use of clothing, of motor cars, rubber, and many other things. Why can it not regulate the sale and use of intoxicating liquors?

I know the argument of the honourable Minister of Finance in the other House. He is a good friend of mine, and I admire and respect him. He is a man who does not indulge in liquor himself. I know that he said, "We cannot do it; it is the responsibility of the provincial governments."

In that connection, I pay tribute to the Premier of Nova Scotia, who has made every effort possible to curtail the sale of intoxicating liquors in his province. He shortened the hours of sale.

Hon. Mr. HARMER: And what happened?

Hon. Mr. QUINN: Just a minute now. Do not go too fast. I will tell you what happened. Instead of there being one line of people going into the liquor stores, there were six. That is what happened. But the hours of sale were shortened because it was not possible to get a sufficient supply of liquor to sell. I know that for a fact.

Hon. Mr. HARMER: Then how were the sales increased?

Hon. Mr. QUINN: It was a year ago that the sales increased. I am talking about July. The hours were shortened only at the end of last year, but the stores were wide open six days a week from nine until six.

Hon. Mr. HARMER: The sales increased thirty-five per cent.

Hon. Mr. QUINN: In 1941, yes, but during Christmas week of last year, I think, the hours were reduced. Last year in the little province of Nova Scotia, with a population of only half a million people, the total gross sales amounted to something like \$12,000,000, and there was a net profit of \$3,500,000. This is too much; it shows too great a consumption of intoxicating beverages. The reason given