

So far the Church of England in Canada has witnessed to the fact that in June, 1917, in the opinion of over three hundred of her Clergy, the Prohibition laws were working satisfactorily and that great benefits were being felt from them in the parishes of the clergy concerned. This, however, was not the Church's final word on the question. It is purposed to send out a second questionnaire at such time as the question comes up for final settlement after the war. Upon the verdict of our clergy much will hang. As has been pointed out before, the opinions of the parish clergy on such a question are of peculiar importance. In intimate touch with their people, constantly in and out of the homes of their parishioners among whom they live and work, the clergy have opportunities of judging of effects given to no other class in the community.

It is to be hoped, therefore, that our clergy will respond and give their candid judgment on the situation; if every clergyman of the Church of England in Canada were to give his unbiased, judicious opinion on the whole matter, it is more than probable that the question could be clinched once and for all. In the meantime, what should be our attitude? Perhaps if we say "watchful waiting," we shall best describe the ideal position we should take up. We must be very careful, neither indulgent nor tyrannous, but just and firm. Let us not forget that we are trying a great experiment, how great it is, is perhaps, a trifle hard to grasp. We are asking a nation which has been accustomed to the free use of liquor from time immemorial at one blow, suddenly and unexpectedly, to deny itself a thing which heretofore has been deemed by a great many people an entirely legitimate luxury, and by many a necessity. Obviously the handling of such a situation calls for great wisdom, more wisdom than a good many excellent but excitable people seem to realize as necessary. The outburst of real indignation and anger which followed on certain unguarded and unwise utterances at a prohibitionist congress some months ago in Toronto was not without its significance, and showed that the grave remonstrance uttered in BULLETIN No. 5 of this series against the excesses of extremists in the prohibition ranks was not uncalled for, and might well have been laid to heart.

The Church of England has a sanity, a restraint and a dignity peculiarly its own. These characteristics are well known and recognized, consequently anything the Church of England does or says has great weight. Our duty at the present moment, and in the future as well, is to lay a restraining hand on the obviously well-meaning but extremely injudicious enthusiasts who are irritating public