

that is to say, to \$179 million? How many trials, headaches and family quarrels would thus be eliminated? How many tears alcohol has caused deserted mothers and children to shed! Think of the worries it brings to parents whose sons left home without ever having touched a drop but return, after a while, addicted to the 40-ounce habit. Think of the highway accidents, the broken lives, the ruined prospects attributable to this disastrous evil. Think of the unfortunate victims of over-indulgence who now await death in lunatic asylums. If you look into divorce statistics you will find that nine times out of ten, alcohol is at the root of the trouble. Slums would vanish if the \$750 million wasted yearly on spirits were devoted to the building and improvement of homes. Is there any reason why Canadians should now indulge in alcoholic beverages more than in 1939? The huge amounts of grain required for the distilling of spirits could be exported to needy countries and would thus help untold numbers of starving people.

Why not re-educate our people to save, or at least to do without the superfluous? Some may claim that Canadians can no longer save because of the high cost of living. Yet I was reading last week in a Montreal newspaper that the company responsible for distributing juke boxes in Montreal restaurants collected weekly dues amounting to \$250,000, or more than \$12,000,000 a year. Millions of dollars are spent on soft drinks. I could go on quoting examples of similar squandering. Canadians are incredibly wasteful and improvident.

If the Canadian worker cannot make any savings out of the wages he is earning in this country, how could he manage to make both ends meet if he earned only \$59.85 per month as in Russia and had to pay \$5.50 for a pound of butter, \$3.50 for seven quarts of milk, \$2.50 for a dozen eggs, \$7 for a pound of coffee, \$6 for three pounds of veal, \$1.20 for one pound of sugar, \$1.20 for one package of cigarettes, \$1.35 for one bottle of beer, \$54 for a pair of shoes and \$285 for a suit?

I know that this speech will certainly not be popular. I think however that it is more constructive than the boot-licking eulogies which some men are wont to deliver. It is high time our people were told the evils which are gnawing at our way of life. Take away alcohol, wastefulness and immorality from Canada and you will have the happiest country in the world.

Many will say this is impossible. Let me remind you that if as much energy were spent by public men in fighting these three curses as in promoting their political philosophies, beneficial effects would follow in short order.

A great many people, it must be admitted, experience hardships as a result of the rising cost of living. Those with fixed income or wages who are unable to better their financial standing in relation to the cost of living are much to be pitied. But we cannot improve their lot with any degree of efficiency by reducing farm prices. Let us strike at the very root of price increases, which stem from such evils as—

(1) Unfair price increases by profiteers. The present inquiry into rising costs of living will no doubt reveal the names of many dishonest dealers, and, let us hope, teach them a good lesson. Besides, exploitation of the public by a few dishonest dealers can be only of short duration. As soon as goods become more plentiful, competition will necessarily cause the price of manufactured products to fall and the dishonest dealers will be the first victims of their exploitation.

(2) Unwarranted pay increases in industry. Before allowing an industry to grant wage increases, it should be ascertained what difference they will mean in the price of the finished product. If the increase demanded causes the final price of the manufactured article to go up to such an extent as to be detrimental to the general well being it should simply be refused. The manufacturer of whom a wage increase is demanded almost invariably refuses it at first. Trade unions then enter the picture and, through the press and by many other means, as often as not illegal ones, attempt to blacken the manufacturer's reputation in the eyes of the public. Jostled and threatened from all quarters, he weakens and gives in. What happens? The next day he increases the price of his product. This state of affairs will continue until the union leaders demand a new wage increase. And so it goes on, the same process being repeated several times, until the cost of the article becomes prohibitive. Who will suffer from all this? Everybody, including the worker himself.

As long as we allow such methods to be employed it is useless to look for really efficient means of relieving the consumer. We shall not find any. That was not the way our ancestors built up this country and left us our national heritage. That is not the way in which we should pass on this heritage to our descendants.

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak for a very few minutes on this occasion. I spoke on the amendment moved on this side and my reason for speaking on the main motion now is to direct the attention of the government to the grave injustice under which the people in our city