

How to attain this end should be the aim of Government and people.

While not directly indicating the manner in which Canada could accomplish this, he referred to the enormous waste from drink, stating that in 1913 the British expenditure on drink amounted to \$830,000,000, besides the loss of thousands of tons of barley and the productive employment of tens of thousands of men, "and the final result is that all this drink goes down the people's throat and nothing is left."

Mr. Brand was too courteous to apply this to Canada, but left the application for us.

The expenditure on liquor in Canada runs into many millions. It is not only absolutely wasted, but, as Mr. Brand states, it also takes away from productive employment thousands of men.

What, then, is the remedy?

Pass a prohibitory law to remain in force during the war and for a reconstruction period of three years thereafter, at which time let the question of repeal be submitted to the people.

Russia, France and, to a limited extent England, have acted on these lines with beneficial results.

Prior to the war, in these countries public sentiment was overwhelmingly opposed to any such legislation, but under the stress of war conditions their leaders did not hesitate to act.

Are our leaders in Canada less courageous, less patriotic than the Czar of Russia, the President of France, or the Premier and Lloyd George in England?

In these countries they braved an antagonistic sentiment.

In Canada, even before the war, public sentiment expressed in the plebiscite years ago decided in favour of prohibition. Since then, public opinion has been manifestly growing stronger in its favour.

British Columbia is now demanding the right to restrict the liquor traffic.

Alberta has decided in favour of prohibition. So has Saskatchewan.

Manitoba is ripe for it, and there both political parties are outbidding each other in this direction.

Ontario has now liquor sold in only about 300 municipalities out of 850.

In Quebec, out of 1,143 municipalities over 900 are without a license, and the number is still increasing, as witness the voting in the last few weeks in Lachine, Three Rivers and Argen-teuil.

New Brunswick, excepting four or five counties, is, under prohibition.

In Nova Scotia no liquor is allowed to be sold in the entire province, except in the city of Halifax, and none whatever in Prince Edward Island.

What stronger evidence is required?

By one simple act of legislation following the overwhelming sentiment of the country, Parliament can save millions of dollars of waste, can by one stroke enormously add to the productive wealth of the country, and do more to increase the power of Canada to help the Empire than by any other legislation it may enact; in helping the Empire it will benefit our own people.

Two hundred thousand young Canadians have left their homes, friends, and all their business interests, to endure the hardships of war, to fight and if need be to die for the Empire. Shall those left at home not do every-

thing possible to strengthen their hands and help them to win? The little self-denial imposed by such an Act will enable Canada to vastly increase her power to help.

Will our leaders, forgetting party and remembering only Canada and the Empire, support such a measure? Canada awaits with confidence their answer.

Signed on behalf of the committee.

J. R. Booth (Ottawa)

Wm. C. Edwards (Ottawa)

E. Lafontaine (Montreal)

Président de la Ligue Antialcoolique de Montreal.

Fred. H. Deacon (Toronto)

Geo. H. Millen (Hull)

Stuart J. Carter (Montreal)

Hiram Robinson (Ottawa)

Honorary Chairman.

A. W. Fraser (Ottawa)

Chairman.

J. W. Hennessy (Fort Coulonge, P.Q.), Vice-Chairman.

Edward Seybold (Ottawa)

Secretary.

I find in this petition the gist of the whole question. We are told that there is in this country an enormous waste in connection with alcohol, and that the time has come to deal with the question. On this circular we have the names of some of the most competent men in Canada. The first name that I read was that of Mr. J. R. Booth. I have heard Mr. Booth mentioned in this House during the last fifteen years as one of the most enterprising and far-seeing men. He has built railways; he has developed immense industries; he has employed thousands of men; he is in a better position than anybody else to know the injurious effects of alcohol. Senator W. C. Edwards, whose name is second on the list, also is a man who is entitled to particular respect; he also has had opportunities of a similar nature. This circular was accompanied by another, which also was forwarded to all the newspapers in Canada. It reads as follows:

On Saturday last the appeal to the political leaders of both parties in Canada was made to introduce and carry a prohibitory Act during the war and a reconstruction period of three years thereafter when the question of repeal can be submitted to the people.

If, as pointed out on that occasion, a great responsibility rests on the leaders as well as a great opportunity for Empire service, the responsibility of the people is none the less.

The war expenditure in Canada during last year amounted to about \$175,000,000. For the present year this expenditure is estimated at \$225,000,000 for an army of 200,000 men. But in Sir Robert L. Borden's New Year message the call has gone forth for 500,000 men. What, then, will be the financial expenditure? It must of necessity be much greater than the above