

and sale as may be allowed, shall be by the Dominion Government through specially appointed officers.

He said: Mr. Speaker, a resolution in reference to the prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating liquors has been twice introduced into this House within the past few years, and there has been a full discussion of the whole question on each occasion. Consequently, I do not deem it advisable on the present occasion to make anything like an exhaustive address in support of the resolution. In fact, it is not my intention to say more than a few words, and I shall be perfectly satisfied, so far as I am concerned, if we can reach a vote on this question within the next half hour. I think it will be advisable to dispose of the resolution this afternoon, as I am informed and observe by the Order paper—I was not here on Friday evening—that if it is not disposed of by six o'clock, it will have to pass over in order that the arrangement in reference to resuming the debate on the Fishery question this evening may be carried out. I am not aware of anything new having come up in the country on the question of the prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating liquors since last Session, when I submitted to this House a resolution in similar terms to the one I have just proposed. I am not aware that the evils flowing from the traffic in intoxicating liquors since that time have abated in any way, and I am still as fully convinced as I was on that occasion that it is the duty of this House to provide by legislation, not for the regulation, but for the entire prohibition of that traffic. It may be said that we have a local option law, and that it is the duty of those who are opposed to the traffic in intoxicating liquors to try that law which is already upon the Statute-book. Well, it is quite true that we have a local option law, and it is also true that that law, to a very large extent, has been laid hold of by the people, and adopted in a large number of counties and cities in this Dominion. But I have always contended, and I now contend, that the Canada Temperance Act is not a fair test of the question of the prohibition of the liquor traffic. I am not aware that either in this or any other country has any law yet been passed which can be said to be a fair test of prohibition. In the United States, I believe, several States of the Union have passed a prohibitory liquor law, but their power is limited, and, after all, it is only partial prohibition. Although the sale and the manufacture is prohibited by those States, it is beyond their power, as has recently been held by the Supreme Court of the United States, to prohibit the importation, inasmuch as that would be an interference with trade and commerce. Now, it is well known that the Canada Temperance Act, in the counties in which it is adopted, is only directed to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors. Consequently, it is only partial prohibition. I believe we should go further, and enact a law which will not only prevent the sale, but get at the root of the evil, by prohibiting the importation and manufacture of intoxicating liquors. We have dealt, since this House assembled, with some very important questions bearing upon the trade and commerce of the country, but it is my contention that the question now before the House, however lightly some members may be disposed to treat it, is the most important question which has been before the House since we have met this Session. I am not sure that it is merely the duty of the representatives of the people to deal with questions of trade and commerce alone, or what may be called purely secular questions. I believe it is the duty of the Parliament of this, and every other country, to deal also with questions affecting the morals of the people. I know of no traffic which, to the same extent, affects the moral condition of the people as the liquor traffic. In discussing this question, I am prepared to concede that it has a very important bearing upon some interests in the country which are regarded as of very great importance. I am quite aware that those engaged in the manu-

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facture and sale of intoxicating liquors would be most materially affected, were a prohibitory measure passed by this House, but in my judgment it is the duty of Parliament to pass every law which it deems to be right, and to have that law enforced in the interests of the people. I am not now going to discuss the question as to whether it would be right or not to grant compensation to those engaged in the traffic, but will simply give expression to my own opinion on that point, and that is that if the option were given to me at the present moment of securing the prohibition of the liquor traffic and doing away with the great evils which flow from that traffic, I for one would be prepared to put my hands in my pocket, as a ratepayer of this Dominion, and contribute my share in compensating these parties. However, I am not prepared to admit that those engaged in the traffic are entitled to compensation. Notice after notice, intimation after intimation, has been given to those parties, from time to time, that the traffic in intoxicating liquors was considered by the people as inimical to their interests. The passage of the Temperance Act of 1864 by the Parliament of Canada was a notice, the passage of the Canada Temperance Act of 1878 was a notice to those parties that the people and Parliament of this country considered that the traffic was inimical to the best interests of the country. Consequently, if parties, since the passage of those Acts, have gone into the manufacture or into the traffic, or have taken up the selling of intoxicating liquors in any way, they have done so with this notice to them upon the Statute-book of this country. Now, I trust that this resolution will receive very careful consideration at the hands of the representatives of the people. I know that those who are endeavoring to rid the country of this great evil are not looked upon with favor in certain quarters. I know they are regarded, and sometimes spoken of, as cranks, and as parties who want to destroy the peace of the country, and we are told that we are endeavoring to entrench upon the liberty of the subject by prescribing what men shall eat and drink. I know that very serious objections are urged in certain quarters to the passage of what are called sumptuary laws. But I believe that those who are advocating the prohibition and abolition of the liquor traffic are acting, not only within their rights as citizens, but in the best interests of the country. It may be true that men have an abstract right to eat and drink what they please and as they please, but when men who drink intoxicating liquors not only injure themselves but injure those who are dependent upon them—and it is not alone those who drink that suffer, but every interest in the community suffers—I believe it to be the duty of Parliament to step in and prohibit this traffic. I believe that the pathway of this traffic is strewn with the ruined lives and wrecked hopes of thousands and tens of thousands of the best citizens of this and every other country. It may be that Parliament is not yet prepared to give its sanction to a prohibitory liquor law, it may be possible that even the people of this country are not yet prepared to carry out such a law, if it were placed on the Statute-book. But I expect to live to see the day, and I believe many other members of the House will live to see the day when we shall have on the Statute-book a law prohibiting the traffic in intoxicating liquors; that the people of this country, in consequence of the great evils flowing from this traffic, will revolt against it and will put the ban of the law upon it. Now, although I have spoken much longer than I intended to in introducing this resolution, I have a few more words to say. It may be said, in reply to the remarks which I have made, and the resolution which I have had the honor of submitting to this House, that it was entirely unnecessary to submit another resolution during the present Parliament; that, in the first Session of this Parliament, when it was fresh from the people, we had a resolution on this