

is as much, if not more, money spent for liquors than for all food. We students who have worked in communities where liquor is sold, know that there are many families that are ill-fed, ill-clad, aye, starving and naked, because of the liquor traffic, because of the awful temptations it puts in the way of men to cause them to fall.

The liquor traffic is a fearful incubus on ordinary trade. How many bad debts it makes! How many failures are due to the abuse of liquor! The most advantageous, and, may we say? most level-headed, movement that all true lovers of our country can make, is to abolish the liquor business. There are millions in it, a veritable gold mine. If politicians want to make the best stroke to benefit the trade of Canada, let them abolish the liquor traffic. There is much more profit in that, to the country as a whole, than in the best advantages of Protection to a Conservative, or Free Trade to a Liberal. May the Almighty open our eyes!

Sifting:—

Seldom, if ever, in the history of Canada, have more determined efforts been made to detect and repress corruption and fraud than during the year that has just closed.

The press has well nigh surfeited its readers with word pictures, cuts and cartoons of cities, towns and rural municipalities, sifting their councils, boards and other institutions, to save the public funds and make room for honorable men. The investigations made have not been fruitless. The public mind has been awakened from its lethargy, and most painful disclosures have been made.

The excessive putridity of our representative bodies and other public institutions, have heaped disgrace upon us, and tarnished the good name of our fair country. Well may we ask, whither are we drifting, to whom does the responsibility attach, and what can

be done to prevent the recurrence of corrupt practices, not the least of which is the appropriation of public funds for the attainment of personal and selfish ends.

That such disclosures manifest a deplorable state of affairs, if not a low degree of social morality, we must all admit. That they exhibit the abuse of the franchise and treason against God and good government, we cannot very well deny. Doubtless, much blame attaches to those who have been sifted out, but, since they have received their reward, let us who are honest Christians and citizens of unquestioned integrity of purpose, carry the inquiry further, and, throwing ourselves into the great hopper of truth and good citizenship, submit to a sifting process, and so determine the weight of condemnation which rests upon our own shoulders.

It is, perhaps, not too much to say, that one-half of Christian people, and certainly a much less proportion of others, never consider the spiritual qualifications of an aspirant to a position of public responsibility. They may fervently pray for good government, and such legislation as will best promote the interests of Christ's kingdom. They may entreat the Giver of all good for a pure judiciary, God-fearing rulers and other servants of state, but, alas, how often they forget that God has conceded this responsibility to themselves, and expects, ay, even demands, that they be not recreant to duty, but perform the functions of their position faithfully and honorably "as unto the Lord, and not unto men." Enter our legislative halls, our council chambers, or our educational boards; learn the life and character of the members of our judiciary even, and you will find men, appointed forsooth by Christian electors and Christian representative bodies, who would be considered a disgrace to the ancient Roman Senate, even from a moral standpoint, and yet, they are there by our vote.