

men, an organization which covers Canada and the United States:

I have pleasure in saying that this organization wishes to go on record as being in favour of the movement; and this letter will be your authority so to state.

Mr. G. D. Robertson, third vice-president of the Order of Railway Telegraphers, has expressed sentiments which should have considerable weight with members of the House. Writing to Mr. Lawrence he says:

I am informed that a deputation of prohibition workers are expecting to meet the Premier on January 27th in connection with the Patriotic Appeal for Federal Prohibition in Canada.

If opportunity offers, I would be glad to have you also speak for me as representing the Order of Railroad Telegraphers.

The undersigned is heartily in favour of the total prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor in Canada, except in such quantities as may be necessary for medicinal and scientific purposes. While this question has not been specially referred to our men in Canada for an official opinion, I know that the sentiments above expressed voice the opinions of a very large proportion of our members. Our laws specifically deal with the temperance question, inasmuch as they provide that the excessive use of liquor is sufficient to debar any man from membership. Our members have for many years past ceased to look for any protection from the organization if dismissed by their employer for drinking on duty. These two facts pretty clearly indicate the popular feeling of Canadian telegraphers on the subject. The co-operation of railway managers and the various organizations in each doing what they could to discourage habitual drinking among employees has brought greatly increased safety to the travelling public of Canada. The moral, social and financial advancement of the employees directly concerned has been very marked.

For the sake of the men whom he serves, as well as for the good of society generally, the undersigned will be glad to lend such assistance as he is able to bring about the total abolition of the manufacture and sale of liquor in this country.

I have another letter written to Mr. Lawrence by James Thordock, Vice-President of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, and which reads:

I have just arrived home to-day for the first time this year, and find your letter of the 20th advising me that a deputation would wait upon the Premier of Canada on the 27th of January in the interest of a patriotic appeal for federal prohibition.

I have not of course, had opportunity to sound the views of our Canadian membership on this subject, but, knowing them as I do, would feel safe in expressing the earnest conviction that the great majority of our 10,000 members in Canada would be in hearty sympathy with total and effective war time prohibition.

My own personal view is that the Government could do no more effective act at the present time than to authorize prohibition during the continuance of the war, at least so

that labouring men and all concerned in the Dominion might at all times feel sure of being sober of thought, of speech and of action, and with determination, be the better prepared to further British Empire interest in the paramount question that we as Canadians and as British subjects have before us.

My further personal view is that if federal prohibition was to be made effective during war time conditions, such prohibition should also prohibit the manufacture.

Would very much like to be with you tomorrow for the purpose of lending my personal support in connection with this very commendable and desirable undertaking.

I have another letter written to myself by Mr. William L. Best, legislative representative of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers. I trust that the House will bear with me while I read this letter; it is the last that I shall read upon this phase of the subject. The writer represents the views of a labour union which has been brought to the highest point of efficiency, and which seeks to secure for its members a degree of protection which exceeds that sought for by any union in this or any other country. The letter is:

Having observed, with keen interest, your proposed resolution to Parliament, calling for Dominion wide prohibition of the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes, permit me to convey to you my sincere appreciation of the importance of this proposed measure and to assure you of my unqualified endorsement of the legislation contemplated therein.

Realizing the fact that the vocation of locomotive enginemen involves ceaseless peril, and that it is a duty we owe ourselves, our employers and those dependent upon us for safe and comfortable transit, to guard in every manner against those disasters which frequently overtake us on the railway, the necessity of rendering the highest efficiency of service, of being careful and sober, becomes self-evident; hence the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, an organization of 90,000 members on this continent, has adopted as one of the cardinal principles in its motto, Sobriety. This principle is further emphasized in article No. 28, section 4 of its Constitution, as follows:

"Section 4. (a) Any member dealing in intoxicating liquors shall be expelled from the order.

(b) Any member who shall use intoxicating liquors to excess, or who shall be found guilty of drunkenness shall, upon proof thereof, be suspended or expelled."

The operating rules for use for Canadian railways, which have been approved by the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada, contain the following rule:—

"Rule G. The use of intoxicants by employees while on duty is prohibited. Their use or the frequenting of places where they are sold is sufficient cause for dismissal."

These are arbitrary rules, but they have been found necessary by experience. As I have already stated, these views deserve