LABOR AND LIQUOR

By W. D. BAYLEY

Labor Candidate in Manitoba Provincial Elections

Men of the Labor Movement,—It is a promise of a better day for the workers that our vote is being sought more and more as being the decisive factor in elections. It is also well that we are being asked to vote on measures as well as men, and on principles as well as parties. On September 14, you will be asked to record your approval or disapproval of two measures, viz.: Votes for Women and Provincial Prohibition. As Woman Suffrage was adopted by Labor years before old line parties took it up, there is no doubt about our attitude there. But on Prohibition there is not such unanimity of opinion. I therefore ask your best consideration of the following remarks.

Let us first warn you of the "double-cross" stunt. The liquor interests are parading as the friends of Labor as against Capital. When as a matter of fact the liquor trade is the meanest branch of Capitalism we have. Averaging it all around this trade employs one-quarter the number of men, pays one-quarter the amount of wages and uses one-quarter the amount of raw material as the general average of capital invested in such business as clothing, shoes, lumber, etc. It outdistances, often many times over, all the ordinary lines of capitalistic enterprises in the percentage of profit reaped. It, therefore, ill becomes it to pose as a friend of Labor. Let us calmly examine (on the following pages) some of the "double-cross" arguments it urges.

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