

I could read many more, but I do not wish to weary the House. I commend the opinions I have read to the consideration of those workmen who imagine they can benefit themselves, their families, or their country by even a moderate use of alcohol. They are only sowing in their own constitutions the seeds of future illness or incapacity, to say nothing of the effect of this indulgence upon those who come after them. Besides, as stated in one of these letters, the moderate drinker does not remain a moderate drinker; he either drops it altogether or becomes worse.

On the moral issue, I wish to give only three quotations from as many leading men, whose names are outstanding in the history of modern affairs—two in the United States and one in England. First, I quote Cardinal Manning, one of the greatest men England has produced in the last hundred and fifty years, a man who stood on the same plane with Gladstone and a very few others in greatness and in fame. Cardinal Manning said:

The drink traffic is a public, permanent and ubiquitous agency of degradation to the people of these realms. The drink trade of this country (England) has a sleeping partner which gives it effectual protection; every successive Government raises at least a third of its budget by the trade in drink. The drink trade is our shame, scandal and sin, and unless brought under by the will of the people, it will be our downfall. Alas, in America also does the "sleeping partner," for a money consideration, give its protection to the drink trade. Do you know how you will help to break up the unholy alliance between the Government and the greatest fraud of the age? Vote against it.

One of the great churchmen of the United States, Archbishop John Ireland, of St. Paul, Minnesota, says:

Would God place in my hands a wand with which to dispel the evil of intemperance, I would strike the door of every saloon, of every distillery, of every brewery, until the accursed traffic should be wiped from the face of the earth.

The great cause of social crime is drink. The great cause of poverty is drink. When I hear of a family broken up, I ask the cause—drink. If I go to the gallows and ask its victim the cause, the answer—drink. Then I ask myself in perfect wonderment, why do not men put a stop to this thing?

The Catholic church is absolutely and irrevocably opposed to drunkenness and to drunkard making. In vain we profess to work for souls if we do not labour to drive out an evil which is daily begetting by the ten thousand and peopling hell. In vain we boast of civilization and liberty if we do not labour to exterminate intemperance. Education, the elevation of the masses, liberty—all that the age admires—is set at naught by this dreadful evil. The individual conscience is the first aim in opposing it, but the individual conscience has to be strengthened and supplemented by law. The claim of saloon

keepers to freedom in their traffic is the claim to spread disease, sin, pauperism.

Archbishop John J. Keane says:

Unfortunately for the liquor saloon and for the saloon people, it is not in our power, as Americans, to consider their business as one promotive of public morality and religion, but the very contrary: not as a business tending to the greatest good of the greatest number, but but the very contrary; not as a business that should be fostered and favoured by legislation, but the very contrary; not as one that should be granted special privileges on Sunday, but the very contrary; not as a public work of necessity or charity, but as a public curse and scourge and menace.

Though our relations with the United States are very close, though their influence over us in many respects will be transcendent, yet we are more concerned with Great Britain than with our neighbors to the south. The example set by some of the states of the United States in repealing their liquor laws is having its reflex action in Canada, not only in Ontario and Western Canada, but in the country as a whole. As regards Great Britain, we have had the words of Mr. Lloyd George quoted to-day: that England was up against Germany and Austria, but that her greatest enemy was drink. What has been designated as the "trade" in England has enormous power and influence. Notwithstanding the example set by the King, notwithstanding the example set by the churches and public bodies and public men throughout the United Kingdom, notwithstanding the thousands of lives that are sacrificed upon the battlefield, all the victory that the temperance forces could obtain in England was a reduction of liquor selling hours to five and one-half hours a day, under the Defence of the Realms Act. But the change under that reduction has been enormous. As Cardinal Manning very truly said:

The time will come when England will have to take up this question and deal with it thoroughly. Otherwise her existence will be at stake.

If England were to be vanquished in this fight—which God forbid—we have it on the very best authority that the great cause of her downfall would be drink. I have here a statement by George B. Wilson, Secretary of the United Kingdom Alliance, from which I wish to quote:

The licensing statistics for 1914 reveal the fact that for the first time during the last twenty years, with one insignificant exception, the convictions for drunkenness among women have gone up, in a year when the convictions among men have gone down. While the convictions of men have fallen from 153,112 in 1913,

[Mr. Marcell.]