

Here we have in the Eastern Townships of Quebec a Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church who is in a position to give a judgment on the question from the standpoint of both French and English residents of that province. His Lordship, the Bishop of Sherbrooke, sent me a copy of the following letter addressed to Mr. A. W. Fraser, Chairman of the Committee on "A Patriotic Appeal for Federal Prohibition:"

Sherbrooke, 24th January, 1916.

Dear Sir,—Answering your letter of 17th inst., I beg to say I am one with you and the other members of your committee in believing our Federal Parliament ought to adopt a law of "prohibition during the war and a reconstruction period of three years thereafter."

A powerful, irresistible prohibition wave is gradually sweeping the country. What a blessing, therefore, would it not be if our Federal legislators were to cover the whole field by the single stroke of a law such as proposed by your committee. That such a law with provisions made for industrial, medicinal and liturgy's requirements would prove acceptable to the great mass of the Canadian people, is my honest and intimate conviction.

Hoping our legislators may think as you and I do on this most important question, I remain,  
Dear Sir,

Yours in Jesus Christ,

(Signé) x Paul, Bishop of Sherbrooke.

The Bishop of Three Rivers writes the following:

Bishopric of Three Rivers,  
January 26, 1916.

Hon. Charles Marcell, M.P.:

Sir,—I have read the Stevens motion, which you have communicated to me, and which you are to second on the invitation of the temperance societies. I do not hesitate to tell you that I would be very satisfied with a law so prohibiting the manufacture, importation, and sale of intoxicating liquors.

It is understood that the wine necessary for the Holy Sacrifice will be excepted.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your humble and devoted servant,

x F. X., Bishop of Three Rivers.

The Bishop of St. Hyacinthe writes:

Bishopric of St. Hyacinthe,  
January 26, 1916.

Mr. Charles Marcell,  
Member for Bonaventure,  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Sir,—In answer to your letter of the 25th of this month, I wish to tell you that I am favourable to a law prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors in the whole Dominion of Canada. Still, that law should contain the necessary exceptions for the needs of worship, medicine, and industry. The present circumstances seem to demand the adoption of such a law destined to promote the public good. Moreover, in all the provinces of Canada public sentiment is favourable, by a majority, to this wholesome law of prohibition. I have the

[Mr. Marcell.]

honour to be, with great consideration, your humble and devoted servant.

x A. X., Bishop of St. Hyacinthe.

The Bishop of Rimouski writes myself and Mr. Fraser the following letter:—

Bishopric of Rimouski,  
January 24, 1915.

Mr. A. W. Fraser,  
Ottawa.

Sir,—I have read your communication of the 17th inst., as well as the patriotic appeal for a Federal prohibition law for liquor during the time of the war in particular. I desire to inform you that I am favourable to such a project, and that I will give it all the help I can. It seems to me that it is of the highest importance, even under all circumstances, to favour and protect our people against all temptation, the dangers and the incalculable abuses of intoxicating liquors. With such sentiments,

I remain, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

x Andre Albert Blais,  
Bishop of Rimouski.

The Bishop of Joliette writes:

Joliette, Que., January 21st, 1916.

A. W. Fraser, Esq., Chairman,  
Committee of the Patriotic Appeal for  
Federal Prohibition, Ottawa.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of a copy of the Patriotic Appeal of your committee, with your favour of the 17th inst.

I would cheerfully give my approval to the movement, with the proviso mentioned in your letter regarding alcohol for industrial and medicinal purposes, and including also, in those exceptions, what is necessary for ecclesiastical or ministerial functions.

In the diocese of Joliette, we anticipate, after a plebiscite in every parish, a total suppression of the legal commerce of spirituous liquors, as it is now in the diocese of Three Rivers. We would be glad to see this temperance movement reinforced by an Act of the Federal Government.

I beg to remain,

Yours respectfully,

(Sgd) x Guillaume Forbes,  
Bishop of Joliette.

I also wish to give an important testimony as to the disastrous effects of alcohol. This is from the city of Montreal, which by the very nature of things will remain the last stronghold of liquor in Quebec. It is in Montreal that the trade is the most strongly entrenched, and the large firms and the powerful influence in that city will of course combat prohibition as long as it is possible for them to do so. The effects of liquor to-day in the city of Montreal is judged by no person better than the sheriff, who is in charge of the new jail which the province of Quebec has erected at great expense at Bordeaux. Hundreds and hundreds of the poor unfortunates of this unholy traffic are kept interned in that jail. The sheriff of Montreal writes: