

him no equivalent, but he robs him of his money, his health, his reputation, and his honor, and drives him from his door, a reeling drunken sot.

And this is the kind of an industry that those, who at your Capital are striving to introduce amendments to your Scott Act by which drunkards shall be made by ale and beer, are defending. Speaking from among those citizens of my country, whose homes have been assailed by this very method; I beg you, that you may stamp out of existence such treachery.

The business is essentially dishonest and illegitimate, a thing to be despised and hated, and no community that does not aim to crush it is worthy the name of civilization. And I want to say a word for the boys and girls of Iowa, and I think they will apply to your dear children in Canada. Before our Legislature passed this prohibiting law, I took down one code and I looked it over carefully, for a shelter for my two boys. God bless them to-day in far away Iowa. I saw the fish of our streams were protected, and so were the birds that flew in our air, and so too were even the brutes of the animal creation on our prairies; but I looked in vain for a single law that sheltered my two boys from the encroachments of this cursed liquor traffic, and I said to myself and to the law-makers of my State: "Aren't my two boys as precious as the fish that swim in our streams, or the birds that fly in our air?" And when that bill became a law, I looked at those two children as they lie upon their pillows, and I said, "Thank God, they are safe now from the curse of beer and ale as well as of whiskey." And I say to you, my friends, while these people are talking of license, answer them back and say: "If my children are to be ruined, they shall be ruined in violation of a law, but by the help of God, never by a law's protection."

No class of people in the world are affected by this liquor traffic so seriously as the wage workers. In my office as Commissioner of Labor, Statistics of Iowa, I have received from working men hundreds upon hundreds of earnest appeals for prohibition. I could occupy the day in presenting them to you. Let me simply call your attention to a very few, as examples.

FROM CARPENTERS.

"All honest men want a strict enforcement of our laws, and especially the prohibitory law."

"Three months I lost from drink. No man need suffer as I have who will let liquor alone. Not only have I suffered, but my family have, and had it not been for a good wife I don't know what would have become of me. I have quit now, hope never to touch it again. I wish to God the law could take it from the country."

"There seems to be plenty of work here, and if there is any suffering among the workingmen it is generally the result of intemperance."

"I have a good home and a happy one, and would have had it much sooner if we had had a prohibitory law long years ago."

"If workingmen would keep out of the saloons they would have more money, better health and be more respected than they are."

"I am sixty-four years old. Have seven children at home. By hard work and temperate habits—letting intoxicating drinks all alone—I have a nice home and a little farm, and still work at my trade."

"Too many of my trade spend their earnings as fast as they get them in saloons. Keep out of them, is my motto."

"If whiskey was let alone there would be fewer strikes or family sorrows."

"I am sixty years old. Have worked at my trade for forty, and the greatest obstacles to success I have known are whiskey and beer."

A printer says:

"I am not a prohibitionist but know what drink has done for me, and I quit four years ago, and while I don't believe in prohibition because I fear it won't work, yet if it can be made to work it will be the best thing that ever happened to a working man."

MINERS.

"Temperance will help the miner more than anything."

"We are all temperance folks in my household and as a result we are comfortable and happy."

"We need pleasant homes instead of saloons. We can't very well have both. Let us have the homes."

"I save my money instead of drinking it up."

"I believe a rigid enforcement of the liquor law would better the condition of working men."

"Let us make prohibition prohibit."

"My family and I are well and happy. We save our money instead of drinking it up. Do let us have the prohibitory law enforced."

"Let us have reading rooms instead of drinking saloons and we will be better off. Enforce the law."

"I don't drink and I save money."

"A strict enforcement of the prohibitory law would help us."

"For the sake of my now happy home let us do what we can to keep the prohibitory law."

FROM ENGINEERS.

"Let the prohibitory law be enforced and a cut-off thus placed on the working man's passion for drink, and we will be safe."

"I have saved money. I attribute it to temperance. No whiskey or beer for me, therefore, more money. Thank God for Prohibition."

"The prohibitory law is the best Iowa law we've got. Don't let it be repealed, say I. I know what drink has done for me, and I know what temperance is doing for me now."

BLACKSMITHS.

"I am comfortably fixed; so is my family. Total abstinence from drink, which makes men poor and miserable, has done it."

"I believe in a strict enforcement of our prohibitory law. This I do as a workingman who knows what he says."

"If the towns will keep whiskey and beer away from the workingmen, they won't have to furnish so much coal and wood."

"I was not a prohibitionist, but I am now, for it will lead men to save their money, and keep their wives from washing to feed them."

"As the thrifty German puts it, 'If I make fifty cents I spend him not all.' The amount of money spent in the State for beer, whiskey, and tobacco in ten years would provide every homeless family with a comfortable habitation all their lives."

"Let beer and whiskey alone."

"Abolish all liquors so men can't drink, and that will be a rich blessing to Iowa's working men."

"Do what you can to have the prohibitory law enforced. This is from one who needs it to be saved."

"Total abstinence is what we need as working men. As moral suasion won't accomplish it let's carry the Prohibitory law to its utmost limit."

FROM LABORERS.

"Enforce Prohibition and you will do more for the laborer in Iowa than to advance his wages 25 per cent. This is the sentiment of a moderate drinker."

"Thank God for Prohibition. In this town we had two saloons which used to capture two-thirds of my earnings. Now they go to my wife and my children and we are all happy."

"Prohibit absolutely the sale of all intoxicating drinks and Iowa will advance and her people be happy."

"I think the condition of all would be better if whiskey was left out."

"I want to see the Prohibitory Law enforced. It will help me, personally, more than money."

"Wages do well enough. Drive the beer and whiskey out of the State and the workingman will have plenty of change to spare."

"I think the workingman would be benefited better than any way by banishing every saloon and drinking shop from Iowa."

"Get away with the rumrunner and the workingman is all right."

Those are no idle sentiments. They come voluntarily from the hearts of the workingmen of my State. What we did in Iowa you ought to do in Toronto.

When your election comes, this Scott Act should be endorsed by your people overwhelmingly, and later, prohibition ought to ring out over your city and country from border to border.

How have we brought this about in Iowa? In the same way you must do it in Canada. You want a mighty moral public sentiment that shall sweep over your borders like a mighty tornado, terrible in its destructiveness. You want real heroism, real bravery. The same spirit that the old Spartan mothers had when kissing the son good-bye, as he went to his country's defence, said, "God bless you, my son; if the sword be not long enough take one step further to the front." You want the same spirit that the brave Hollanders had of old. When they looked out and saw the mighty sea, did they say, "One wave of that sea would sweep us away like so many shells, and destroy our homes and our harvests and our people." No, no they didn't say that, but they said, "You shall *not* destroy our homes and our harvests and our people" and they built great dykes which have ever since been the admiration of the world, and they walled out the old ocean forever, and the only answer it gets as it thunders upon the outer walls of those dykes is a perpetual Amen to the gallant heroism of those brave Hollanders. I tell you, my friends, God loves courageous souls, and no reform worth having was ever gained except in the teeth of clenched antagonism. Let us build a wall as of fire—a wall of human hearts—between the endangering saloon upon one side, and the endangered home upon the other and say to the saloon element, "Thus far thou hast gone, but, by the help of God, thou shalt go no further." This is the spirit we want. Our Mrs. Foster has painted with words the work that is going and I can only give to you the idea. She says we are building a great pyramid dedicated to the living God, and then she delineates the builders. Then the Temperance Alliance, here the Good Templars, over there the Sons of Temperance and here the W. C. T. U. From back of these there comes a great army of children—God bless the myriad of pure white souls—and they are helping to build, and as they work they are filling the air with sweet music—the harmony is like that of angels—as they sing:

"I'm glad I'm in this army,
I'm glad I'm in this army."