

and work towards it. I say this because I find that other legislation in the country by which an effort has been made to accomplish the result aimed at has been ineffective. The provinces and the municipalities have certain control over the trade in cigarettes. I do not know all the details of the various provincial laws but I know that they are very drastic in certain respects. I presume that the provincial legislatures have gone as far as they thought the public opinion of the various provinces would permit them to go in the direction of checking the smoking of cigarettes. They have not gone as far as this resolution proposes and yet my observation and my information leads me to believe that the laws which have been passed are more honoured in the breach than in the observance, and that, as a matter of fact, to-day they are to a large extent a dead letter. This being the case it requires the most serious consideration as to whether we can go so far as this resolution requires us to go, with any hope of the successful enforcement of such an enactment. There is another side to that argument and that is why I think that we ought not to in any way weaken the position which this parliament adopted as an academic principle a few years ago. It may be that the reason that these provincial and local laws are ineffective is that the provinces have not sufficient power to control the evil and that it is necessary, in order to control the evil, that the law should be passed by the supreme authority of the land, and should be equally effective and equally enforced and equally drastic all over the country. For this reason I would be tempted to support a resolution and a law on the lines herein indicated.

I feel however that perhaps there has not been that fair effort on the part of the inferior powers in this country to accomplish the end which we might reasonably demand and expect. One speaker this afternoon referred to the influence of the home, the school and the church in this country. These are most potent influences in this land and yet, as far as I can see, looking abroad in the land, the influence of the home the school and the church is lessening in Canada to-day in regard to the bringing up of our youth.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BLAIN. No, no.

Mr. FISHER. Yes, my observation leads me to believe that to-day there is far less control over the immature Canadian than there used to be fifteen or twenty years ago.

Mr. BLAIN. Is it the fault of the present government?

Mr. FISHER. No, it is apart altogether from government or legislation, it is that the influence of the older people over the younger, the influence of the teaching which

would induce a reverence and a recognition of authority on the part of the growing youth is weakening and I believe that this spirit is growing amongst the young people of this land in a way that is dangerous to the young people and to the community. When the home and the church and the school to-day come to the parliament of Canada to ask the parliament here to do by-law what in an older generation they did without a legislative enactment, I have the best proof of the proposition I have just laid down. I think this is most regrettable, most regrettable in every way. Some one said that there was no more deplorable or horrible thing than to see an immature boy smoking a cigarette. I would be disposed to agree in that proposition if I had not seen an even more deplorable thing, an immature girl smoking a cigarette. That, unfortunately is becoming too common in Canada, although not so common as I believe it is in some other countries. But I believe that when the evil has assumed such proportions that it attacks not only the boys but also the girls, it is certainly necessary for us to do anything we can to check it.

Now, Sir, I have my own views about the use of tobacco in any shape or form. I know that those views are not popular and not sympathized with by the great majority of the people. I do not use tobacco in any shape or way and it is very offensive to me, when, as the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Kennedy) has said, I go down the street and have dirty tobacco smoke puffed in my face by passers by. I have sufficient faith in the decency and kindness of human nature to believe that the doing of this is largely due to thoughtlessness, and that those who do it do not appreciate in any way how offensive it is to non-users to have tobacco smoke and the flavour and smell of tobacco forced on them, not only in public but in private places, as it is only too commonly in our country. Still that is a proposition on which I do not wish to dwell at present. I sympathize with what has been said in regard to youth. I believe personally,—I cannot say that I have experience, because I have never used tobacco—and I am led to believe by observations and by conversation and discussion of the question with leading medical men who have the best opportunity of judging the effects of these things upon the physique of a large circle of patients, that the use of tobacco in any quantity or form is rather hurtful to the user. I believe that the degree of the hurt is measured by the amount of the use. But the grown-up individual may be supposed to take care of himself. He ought to have enough knowledge and enough judgment as I said to induce him to take care of himself and not to hurt himself by an immoderate or general use of the weed. But youth we cannot expect to have that carefulness, that feeling of self-