

three districts the closing of the shops was carried, which shows the tendency of the people of Saskatchewan to carry the prohibition measure to its logical conclusion.

Alberta, so far as provincial jurisdiction will permit, has gone dry.

The Government of British Columbia, on the occasion of the recent opening of the Provincial Legislature, introduced legislation for prohibition in that province.

Thus, we find that every province of Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific has taken some steps towards the introduction of prohibition.

Some persons, in dealing with the question of prohibition, refer to it as a fad. It is not a fad; it is not the whim of certain fanatics; it is a well-recognized principle in law and practice. I do not wish to debate that point at any length as it would take up a great deal of time; I have only to remind hon. members that two years ago this House passed a law prohibiting the use of white phosphorus in the manufacture of matches, the reason given in the preamble of the Act being that white phosphorus was inimical to the health and interest of the community at large. I ask the House to consider this question of prohibition from the standpoint that it is injurious to the community at large, because a principle which applies to one phase of life should also apply to another. This resolution calls for:

The conservation of the wealth and the resources of the Dominion and the promotion of the efficiency of our nation.

Prohibition is only one of the ways in which these can be aided, but in my estimation, it is a vastly important way. It will be my purpose to point out the opinions of some of the best posted men in the Allied nations on this subject, but first let me draw the attention of hon.

members to the fact that the

4 p.m. British Parliament not very long ago appointed the British Savings Committee, which has under its control the business of advising the nation in regard to saving. One of its recent utterances on this subject is a call to the nation to practise economy in connection with certain extravagances, and automobiles are particularly mentioned. I am calling the attention of the House to the utterances of this committee, not because they have so far made any direct utterance on the question of prohibition, because I

[Mr. Stevens.]

do, not think that has yet come to their attention, but simply to show the necessity of the nation at large economizing along every possible line.

The wealth of a nation consists of the potential value of the things which it possesses, such as its natural resources and the skill and virility of its people, and anything which interferes with the efficiency of the workers, whether they work with brain or with brawn, interferes with or lessens the wealth of the nation as a whole. Energy misdirected becomes a liability instead of an asset, and it is this phase of the question to which I invite the attention of the House.

Certain representations have been made as to the attitude of labour in reference to this problem, and I have observed that certain sections of those authorized to speak for labour have expressed views which might lead us to believe that they were not in favour of prohibition. I should like the House to bear with me while I read what I consider to be some very important letters on that point. On May 24th last a convention was held in Cleveland, Ohio, of Canadian and American railway engineers. At that convention, which represented 90,000 to 100,000 railway engineers, the following resolution was adopted:

Be it resolved that this Board of Locomotive Engineers go on record as favouring state-wide and nation-wide prohibition of intoxicating liquors as a beverage.

The word "Canada" was included in that resolution. The following is a letter written to Mr. Lawrence, who is legislative representative of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, by Mr. Berry, of Toronto, vice-president of the Order of Railway Conductors:

Your favour of the 20th instant has been forwarded to me here, and I am indeed sorry that it reached me too late to meet your request in permitting you to say at Patriotic Appeal for Federal Prohibition meeting on the 27th instant, at which you were to represent a deputation as spokesman, that the Order of Railway Conductors as an organization are in favour of the movement.

While it is too late to advise you for use at the meeting above referred to, I assure you, Brother Lawrence, that the undersigned is in favour of any movement that will do away with the manufacture and use of alcoholic liquors, and I am quite sure that the order will acquiesce in my position in this connection.

I quote the last paragraph of a letter written to Mr. Lawrence by Mr. A. E. Barker, the grand president of Maintenance of Way