

It is true that the goods of the distillers were sold in bars, but it should be remembered that the bar was then a legitimate channel through which distilled liquors could be purchased, and that the distillers were neither responsible for them, nor did they establish them, or support them as a part of the machinery of their business. They made no demur when bars were abolished, and have made absolutely no effort to have them restored; indeed, they go further, and the distillers of Canada put themselves on record as being absolutely opposed to any legislation which has for its object, directly or indirectly, the restoration of the public drinking bar.

The sentiment against the bar was crystallised by the Great War. In response to the call for sacrifice and economy, the Provinces of Canada, one after the other, enacted legislation which, as well as placing restriction on the consumption and sale of alcoholic beverages, that prior to the war would probably not have been passed, abolished the bar. In some Provinces a popular vote was taken, while in others the necessary Acts of Parliament were passed on the initiative of the respective Provincial legislative bodies.

These Provincial Acts are all similar in their leading features and are based on the "Macdonald Act," drafted by Sir J. A. M. Aikins, now Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba.

These Acts are so far from being completely prohibitory in their nature that they even expressly state the conditions under which liquor may be kept and consumed, and provide machinery for the importation of liquor for consumption in private dwelling houses. Manifestly nothing further was intended than restriction and the abolition of the bar.