

up in a napkin. It would doubtless find its way through many channels into the public exchequer, without inflicting upon society any of those evils incident to the liquor traffic. Dutiable goods of other kinds would be more largely consumed, and what now is expended to gratify the base passions would doubtless contribute to the happiness and comfort of many of the suffering and the destitute. This was the case with Ireland some years ago. In the years 1809-10 and 1813-14 there was great scarcity in Ireland, and the distilleries were closed by order of the Government. Yet it was found that in these four years in which the consumption of liquors fell from 7½ million gallons to 4½ million, that the receipts from dutiable goods of other kinds was considerably greater than during the years 1811-12 and 1815-16, in which there was no scarcity of food but a great abundance of drink through the distilleries being opened. The following figures are from the Tables of Trade and Navigation: In the importation of

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|---|----------------|
| Haberdashery, there was an increase of..... | £ 30,000 |
| Drapery..... | 1,356,170 yds. |
| Iron and Hardware..... | £129,650 |
| Cotton Goods..... | £ 93,000 |
| Blankets..... | 33,401 num. |
| Black tea..... | 341,511 lbs. |
| Sugar..... | 4,324 cwt. |

These results attained under the reduction of less than one half the ordinary expenditure of the people upon intoxicating liquors, give a tolerably good idea of what would be attained under a thorough system of prohibition.

But, even should the revenue suffer, what then? Should this House take no cognizance of these petitions, because the granting of their prayer would affect the revenue? Are we to say, no matter what the sacrifice of life may be, no matter what the misery and crime produced, no matter what the industrial loss, revenue we must have and will have? Surely *not*. For my own part I have decided my course. On a question like this when the choice is between the paltry revenue of a few millions—paltry, because life is invaluable as compared with money—and the sacrifice of many of the noblest and best of our young men, I decide in favour of humanity. I stand on the side of the young men. When the choice lies between national morality and happiness, and the Minister's financial balance sheet, I stand on the side of morality. When the choice is between the best interests of the many and the selfish interests of the few, I stand with the majority. And I do hope that the House animated by those considerations of patriotism which should always guide its deliberations, will rise to the realization of the full magnitude of this important question, and in its wisdom devise such legislation as will protect society from the destructive influences of intemperance. All we ask now is, that a commission should be appointed to make enquiry regarding the success of the means adopted by other countries for the removal of this evil. With this information in our possession, we will then be in a position to take further action. I now move the adoption of the second report of the Select Committee on Prohibition.

(The honourable gentleman on resuming his seat was greeted with applause from both sides of the House.)