

that cannot be characterized in modern language. This is particularly strange because this book is printed in England, is circulated in England and, so far as I am aware, is not prohibited in England. It is not prohibited in Australia. It is only in Canada that it is prohibited. I have here an advertisement which appeared in the British Weekly, a high-class publication of England:

The Fiddlers, a new book by Arthur Mee, author of Defeat. Drink in the Witness Box. Startling indictment of the British Government and the liquor trade. Playing with the greatest enemy force outside of Berlin. The facts about the food crisis. How drink has broken down the nation's food reserves. The ruin of our soldiers' homes. The war upon the soldiers' children. The effect of drink on the war by land and sea. How the drink trade is imperilling the Empire—with the truth about what a great Canadian paper calls The Blackest Tragedy of the War. A remarkable map of the allied countries and prohibition, showing how the allies are stopping drink to win the war. With cartoons, tables, new facts, and hundreds of witnesses to the way in which drink is prolonging the war. Published by Morgan & Scott. For sale everywhere the English language is spoken except in Canada.

Mr. C. A. WILSON: Is that in the advertisement?

Mr. OLIVER: Yes, that is part of the advertisement. As to the general question of the propriety of circulating arguments of this character dealing with the conduct of affairs by the Government, I have here the consideration given by the Presbytery of Manitoba to a similar book similarly prohibited, by the same author, and dealing with the same subject. The advertisement for that book as it appeared in Australia is as follows:

The book of the hour, Defeat; the truth about drink and the betrayal of Britain, by Arthur Mee and J. Stuart Holden, with an introduction by Dr. Saleeby. The book that stirs and burns. Two-color frontispiece. Price sixpence, all booksellers. For quantities apply to N.S.W. Alliance, Macdonell House, Pitt Street, Sydney. Write Box 390, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W.

In regard to that book the Manitoba Presbytery has the following:

And, whereas the presbytery is of the opinion that, even in the strain of war, the suppression of facts and conditions concerning a grave moral issue, however serious those facts and conditions may be, is more dangerous to the common weal than their frank disclosure and more likely to prejudice recruiting, etc., by the want of confidence thus created;

And, whereas the presbytery believe such action on the part of the Army Council and of the Canadian censor to be an undue and wholly unnecessary interference with the liberty of the subject and in direct conflict with the very

[Mr. Oliver.]

principles of liberty for which Canada is fighting.

Therefore, be it resolved, that this presbytery protests most strenuously against such prohibition, and demands that the embargo upon this book be at once removed.

I may perhaps be permitted to read from what purports to be a petition presented to the Prime Minister of Canada, signed by 64,000 mothers and wives of Toronto, as follows:

1. That mothers and wives of Canada, in giving their sons and husbands for King and Empire, asked and received from your Minister of Militia this only assurance that, in sending them into the ranks, we were not thereby irrevocably thrusting them into the temptation of strong drink.

2. We appreciated, in the depths of our hearts, your action in abolishing the wet canteen from the Canadian militia. We believe the wet canteen established in the ranks at the front to be a double danger, robbing our King of the success in arms which in these days comes only to the brave heart that is controlled by a clear head; and robbing us and our Canada of the manhood which we gave into our Empire's keeping.

We do not believe that the King will refuse the aid of Canada's sons; nor that he will appreciate your patriotic efforts the less, if you keep faith with us and make known to His Majesty, his ministers and commanders, that our boys are sent forth on the one condition that the dispensing of intoxicating liquor shall be prohibited in the ranks.

Dealing with this same subject, Mr. Arthur Mee, in the London Daily News of July 11 says:

#### The Incredible Facts.

1. We have seen a ship that might have carried 550 tons of wheat bring instead 550 tons of rum to be drunk in 1920. The Government told us this was stopped, but the Government's statement was not true.

2. There is wheat enough in the Empire waiting for us to fetch it, to last us a year, but we have no ships to bring it; yet we have had ships, since the submarine menace reached its height, for carrying brewers' vats over thousands of miles, and ships enough to bring hundreds of thousands of cubic feet of hops to a land clamouring for bread.

3. We ask in vain for sugar; our growing children and our wounded soldiers cannot get it, our home-grown fruits must waste for want of it; 40,000 tons of it were sunk not long ago. But every day our brewers waste over a hundred tons of sugar, and they are to waste hundreds of tons a week more.

4. We are fining people £5 for destroying a loaf, but this trade is destroying 450,000 quarter loaves a day, and is now apparently to destroy 100,000 more.

5. We have enormous stocks of alcohol that could be used for munitions, and the Government appoints a committee to consider if it should be used, and so save bread. The committee has eleven members, of whom seven are distillers, and not one is a chemist, or a scientist, or an industrial expert; and this distillers' committee reports that it is not in our interest to save grain by using this hoarded alcohol!