

this phase of the question, as it would be needless to provide the machinery for such purposes until the bill had passed. Some of England's greatest statesmen, Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Chamberlain, expressed their approval of the principle of compensation. My own view, as expressed on several occasions, and many years ago, is, if we could be entirely relieved for all time of the evil effects of the liquor traffic, the purchase of the vested interests of those concerned would not be too big a price to pay.

MR. WHITNEY: Is there anything about it in the bill?

MR. ROSS: No, for the reason given. I merely mention it here as one of the matters to which our attention was called by some of the deputations that waited upon us, and which, it was alleged, we should consider in the event of the bill becoming law. If considered at all, it must be by some future Legislature. I am making a general statement now as to the views that were presented, without assuming any obligations as to the future. I do not know as to some departments of the trade that compensation would involve very large expenditure. In regard to others it would involve considerable expenditure. That is a question we cannot ascertain or even guess at intelligently. The money invested in the trade is put at some seventy odd millions of dollars. How much of that ought to be recouped to those in the trade no one can tell at this distant point; the whole question is one that would have to be relegated to a commission, as a case is sometimes referred to the Master in Chambers, and threshed out.

#### *Pledges Redeemed.*

I have given pretty fully the circumstances which led to the adoption of this bill, and an explanation of the main features of the bill so far as putting it into operation is concerned. On the second reading we will deal more fully with the clauses of the bill dealing with the liquor traffic itself. I hope it will be felt that this bill is in the public interest. I hope the bill will be received by the people as a fulfilment of any promise we have made. On that I am as anxious as on the other point that the bill will be received as an effort on the part of the Government to promote legislation for which there have been many appeals in this House. The next hope is, should the bill become law and receive the necessary endorsement of the people, that it will be made an effective instrument for elevating the morals of the country and preventing evils which we know are serious in every walk of life. It is a new departure in many ways; it is