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CONFEDERATION LIFE ASSOCIATION

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W. G. HOGG, Manager.
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CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.

FILL OUT AND MAIL
Name _____
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Please send me Booklet re No. _____

against me in the teachings of our Lord and Saviour?
Our Lord's House is a House of Prayer, but man has made it a den of thieves. It was sheep and oxen and doves that were sold there, and not wine and rum. I could explain about this sale, but my hand is not the hand of one that swift doth write, so I trust that some time I may meet face to face with those that would have this prohibition law in force.

I am Sir, etc.,
PETER G. HUME.

PLEBESCITE WANTED

Sir:—In thrashing out the all important Liquor Question, one of the most important reasons given for Government Control instead of prohibition is: it will do away with the bootleggers. That reason has been given over and over again as a positive and conclusive fact. But not so fast. We will take official reports from other provinces under Government Control for we need only expect in our own province the same results as in other provinces of Canada under the same restrictions. We will take British Columbia. There they tried Prohibition for three years the administration of which was in sympathy with it, consequently it was never enforced, as the voters were led to believe it would be. B. C. never had a chance to see what Prohibition might have done, neither has P. E. I. Next came Government Control for B. C. But the Government does not control the Liquor Business in B. C. nor in any other province where we have Government Control. Its the Liquor controls the Government. Now for the Bootleggers. Under Government Control, good bye Bootlegger. But we find we still have him, only more numerous. Today the government of B. C. and its newspaper organs admit that the Government sells only fifty per cent of the liquors sold annually in that province. The other fifty percent is sold by the same old bootleggers who sold it under prohibition, by the brewers and liquor dealers and they are beyond the control of the government, because of their political power. The Vancouver World, organ of the Government—declared in an editorial, that British Columbia, under Government Control of Liquors was the Bootleggers' Paradise; and A. N. Mason, Attorney-general of the province and official administrator of Government Liquor Control Act, said in a speech, that the greatest bootleggers of all were the brewers and liquor dealers. In his speech the same gentleman also remarked: "I find some of our most respected citizens patronizing bootleggers and yet these same citizens sit in the front pews of our Churches." Official reports disclose that the government in B. C. sell annually twelve million dollars worth of booze, and newspapers (friendly to both government and Liquor interests), assert that bootleggers sell twelve million dollars worth more through bootlegging clubs and "blind pigs". Twenty four million dollars spent in liquor every year in a province with a population of only 524,582. The greater part of the bootlegging done in British Columbia is done through clubs. Under Canadian law a group of persons may organize a club, with headquarters, to gather for social purposes. So the bootlegger organizes a few drinking men into a club, gets a charter, rents a room, and is ready for business. Under the government Control Act, any person may go to a government liquor store and pay two dollars for a permit, which entitles him to buy liquor in any quantity, but he cannot drink it there, he instead takes it to his club and dispenses it there. So we have B. C. full of those bootlegging clubs. The City of Vancouver takes the position that as long as these clubs are going to run anyway, there might as well be a revenue from them. So the bootlegger pays the city three hundred a year, and goes on bootlegging, with the only difference that under Prohibition he has the protection of the police at all times: in Quebec, under the Liquor Traffic System, the same saloon is changed to tavern. There are 563 taverns, 489 hotels, 100 clubs, and 59 restaurants where clients sit and are served beer, wine, etc., to drink on the premises. But has it stopped bootlegging or "blind pigs"? Not a thousand times no. In the year ending May 1925, there had been 4,506 complaints against bootleggers, an increase of 1,000 over the previous year. There are 936 illicit resorts for drunken purposes in Montreal alone. Government Control does not do away with poisoned liquor, as many think it will. Major R. J. Burke member of provincial parliament in B. C. in an address before that legislature made this remark: "The Brewers of B. C. are poisoning the people. If had their beer analyzed,—the same beer sold by the government in its stores,—and found it contained ether, arsen-

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ic and resin."

Another reason given for Government Control. Decrease in drinking. This is the way drinking decreased in Quebec. One million more gallons of beer sold in 1926 than in 1925; sales of hard spirits 32,245 gallons more, and wines increased by 89,000 gallons.

Manitoba.—The liquor situation is worse than under prohibition. (Mayor R. H. Webb, Winnipeg).

In B. C. the "Vancouver Sun" reports condition much worse than under prohibition. Bootlegging 5000 cases a month, with a total of 7000 bootleggers in Vancouver, and the bootlegger licensed. One of the greatest curses of the licensed liquor business is the advertisements. If Prohibition did nothing more on P. E. I. than to keep booze and beer advertisements off of bill boards and out of newspaper and periodicals; it is worth keeping just for that. "Government Control" in other provinces push their stores into every community where they can make a profit, regardless whether that community wants a store or not, no matter how much the people may protest. I notice some of our people in favour of government control hark at having a licensed saloon in their own community. They would much rather have it in some other settlement. It is an axiom that drinking, like any other vice, increases in proportion to the increase of opportunity to drink; and as the opportunity to drink decreases so drinking will decrease in like proportion. In order to have an unbiased opinion on Government Control, the only way is to take a vote on that question alone. If it is run in with other planks in a party's platform, how can the people vote on the liquor question, mixed up with politics, or could we not have an extra ballot issued on election day, just on the liquor question alone. That would give the people a chance to say whether they want prohibition or Government Control, and should they vote for continuation of prohibition, let the party returned to power make conscientious efforts to have it enforced. Have a heavy penalty for bootlegging, hanging—if they can't be stopped with anything else; and give up this half dead and alive way we have had for years of enforcing the law. Bootleggers operating in every other house under a system of periodic arrests and fines. As for Liquor Control under any government, with the bootleggers, brewers, saloon keepers and distillers back of it, all hell bent for making money, you might as well try to control a power magazine in Hell.

I am Sir, etc.,
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The Public Forum

(Continued from page 5)

to prohibit anything that God has made, and what He has given to earthly man for its proper use? Wine of the earth for earthly man, and wine of Heaven for the true and living vine for the soul of man. Let us compare natural with natural. If a man makes a gun and shoots down another man, would the man that made or sold the gun, be committing a sin in doing so? Some men hang themselves with a rope. Is it right to prohibit the making or the selling of it because some men use it for their own destruction and also for the destruction of others at times? Now all things that are in the world are good, including wine, whiskey, brandy and rum. The Devil was never found in any of those. The only place he was ever found was in man. We have an account of many of them coming out of one man and entering into swine, but the swine didn't last long after the devils got into them. We are taught that the love of money is the root of all evils. After the devil entered into Judas he sold our Lord and Saviour for thirty pieces of silver, although he had received part of the ministry. Now, according to the teachings of our Lord and Saviour. There are many out in his name and he has told us of the power they would have to deceive, and I say that many of them are at the head of this prohibition question. I don't think they would offer our Lord and Saviour as cheap as Judas sold Him. With some the price is set higher anyhow. Remember teachers, the gift of God is not purchased with money. I know that if I should go to Charlottetown now and offer the people of Charlottetown what knowledge I have got of our Lord and Saviour which is a free gift to me and it is my birthright, I should accept earthly dollars for it, would be selling my birthright, or if I should go and here for a certain sum of money I would be a sinner.

The gift of God is eternal life, and it's free to all. God has not given it to man to make earthly dollars out of it. He gave it for the Salvation of men's souls, and He says to each that receives from Him: "Freely ye have received, freely give". If I should sell my fellow man earthly wine for earthly dollars, what condemnation is

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