

Prohibition in Canada

An Open Letter to the People of Canada

THIS STATEMENT is being published in the Daily Papers in every Province of Canada in order to call attention to the following facts:

First fact: Every Province in Canada now has a Temperance Law in force with the exception of Quebec. On May first, 1919, the Quebec Temperance Law will come into force.

Second fact: The Dominion Government passed Legislation under the powers granted in "The War Measures Act," which prohibited for the period of the war and twelve months thereafter, Importation, Manufacture and Interprovincial Shipment of liquor for drinking purposes. This Legislation is necessary to make effective that of the Provinces.

Third fact: The people of Canada want this Legislation continued in effect until

the Citizens of Canada, including all the soldiers, shall have had an opportunity to vote on the question of making it permanent.

Fourth fact: There is an insidious and far-reaching propaganda now being carried on which aims to discredit the Prohibitory Laws and restore liquor-drinking for the personal profit of the Liquor-Seller.

Fifth fact: The requisite number of State Legislatures in the United States having adopted the Prohibition Amendment, Canada must act in harmony with it or become the dumping ground for liquor and its unfortunate victims.

Who Want Prohibition?

Ask—

1. The Business men and Industrial leaders whom you know.
2. The working men and working women whom you know.
3. The Mothers, Wives and Children whom you know.
4. The Soldier Citizens of Canada whom you know.
5. The farmers whom you know.

We know that

1. Every Church and Religious Denomination in Canada has pronounced in favor of Prohibition through its Executive Boards and Church Leaders.
2. Practically all School-teachers, Doctors, Public Health Officers, City Relief Officers and Social Workers in Canada are in favor of Prohibition.
3. The Provincial Governments, the Courts and the Police have learned that Prohibition reduces crime and disorder and promotes Peace and Prosperity.

Some Significant Contrasts

The Liquor People are looking for immense profits.
WE HAVE NO SELFISH INTEREST TO SERVE.

The liquor Interests hide behind indefinite names and work by underground methods.
WE SIGN OUR OWN STATEMENTS AND WORK IN THE OPEN.

They hope to win by a Lobby.
WE WANT THE PEOPLE TO DECIDE.

They are reactionaries.
WE ARE IN THE PATHS OF HUMAN PROGRESS.

They are circulating throughout the country a prescription for influenza, that is purported to come from the world celebrated Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota.

Here is what Dr. C. H. Mayo says:

"The prescription which is alleged to have been written by us is a fake. Alcohol or whiskey have no place in the treatment of influenza."

Temperance Platform

The Dominion Prohibition Committee are asking:

1. That the Prime Minister and Government of Canada be requested to take the steps necessary to continue in effect the provisions of the Order-in-Council of March 11th, 1918, (P.C. 589) by having the same embodied in Legislation to be enacted by the Parliament of Canada.
2. That the legislation so enacted be continued in effect until such time as a vote of the electors of the Dominion of Canada shall have been taken on the question of its continuance or discontinuance.
3. That the vote on this question be taken at a date to be fixed by the Government of Canada at least six months prior to the day of voting and with due respect to the restoration to civil life in Canada of the Canadian soldiers now overseas.

Platform of the Liquor People

The Distillers say:

We do not want the Bar back but we want the Interprovincial Traffic restored.

The Brewers say:

We want the percentage of alcohol in Beer increased from 2½% to 5% or 6% or even 10%.

The old time Hotel Keeper says:

We cannot run a Hotel without a Bar and if we cannot sell whiskey, we must at least have a "Beer and Wine" license.

Methods of the Liquor People:

1. They have already sent men and literature overseas in the vain hope of prejudicing many of the Canadian Soldiers.
2. They are behind a propaganda in the ranks of Labor that seeks to show that Prohibition is generally opposed by working people. This is a slander on Labor.
3. There are appearing letters signed "Wounded Soldier" or "Returned Soldier" or "Church Worker" or "Lover of Liberty" or "Soldier's Wife" or "Officer's Widow" or other camouflage names. In some cases such letters are made up and soldiers or others are asked to sign—sometimes for a consideration.
4. False stories of suffering for lack of liquor for the sick are circulated although the Law provides fully for Doctors' prescriptions.

5. Efforts are being made to discredit Administrators of the Liquor Laws and even Members of Governments who are known to be in favor of Prohibition.

6. The Liquor cause is being upheld by insidious advertisements, news despatches, articles and moving picture films.

7. Drafts of bills acceptable to the Liquor Interests are being urged on the Governments.

8. The Liquor Interests are working behind the scenes in the political parties, and by underground methods, to discredit and oust from office any public man who is an outspoken prohibitionist. Watch for the evidence of this and prevent the success of their schemes.

What You Can Do to Help the Cause

The Dominion Parliament must consider the question of Temperance Legislation in some form at the next session. We are asking Parliament to embody in an Act, the Provisions of Orders-in-Council now in force with suitable provision for its submission to the people.

As a Citizen of Canada write to your Member of Parliament urging his active co-operation with the Government in carrying out this policy. Put your ideas in your own way and send your letter to your Member's home address as soon as you read this Statement.

Members of Parliament and National Policies are influenced by Public Opinion. Your action will be one of the ways of indicating what the people think.

We desire to warn our friends against any weakening of resolution at this critical moment. The liquor interests are at work in every Province trying to give the impression that there is a general dissatisfaction with existing laws and are using what is done in one Province to foment unrest in the others. Don't let the enemies of Prohibition do all the agitating.

If any information comes to your notice that the Central Committee should have, write at once to D. B. Harkness, General Secretary, 905 Kent Bldg., Toronto.

The Dominion Prohibition Committee

Eugene Lafontaine, Montreal
President

Geo. A. Warburton, Toronto
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