

tors in the name of the citizens of New Zealand, and paid some graceful compliments to Canada and to the Canadian "boys."

Pressing civic business then compelled him to withdraw, and his place was taken by Rev. R. S. Gray, who said he wished, on behalf of the Executive of the Alliance, to explain briefly the reasons for accepting the National Efficiency Board's proposals re the Liquor Traffic. The Government, he said, had been greatly praised for their wisdom in selecting these business men of such standing, though, after their report came out, these very men were branded as "wowsers." The Efficiency Board appealed to men that the Prohibition party had never been able to touch, and their appeal came at the psychological moment, when every Government in the world was dealing with the Liquor Traffic. Russia, for instance, had been able to mobilise her armies far more quickly than the Central Powers had expected, because every man was sober. A strong case could be made out against the "Trade." When the Home leaders were in great anxiety over the submarine menace and appealed to the people to ration themselves, so as to conserve the rapidly diminishing food supplies, the Liquor Trade was destroying, every week day, the equivalent of seven million rations, while all that the submarines were destroying was seven millions in a week. The navy and the mine-sweepers were guarding a great drink fleet that was bringing into England not soldiers, but food to be destroyed by the brewers, whose profits were increased by 800 to 900 per cent. The Italian debacle had been caused by hunger, and when Britain was asked to help with food, the answer was that she could do nothing, though there was still plenty of food-stuffs available for the brewers to destroy. In our own Dominion, in Dunedin, beer had right of way on the railways, though ploughs had to be refused. The Trade had such power at Home that it seemed impossible for the Government to tackle the Drink Question successfully, but we should put a stop to it here before it attained to such huge dimensions. Why, he asked, did we adopt the Efficiency Board's proposal, involving compensation, against which the Prohibition party had always taken so firm a stand, denying the right of the Trade to compensation on any ground what-

ever? These business men showed that because of the four years' delay in making National Prohibition operative, even after being carried, there would be a loss to the country of £40,000,000, not to speak of the moral wreckage and wastage; and the Temperance leaders dared not take the responsibility of refusing a proposal that made it possible, by the expenditure of four and a-half millions, to sweep away the whole Traffic immediately and for ever; for it was understood that the Efficiency Board had in their minds decision for a bare majority, to be immediately operative. Because they were patriots, the Prohibitionists dared not put even that principle for which they had stood up so long against the good of the country. Therefore, after long consideration, they commended the proposal of the Efficiency Board as being in the best interests of the nation, and were prepared to tell the Liquor party to take their blood money and clear out.

Mr George Bell, M.P. for Victoria, in British Columbia Legislature, and for six years President of the Y.M.C.A., then addressed the meeting. After saying a hearty "Thank you" for the kindness already shown to him and his colleagues, and referring to the splendid landscape, climate, and people of the Dominion, he went on to tell the story of Prohibition in Canada. He described how for long they had had Local Option, and district after district went dry, but no district had jurisdiction over its neighbour. So after the outbreak of the war five Orders-in-Council were passed, stopping the use of grain for distilling or malting, and making it illegal, after April 1st of this year, for intoxicating drinks to be imported, manufactured, sold, or carried from one province to another. Only in the province of Quebec was this regulation not yet in force, but after May 1st, 1919, the whole Dominion of Canada would be "dry." Similarly it was only a matter of a few months before the United States would have declared for National Prohibition; 12 out of the 49 States had already voted unanimously for it, and when three-quarters had decided for Prohibition, it came into force automatically throughout this vast country.

Passing on to the reasons for this decision against the Traffic, he said that though he did not personally believe in leaving out the moral and social and spiritual aspects of the

question, yet he was going to confine himself to the financial. The Dominion had been getting annually 19 million dollars as revenue from the Trade, and it was spending 215 millions directly and indirectly as the result of its accursed work. Would not any one in his personal business "quit" under such circumstances? The United States were spending two and a half billions of dollars annually, and in return received 45,000 dead babies, 100,000 orphans, 100,000 criminals, 100,000 cases of insanity, 65,000 suicides, and 75,000 buried in drunkards' graves. Every day, in the United States, the Liquor Traffic had been practically sinking a "Titanic," with its 1500 victims.

The speaker dealt next with the question, Does Prohibition work? He brought forward varied and convincing evidence to show that everywhere that Prohibition had been tried, the results had been good. He had a letter from the Premier of Saskatchewan declaring the benefits arising were beyond dispute. In that province, as also in Manitoba and British Columbia, gaols had been closed. Outside Regina was a large penitentiary, and this year there were so few occupants that men had to be hired to do the work, connected with the growing of vegetables, which in previous years had all been done by the prisoners. In British Columbia, when Prohibition first was adopted, Government liquor stores had been opened, but before long the people voted them out by a majority of 9 to 1.

It was often stated that Prohibition ruined a place. The facts proved the reverse. A striking illustration was afforded by Kansas and Missouri, adjoining States, with but an imaginary line dividing them, of which Missouri had the advantage in natural resources. Yet the assessed value of property in Kansas, that had had Prohibition for 30 years, was 1750 dollars per head, as against 300 dollars in Missouri, the "wet" State. Kansas had the lowest death-rate in the world, and conscription was useless there, for all having volunteered, there were none left to conscript. Out of 800 newspapers in Kansas, only eight would insert a liquor advertisement. There were no bad results either to employer or employee. One sawmill proprietor, talking to him on the subject, said: "It's a godsend, for we can start our mill now on a Monday morning." Even hotel property had