

The Economic Aspect.

The traffic also had an important bearing on the growth of pauperism. The record in Massachusetts showed that 65.20 per cent. of the cases investigated were addicted to strong drink, while 15.65 per cent. were excessive drinkers.

Dealing with the economic aspect of the liquor traffic, Mr. Rowell said it was a well-known fact that users of strong drink were subject to a great loss of time; there was a curtailment in earning capacity, and finally a great shortening of life. It was estimated that Great Britain suffered a loss of one-sixth of her earnings through the effect of liquor. Hon. George E. Foster suggested some years ago that Canada lost one-tenth of her earning power from the same cause, but even putting it moderately at 5 per cent., the loss to Ontario was measured in millions.

Referring to the forces which have contributed to arouse public sentiment against the liquor traffic, Mr. Rowell reviewed the work of the temperance organizations of the Province. They might not be able to agree with all that temperance reformers said or did. "I am sure we must recognize this fact: that they are all laboring disinterestedly and sincerely for the promotion of what they believe to be the public good, and whatever may be their attitude, their feelings or their convictions in connection with this matter, we must all have the most profound respect for every man and every woman who is intelligently seeking to serve his day and generation." (Applause.)

"Spinal Column of the Liquor Curse."

Discussing the attitude of the various religious bodies to the temperance question, Mr. Rowell quoted Rev. Father Minchan, as representing the oldest Christian Church. "I believe," said Father Minchan, "that the spinal column of the liquor curse is the barroom. Practically every drunkard with whom I have been brought in contact received his initiation in the barroom and graduated from that seminary of drunkenness."

The number of men who will swill at home is, according to my observation, very small." The Methodist Church had taken a stand for total prohibition, but had also taken the position that until total prohibition could be obtained they would support abolition of the bar.

Better Hotels Must Follow.

"If you wipe out the bars entirely, so that hotelkeepers recognize that the liquor traffic is forever divorced from hotelkeeping, you will find that they will devote themselves to giving the best accommodation they can for the travelling public."—From Mr. Rowell's speech in the Legislature yesterday.

The Presbyterian Church had adopted a resolution calling for the abolition of the bar and the treating system, and the Anglican Church, through its General Synod meeting at Winnipeg, had declared that the demand of the day was the abolition of the bar. The Baptist and Congregational communions had dealt with the question in a similar way.

Proceeding, Mr. Rowell supported his argument with statements by Rt. Hon. John Burns that "the liquor trade is an inmitigated curse to any community that claims to be Christian or civilized." Mr. Arthur Henderson, M. P., one of the labor leaders in England, said that "there is no factor which is keeping the workers back more than is to be found in connection with the liquor traffic."

Majority Favors Abolition.

The local option law in Ontario, Mr. Rowell pointed out, had had the result of indicating the feeling of a

majority of the municipalities as in favor of the abolition of the bar. In 1875 there were 6,185 licenses. By the operation of the Crooks act the number was reduced to 3,938, and under the local option clause of the present law there were less than 1,800 licensed bars in the Province today. Out of 811 municipalities in the Province 444 were dry and 367 were wet. Of the 367 where licenses were in force, in 118 local option had received a majority, but not sufficient to meet the requirements of the three-fifths clause. These added to the 444 would give a total of 562 municipalities in the Province that by a majority vote had expressed in favor of doing away with the bars, although all of the larger municipalities, where population was centred, were among the number having licensed places.

"What is the situation confronting us to-day?" asked Mr. Rowell. "I submit, Mr. Speaker, and I submit with confidence, that there is a rising tide of public sentiment in this Province, brought about by all the forces I have mentioned, which has reached the conclusion that the open bar in this Province is a public nuisance and a social fester, prejudicial alike to the home, the Church and the State, and that such being so the time has come when the bar should be abolished." (Applause.)

Club and Shop Licenses.

Continuing, Mr. Rowell defended his position with regard to club and shop licenses. Some hon. friends had said that the bar was only a portion of the drink traffic. There were 222 shop licenses in the Province and 53

Legislate Against Liquor Traffic.

"All practical forms of legislation which public opinion will sustain I desire to see put into force, so that the evils of the liquor traffic will be restrained and reduced."—From Mr. Rowell's speech in the Legislature yesterday.

club licenses, of which 30 were in Toronto. This would show that the bar represented the overwhelming percentage of the traffic. If the drink bill of Canada was \$81,000,000 per year, he estimated that the liquor trade in the Province was somewhere between twenty-five and thirty millions of dollars. Any hon. member who would take the trouble to visit the downtown bars of Toronto on a Saturday afternoon or an ordinary evening would become convinced that the bar and the treating system were the outstanding evils of the liquor traffic.

Dealing specifically with the club question, Mr. Rowell compared the 53 club licenses to the 1,530 bar licenses. Some of the clubs were mere drinking resorts, and no attempt should be made to justify their existence. Other clubs were not drinking resorts. He did not see how it would be possible to discriminate between one form of club and another. "Under a policy by which you seek to reduce the evils of the liquor traffic, I wish to make it clear that the club must go with the barroom, and with local option you would be able to deal with the residue of the liquor traffic."

What Resolution Means.

"Some question has arisen as to the meaning of this resolution which I have the honor to present to this House: what does abolish the bar mean? Abolish the bar has been used in this Province for the past ten years, and has a well-accepted significance. By abolish the bar is meant the abolition of the licensed