

February 16

Henry's Soliloquy

(With Compliments to Shakespeare.)

"Henry's Soliloquy" was read to the Ontario Legislature yesterday by W. E. N. Sinclair, K.C. (Liberal, Ontario South), with Mr. Sinclair's compliments to William Shakespeare. The effort was received with wild acclaim, even from Conservative benches, and read as follows:

To be beer or not to be beer, that is the question.
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous taunts,
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles
And by opposing end them? To drink—to sleep;
No more; and by a sleep to say we end
The headache and the thousand natural shocks
That flesh receives from beer; 'tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wished. To drink, to sleep;
To sleep: perchance to dream; ay, there's the rub;
For in that sleep of beer what dreams may come
When we have shuffled off this term of office
Must give us pause: there's the danger
That makes calamity of so long delay;
For who would bear the whips and scorns of brewers,
The hotelman's wrongs, the Prohibitionists' threats,
The pangs of thirst, the law's restraints,
The insolence of beer drinkers and the spurns
That patient merit of the dilatory takes,
When he himself might his quietus make
With some decision reached? Who would delay,
To grunt and sweat under a weary life,
But that the dread of something after the election,
The undiscovered country, from whose bourn
No traveller returns, puzzles the will
And makes us rather bear these ills we have
Than fly to others that we know not of?
Thus an election does make cowards of us all;
And thus the native hue of resolution
Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of this thought,
And enterprises of great pitch and moment
With this regard their currents turn away,
And lose the name of action. Soft you now!
O Jovial Bacchus, for all my thoughtfulness
Be all my delays forgotten.