

with the evil.

It is quite evident that the time has come for a long step forward in this connection. In a few months contract-letting will begin on the line of the National Transcontinental Railway east and west of its intersection of the Temiskaming line. If the state of affairs, owing to the free use of intoxicants, has been bad along the Temiskaming Railway, it will probably be immeasurably worse along the Transcontinental line. The Government of the Dominion and the Government of this Province should at once cooperate for the prevention of conditions scandalous in themselves and disgraceful to the whole country. For all that happens in the way of rioting and drunkenness the two Governments will have to accept full responsibility, and they should be held to it by public opinion.

LIQUOR IN NORTHERN ONTARIO.

From time to time reports come from places along the line of the Temiskaming Railway that there is a great deal of rowdyism and a considerable amount of crime, which are said to be due to the presence of navvies who are mostly foreigners. There is probably a substantial basis of truth in these reports, for it would be contrary to all experience if the essential roughness of the life led in the wilderness by these workingmen, in places remote from settled society, did not lessen their self-control and their respect for the rights of other people. This is one of the responses to the "call of the wild," one of the outcomes of the reversion of humanity toward mere animalism. Obviously so long as men capable of adapting themselves to the navvies' mode of life have to be employed in large numbers in out-of-the-way places, just so long will the tendencies complained of be noticeable in spite of all the precautions that can be taken.

The truth of this statement is proved by the fact that special legislation has been enacted by both the Dominion Parliament and the Ontario Legislature to meet just the conditions referred to. The Dominion law is entitled "An act respecting the preservation of peace in the vicinity of public works," and the term "public works" is defined as meaning and including "any railway, canal, road, bridge, or other work of any kind, and any mining operation constructed or carried on by the Government of Canada, or of any Province of Canada, or by any municipal corporation, or by any incorporated company, or by private enterprise." The title of the Ontario law is "An act respecting riots near public works," and the definition given of the term "public works" is very similar to that contained in the Dominion statute above cited. Each of these statutes is to be brought into operation by a proclamation which defines the area within which it shall have effect. They both prohibit the possession of "weapons" within the proclaimed territory, and declare to be liable to seizure all that have not been voluntarily surrendered to the official designated to receive and restore them. It is quite certain that if this prohibition were enforced, and if all weapons not surrendered were confiscated, the workmen on railway contracts and in mining camps would give less trouble, and homicides would be less numerous.

It is clearly recognized by both Parliaments that the consumption of intoxicating drinks has much to do with the disorders in the vicinity of public works. In the Dominion act already referred to provision is made for the absolute prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors within the proclaimed area, while a special Ontario statute prohibits such sale within three miles of the line of any "railway, canal, or other public work in process of construction." The same act forbids the issue of licenses, and declares to be "null" any that may be issued. The most cursory reading of these drastic laws will suffice to show that so far as rowdyism and crime are due to the consumption of intoxicating liquors, the authorities have in the statute books all the legal enact-