



MINISTERS OFFICE

OTTAWA

October 14th. 1915.

Personal

Dear Colonel Logie,-

I am in receipt of your letter of the 1st. instant, stating that you have asked the Licensed Commissioners to close all bars at seven o'clock.

I shall be very much obliged if you will be so good as to submit all such matters as this to me before you issue them as official.

Thus far, I have managed the liquor question fairly well without running foul of the public, and I think you will agree with me that the progress of my plan has been great, so far.

There is just the possibility of riding ahead of public sentiment. Personally, I have never had any trouble with men over the excessive use of liquor. Of course, where we have weak Officers commanding Camps, Corps, or detachments, there is likely to be trouble.

I have thought the matter over, and must protest against the soldier being treated differently, before the law, than the Civilian. We must not forget that in ordinary life the soldiers are citizens and entitled to all the rights of citizenship. What I think would be well, and what I am endeavoring to carry out is that all bars should be closed to everyone, soldier and civilian, at eight o'clock.

I believe, also, that if Officers were jerked up a little forcibly for drinking, there would be less trouble with the men. It is further my belief that, among the men, there might be a system organized whereby they, themselves, would, very quickly, place the boozers where they belong. I well remember when I was a mere boy being in a tent at Camp where a couple of fellows insisted on intruding their booze ideas. I promptly went to the Captain of the company and told him that I would hold him responsible that these men did not annoy the ~~next~~ occupants of the tent with their odour, their language and their filthiness. He refused to interfere and I promptly, although a mere boy, reported him to the Colonel, who, also, refused to interfere. I then promptly took the matter up with a Member of Parliament who saw the matter through. Meantime, I tried the plan of having the head of one of these fellows punched, one year. The whole action had a very salutary effect on the question of booze in camp.

There is altogether too much dependence placed upon the law, and not enough on restricting the men. Every man before enlisting should be made to state whether or not he is a boozer, and after he has been found to have falsified his record, he should be photographed and dismissed and the photograph sent

48



MINISTERS OFFICE

OTTAWA

-2-

around to other Units to prevent him unloading himself on them.

I shall not interfere meantime with your action regarding Armouries. I think it would be better, however, to forbid treating. I, also, think, that closing the bar at seven o'clock will do a lot of harm if it is not to include Civilians as well as the soldiers. It would have been much better to have had the authorities close the liquor places at eight o'clock to everyone.

Faithfully,

Colonel W. A. Logie,
Niagara-on-the-Lake,
Ont.

47