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liquors as well as by opium. In his evidence before the Committee, Mr. T. Heslop Hill, formerly Protector of Labour in the Straits, speaking of the Indian immigrants, declared that "what they suffer from drink is intolerable." And he explained it in this way :

Q. 13,229. In the Madras Presidency they have got very good excise laws. If I go to Madras to-morrow I can go to any place where they sell liquor, I can get a sample of spirits, I can have it sealed, and I can take that away, and I can have it analysed, and if it is not up to a specific standard the man is very heavily fined. In the Malay Peninsula the coolie, having been used to drinking wholesome stuff in his own country, drinks something which he thinks is very nice—he is not a highly educated man—but he drinks the most arrant poison. The supply of intoxicants to the coolies near the estates is a question which has been brought up over and over again by the planters, and up to the time I left they were pressing very strongly for the laws to be amended.

The result as reported by the Commissioners is not surprising. Referring to the Straits Settlements they report, p. 37 :

156. The total number of deaths among the Tamil population of all four States in 1908 is given as 7760, which, for an estimated population of 123,000, gives an average of 63 per thousand.

157. The death-rates among the indentured immigrants are unfortunately still higher. According to the Report of the Immigration Department for 1908, the deaths for that year in an average popula-