

12559a. You said that in some of the counties under the Scott Act there were many violations of the law. Was the liquor used in the hands of less respectable persons than is the case under a license law?—Yes.

12560a. Do you think that is a desirable state of things?—Undoubtedly no.

12561a. Do you think alcohol is very necessary for the compounding and preservation of drugs?—Undoubtedly. If I may put the answer in the words of Professor Huxley, modern science is deeply indebted to the cheapness of alcohol and glass; modern science at the present day would be unknown except for alcohol and glass. In fact, Professor Huxley founds the whole superstructure of modern science upon the cheapness of those two things. You will find that statement in his recent work on "The Science of the Victorian Age."

12562a. You spoke of an analysis that had been made by you of cider that was sold as wine for sacramental purposes?—That was an analysis I made with Mr. Babington.

12563a. Where was it obtained?—I purchased it on Yonge Street in this city.

12564a. And the man who sold it was selling it as wine for sacramental purposes?—Yes, he said so at the time—advertised it as such.

12565a. Did you procure it for analysis?—Yes. That was eight or nine years ago.

12566a. And it proved to be cider?—Yes.

*By the Chairman:*

12567a. Where have you pursued your studies?—In London, at South Kensington, and at the School of Science in Toronto. I was in practical chemistry under Dr. Ellis.

JAMES THORBURN, M. D., on being duly sworn, deposed as follows:—

*By the Chairman:*

12568a. Are you in active practice in this city as medical practitioner?—Yes.

12569a. How long have you practised in Toronto?—About thirty-nine years.

12570a. Do you think there has been a decrease of intemperance in the city of Toronto during the last ten or fifteen years?—Yes; there has been a marked decrease.

12571a. To what do you attribute that?—To different forces. I think people are better than they were. They are better educated, and are more susceptible to moral suasion than they used to be; they think more.

12572a. Do you think the changes which have been made in the law have had any effect?—No. So far as I know, I think not.

12573a. There has been a considerable reduction in the number of licenses in the city; do you think that has had any effect in reducing the amount of intemperance?—Very likely it has.

12574a. From your observation do you conclude that the present law is fairly well enforced?—I think so; in Toronto, at all events.

12575a. Have you any knowledge of the men who keep the taverns and places where liquor is sold in the city?—Yes; I think I may say I have.

12576a. What is your impression in regard to them? Are they as a body a set of men who would desire to carry out the law fairly, and observe its terms?—I think so, as a general rule.

12577a. Do you think there is in the city much distress and poverty resulting from intemperance?—There is some; there is no doubt about that. As to the amount of it I could not say.

12578a. Do you think it is greater or less than it was?—I know it is less than it was. I know there has been a marked difference on the subject of temperance in the time I have been in practice here.

CHARLES GORDON RICHARDSON.