

Liquor Traffic—Manitoba.

ADAM JOHN LANE PEBBLES, Police Magistrate of Winnipeg, on being duly sworn, deposed as follows :—

By Judge McDonald :

30436. How long have you resided in Winnipeg?—I have resided in Winnipeg since 1870.

30437. How long have you been Police Magistrate?—About thirteen years, since 1879.

30438. Has there been a great change in any way since you came here?—Winnipeg has grown since I came here.

30439. Did you come from some other section of Canada?—From Toronto, Ontario. I came with Sir Garnet Wolsley and his expedition.

30440. Will you state briefly to the Commission what is your jurisdiction?—Winnipeg and throughout the province, but my duties are chiefly in Winnipeg. I am Police Magistrate for the province as well as for the city, but my duties are principally or almost entirely confined to city matters, to matters that come before me here. Cases connected with by-laws and different matters are occasionally brought before me from the country districts.

30441. I suppose you take preliminary examinations in criminal cases sent for trial?—I do.

30442. You have spoken of trying cases under city by-laws, or offences such as drunkenness and disorderly conduct and offences of like character tried under the city by-laws? Do you hear such cases?—Yes, and various other cases.

30443. Those offences are dealt with under the city by-laws and not under statutory law.—Quite so.

30444. You have had cases brought before you under the Vagrant Act, I suppose?—Yes, sometimes under the Dominion Act and sometimes under the by-laws.

30445. Taking your experience, and also taking into consideration the growth of the city, has there been an increase or decrease of drunkenness?—During the last four or five months there have been something less than two cases of drunkenness per day or 18·2 per month.

30446. You hold a sitting of the court every lawful day?—Sometimes my colleague sits for me.

30447. There is a session of the court, if there is any business to come before it?—Yes.

30448. Are those cases of drunkenness of which you have spoken confined to city people?—Entirely to city people.

30449. Do you have very many cases before you of illicit sale of liquor, selling without license?—Not a great many; recently we have had one or two cases. During the last four or five months we have had one case of a wholesale dealer selling liquor, which was drunk on the premises, and I think one man has been convicted for selling without a license, but that was outside of the city. Another one is before the court at this moment; and there are four hotel-keepers up just now, but their cases have not been adjudicated upon.

30450. Are you able to inform the Commission as to how many licensed places there are in the city?—I cannot tell you.

30451. You are not one of the issuers of licenses?—No; those details will no doubt be furnished to the Commission by other witnesses.

30452. Taking your experience, because it is with that we wish to deal in taking evidence, and we also desire to obtain any suggestions you desire to make to the Commission, in order that we may report them to Parliament, can you inform the Commission, in the first place, as to the mode of granting licenses?—I think probably that if fewer licenses were granted and if greater restrictions were imposed, it would be of great advantage. I do not think it is necessary to have any restaurant licenses.

30453. Would you confine the liquor sale to hotels?—Yes, to hotels.

30454. Are groceries allowed to be sold with liquor here?—Several of the groceries sell liquor, but they have separate stores in which the sale takes place.

ADAM JOHN LANE PEBBLES.