

evidence. Following this decision, it has been urged that parties charged with offences against the Ontario Liquor License Act cannot be witnesses, on their own behalf, or for the prosecution. This contention, in my mind, is not tenable; for the offence charged being a crime, the whole procedure and the evidence to be taken on the trial of such an offence are within the legislative powers of the Dominion Government, and by R.S.C., cap. 106, sec. 114, it is enacted that in any prosecution under that Act (Canada Temperance Act), or any Act mentioned in the 120th Section of said Act, the person opposing or defending, or the wife or husband of such person opposing or defending, shall be competent and compellable to give evidence.

On referring to sec. 120, we find that any Act in force in any Province, respecting the issue of licenses for the sale of fermented or spirituous liquors, will come under the provisions of sec. 114, and that therefore the defendant, under any prosecution for an offence against the license laws of Ontario, and the wife of such defendant, are competent and compellable witnesses. Sections 114 and 120 of cap. 106 were specially inserted for the purpose of enabling such persons to give evidence. The decision, therefore, in *Reg. v. Hart* will not prevent the accused or his wife from giving evidence any more than it will prevent the accused in a case of common assault from giving evidence on his own behalf, his rights in such a case being guarded by statutory enactment. I am not aware that the point has ever been raised whether the Ontario Legislature, in enacting in their Liquor License Acts that such and such facts, having been proved, shall be deemed *prima facie* evidence of an offence committed, have or have not exceeded their powers. The judgment above referred to would point to the conclusion that such enactments are *ultra vires* of the Local Legislature.

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COLLECTING AGENCIES.

In this day the regular way of collecting debts through the joint aid of a solicitor and the ordinary courts of justice has grown into disfavor, and appears too humdrum and slow for an age of 'phones and cables, lightning expresses and electric cars; and collecting agencies make a specialty of such work, with their defaulters' lists placarded on fences and walls, their large and strikingly conspicuous envelopes containing threatening duns, and their uniformed officials with hatbands marked "Collector," and "Collector of Doubtful Debts."

Therefore with that generosity and disinterestedness for which our liberal profession is so famous, we would give a few pointers to these unlicensed practitioners by reminding or informing them how in other parts of this mundane sphere other barbarians, in other days, have sought to make the dishonest honest and the poor to pay their debts.

On the other side of the globe, where, as the poet hath it, the immense Pacific smiles around ten thousand little isles, lady collectors are used. The *modus operandi* is as follows: Public opinion having decided that the debt is a fair one, a party of women go to the debtor's door and sit them down in silence outside his house (in this they differ from the American female book agent). The news