

*By the Chairman :*

11927a. I think you said you would vote for a prohibitory law?—Yes, I would vote for anything that would lessen drunkenness.

11928a. Have you come to the conclusion that a prohibitive act would lessen drunkenness?—I think the more difficult you make it to get liquor, the larger the number of people who would not get it.

11929a. Would you prohibit the manufacture and importation entirely except for medicinal, mechanical and sacramental purposes?—Yes, I think that is the only way to reach it. I think we are manufacturing far too much. If we did not manufacture so much, it would not be so cheap, and therefore would not be sold so extensively.

11930a. Have you in the course of your experience had occasion to examine into the condition of things in the State of Maine under the prohibition they have there?—I have been there, but I do not know anything about it.

GEORGE T. DENISON, Police Magistrate, of the City of Toronto, on being duly sworn, deposed as follows:—

*By the Chairman :*

11931a. How long have you held your present position?—From about the first of June, 1877.

11932a. Have you any assistant, or do all the cases come before you in the police court?—All the important cases come before me. For the last two or three years Mr. Baxter has been trying some of the city by-law cases in the afternoon. I sit in the morning, and he has the afternoon court three times a week.

11933a. Has the number of cases coming before your court increased or decreased in that period, taking into consideration the large increase in the population of the city?—I have never figured that out. There are more cases now than when I was first appointed, but that was a good many years ago. The city has doubled in population since then.

11934a. Has crime increased or decreased?—I could not tell you that without looking at the records. The records are made up by the Chief of Police, and you can easily find them in the report of the Chief for each year. I have not carried them in my mind.

11935a. Taking the crime of drunkenness, do you think that has increased or decreased?—I could not tell you that without looking at those reports. I have not looked at them for some years.

11936a. Then you are not prepared to express an opinion as to whether there has been an improvement in the city in that respect?—I could not say without looking over the records. It does not interest me; I do not bother to look after that. In fact, when the reports are sent in at the end of the year I do not read them over.

11937a. Are a large proportion of the cases which come before you, those that arise out of drunkenness and infringements of the liquor law?—That also is all catalogued.

11938a. Can you say from recollection whether a large proportion of them are of that character?—Well, I would like to look at the figures on that point also, because they are all classified. There is a full catalogue of every offence, showing the drunks by themselves.

11939a. Do you make any report to the city?—The Clerk of the Court does that, and the Chief of Police.

11940a. This report is made from your court to the authorities in Ottawa?—The criminal statistics are made out by the Clerk.

11941a. Can you tell us the practice of your court in this matter. Suppose a man is brought in for an assault on the streets, and he is charged with that in the police

J. J. KELSO.