

**The Licensed Victuallers' Gazette**  
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**FLOODED KNEE DEEP.**

**Country Has Lots of Temperance Literature Now**

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**A Vigorous Campaign Organized for the Coming Plebiscite Campaign—Some Extracts.**

A LITERATURE COMMITTEE will be formed in every city, town and village in Canada, and distributors will go around visiting houses and leaving copies of the Prohibition leaflets. The money for the printing of these leaflets will be raised by subscription and collections at public meetings. The distribution of the leaflets will not cost much, as many persons will be only too willing to sacrifice time and energy in this work.

They claim that the liquor traffic, instead of adding to the wealth of the country by the payment of revenues, licenses, etc., occasions a net loss of \$134,667,694. They figure the result as follows:

**COST OF THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.**

Amount paid for liquor by consumers.....	\$39,879,854
Value of grain, etc., destroyed.....	1,888,705
Cost of proportion of pauperism, disease, insanity and crime chargeable to the liquor traffic.....	3,014,097
Loss of productive labor.....	71,288,000
Loss through mortality caused by drink.....	14,394,000
Misdirected labor.....	7,748,000
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$143,122,716</b>

**REVENUE FROM THE TRAFFIC.**

Dominion Gov.....	\$7,101,557
Provincial Gov.....	924,358
Municipalities.....	429,107
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>8,455,022</b>

Net loss..... \$134,667,694

The above appeared in the *Herald* of Saturday, October 2nd. It is an illustration of the extent to which the temperance people are willing to manipulate figures to accomplish a victory on the coming plebiscite. If we analyze some of their own statements, we shall the easier discern the results of their wonderful imagination, which if boiled down, ends in mist or ridicule.

Taking the figures as they appear, and dealing with them, item by item, we find:

1. Amount paid for liquor by consumers, \$39,879,854. Now, if the temperance people are justified in asking for the plebiscite, they must concede that barely one half the voters drink liquor, which would give an average of about \$80 per capita spent yearly by those who drink. To those who only earn about \$300 a year, and take a bottle of beer, once or twice a week it will appear rather mysterious where such a large average comes from.

2. Value of grain destroyed, \$1,888,766. This destruction takes place in manufacturing liquor it is presumed. That is a

matter of opinion. We consider the grain well utilized in the manufacture of liquors. Besides it gives a living to at least 2,000 farmers and their families.

3. Cost of proportion of pauperism, disease, insanity and crime, chargeable to the liquor traffic, \$3,014,097.

In the Minister of Justice's report, page 7, year ending June 30, 1897, we find that the net actual cost of prisoners in Canadian penitentiaries for the year ending June 30, 1897, \$292,286. Among the prisoners were 122 total abstainers. These figures need no comment.

4. Loss of productive labor, \$76,288,000. This is equal to placing upon the Labor market 152,576 men, presuming they earned in yearly wages \$500 each. Undoubtedly, this is a pleasant prospect for the general employers of Labor. Wages would be down to rock bottom immediately, without increasing the population of the Country by one. But how about the Toilers, who are now competing in the Labor market? The misery and suffering for those who could not leave the Country would be terrible to contemplate. Therefore it must be manifest to the most disinterested. Such a cruel disturbance of the industrial forces will not be countenanced.

5. Loss through mortality caused by drink, \$14,300,400.

What our friends base their conclusions upon, we are at a loss to determine. But we affirm, that the economic conditions forced upon the laboring classes, in some industrial establishments, kills 99 for every one that drink, kills and statistics wherever taken, has always proved that the moderate drinker is the longest lived. It is only the extreme drunkard like the Glutton, who risks shortening his life.

6. Misdirected Labor, \$7,748,000.

This only adds another 15496 men to the unemployed. The same argument applies as that concerning the loss of productive Labor.

Such is a brief analysis of how our Temperance friends would save the country of \$134,667,694, after deducting the \$8,455,022, which they claim is the total received in *Revenue from the Traffic*. How they intend to accomplish their miraculous deeds is what the people will want to know. And then will come the Tug-of-War.

**DIALOGUE.**

**TOM HEARTY** (a stout healthy well built man).—Mr. Slim, how are you this morning?

**JOHN SLIM** (a physical wreck).—Oh! not so bad as I have been, but not feeling well yet.

**T. HEARTY**.—And no wonder man you be too miserable, why don't you take a little stimulant to put life into you?

**J. SLIM**.—What? Take beer or something like that? No, never, after being temperance so long, me and my family (coughs), why I should never have had my little property if I had been a drunkard.

**T. HEARTY**.—Look here, Slim, a man can take a glass of beer without being a drunkard or a fool. You know we both got married at the same time. Previous to that we were chums and always had a beer or two which kept us healthy and strong.

**J. SLIM**.—Well, I admit that, but my wife was a teetotal crank.

**T. HEARTY**.—Yes, and a skinflint too, and persuaded you to be the same. Now look at the result.

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**J. SLIM**.—Why, I got my property.

**T. HEARTY**.—So have I, and a little more than you, and better still I have my health, strength and family.

**J. SLIM**.—Well, I have been a little unfortunate, I know.

**T. HEARTY**.—Unfortunate you call it. Want of nourishment you ought to say. You know three of your children died of consumption, because of close living, and the others left home because they were not allowed to have the least bit of amusement, and there was no talk of anything in the house, but your bit of property, property, all the time.

**J. SLIM** (with tears).—Don't mention the family, Tom. I know I was to blame, but I have been looking after old age you know.

**T. HEARTY**.—Yes, and the doctor has given you six months or less to live, and you in the prime of life.

**J. SLIM** (weakly).—Oh! dear, I feel faint, I must go home and take some medicine.

**T. HEARTY**.—Medicine be damned, it's nourishment you need, let me be your doctor for a couple of weeks and I will guarantee to make you better.

**J. SLIM**.—Well, these pains make me think it can be no worse any how. I'll go, Tom.

Both go into a restaurant. Tom calls for two glasses of best ale. They drink it.

**T. HEARTY**.—Well, how's that, old man?

**J. SLIM**.—By jove, I feel better than I have for twenty years. Bartender, give us two more beers. (They drink these and go home).

Mrs. Slim notices a change in her husband, he is lively, and eats a hearty supper.

**MRS. SLIM**.—Why John you seem a great deal better to-night.

**J. SLIM**.—Yes, my dear, I have tried another doctor, he makes up my medicine while I wait. I got to call twice a day until well.

**MRS. SLIM**.—I am so glad your new doctor seems to understand your sickness.

**J. SLIM**.—Yes, I promised to report to my adviser in two weeks how I feel. I really believe the turn is for the better.

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