

ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE  
LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

MANITOBA.

WINNIPEG, October 24th, 1892.

The Royal Commission on the Liquor Traffic met here, in the City Hall, this day at 10.30 a.m.

*Present :*

JUDGE McDONALD.

REV. DR. McLEOD.

The Commission having been read,

JUDGE McDONALD said: I desire to state that it was the intention of the Commission, that all the members should have been present here to-day. The Chairman of the Commission, Sir Joseph Hickson, subsequently found it impossible to be present, and it was suggested that Mr. Clarke, Rev. Dr. McLeod and myself should begin the work. Mr. Clarke has not yet arrived; but as this day has been advertised as that on which the Commission would open its proceedings here, we will proceed with the investigation and the taking of evidence on the subjects referred to the Commissioners by the Commission. I may also explain that Mr. Gigault, one of the Commissioners, is Deputy Minister of Agriculture for the Province of Quebec, and he is detained by duties connected with that office. I may state further that the Commissioners unanimously admit the great evils that result from drunkenness, and therefore we have not thought it necessary to enter into any investigation of what might be called the moral side of this question in places where we have hitherto held sittings; but of course, we have taken up all the phases of the question of the liquor traffic in so far as such bear on the commercial and social interests of the country, and also in regard to any other matters that come properly under the terms of the Commission. The usual course adopted in each place we have visited has been to call, as the first witness, the Chief Magistrate of the town or city, and following that rule, we shall be glad to take the evidence of the Mayor of Winnipeg, and in his absence that of a prominent public official.