

WHAT DOES IT COST?

Extract from statistical report presented to Temperance Convention in Toronto, in 1869, by Rev. William Scott. The figures given below should all be increased by at least one-sixth, to give the present cost to the Dominion, which would give an annual waste of over \$50,000,000. "This liquor business is the worst possible speculation that ever any country engaged in. Its evils and losses enter into and permeate the whole fabric of our social economy. The expenses are inevitable, and in a thousand ways we are taxed for its support, and in such various ways that to arrive at a full and correct estimate is utterly impossible. The United Kingdom Alliance has made a declaration that the loss to the British nation is not less than £238,886,280 sterling—i. e., \$1,134,431,400. The friends of Temperance in the United States estimate their liquor bill alone, without calculating collateral losses, at the mighty sum of \$460,000,000. What are the items of expenditure and loss incurred by this Dominion? It is perfectly dreadful to contemplate; but we had better look the facts fairly in the face, and ask how long the ravages of this plague shall continue. Let us take the same rule of judgment as that adopted by our friends in the United Kingdom:"

WASTE OF WEALTH IN THIS DOMINION.

I. MONEY ANNUALLY SPENT IN INTOXICATING DRINKS—

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| 1. Of liquors imported | \$ 8,100,000 |
| 2. Of liquors manufactured..... | 10,000,000 |

II. LOSS IN THE PRODUCTION AND RETAIL SALE OF STRONG DRINK—

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| 1. Land now used in the cultivation of hops and various kinds of grain, for the distiller, &c., would produce food for man and beast | 2,500,000 |
| 2. Loss of capital and labor worth..... | 5,500,000 |
| 3. Loss of labor to the State, by retailers, &c., and their servants..... | 3,000,000 |

III. ANNUAL EXPENSES AND BURDENS ARISING FROM THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC—

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| 1. Loss of labor and time to employers and working men by drinking usages..... | 5,500,000 |
| 2. Destruction of property on land, on lakes and rivers—loss by theft, bad debts, and various crimes, through drinking..... | 3,400,000 |
| 3. Charges through pauperism, destitution, sickness, insanity and premature death, traceable to the use of strong drink..... | 3,500,000 |
| 4. Cost of police, prosecution, courts of justice, support of criminals, losses to jurors and witnesses, at least.... | 2,000,000 |

Grand total annual loss to the Dominion.....\$43,500,000