

Liquor Traffic—Ontario.

out of ten men will drink whisky. Now, if you can encourage the people, if they will drink at all, to drink lager or beer instead of whisky, I think it would be a step in the right direction.

11913a. As a result of your observation in Toronto, going about the city a good deal as you do, do you believe there are now more licensed taverns in this city than are needed for the requirements of the travelling public?—Yes, I think we could do with a less number easily.

11914a. Have you reason to believe that some of these licensed hotels are merely drinking places?—Yes; I am satisfied that nearly all of them are only drinking places; at least, there is an immense floating population going in and out of them, simply to drink. They are practically saloons, although they may have beds and give meals.

By Rev. Dr. McLeod:

11915a. How many children have you under your supervision?—The law contemplates that I should have supervision of all the neglected and dependent children.

11916a. How long have you held that position?—Six months, since the new Act was passed.

11917a. How many have you actually had to deal with so far?—My work so far has been in organizing the work and addressing meetings. I do not personally deal with children so much as to get others to deal with them. My duty is to organize Children's Aid Societies.

11918a. Still, you have general supervision?—Yes, my duty is to encourage others to look after neglected children.

11919a. You have knowledge of the children who are provided for by these local organizations?—Yes, we have in Ontario 4,000 dependent children in our refuges.

11920a. Are they supported by Provincial funds?—They are supported by municipal grant, by government grant, and by private charity.

11921a. Do you know how much the support of those 4,000 children costs?—A. It costs on a rough calculation, \$150,000 at the very least. The returns submitted to the Government showing the cost is over \$125,000, but that is for maintenance alone, and is outside the cost of the buildings.

11922a. Have you any figures with which you could furnish the Commission?—No.

11923a. Are there any public reports bearing on this subject?—There are returns to the Government of the number of institutions, the cost per head and so on. They are printed in the public accounts. I could supply one of these.

11924a. We would be very glad to have you do so. Do you find that offences against women and children are in a large degree attributable to the drink habit?—Not so much offences against them as neglect of them, causing those children to be thrown as a burden on the general community.

11925a. In your police court work for several years, what impression was made upon you as to the relations the drink traffic bears to the crime that you observed and poverty and distress generally?—I was thoroughly satisfied that nearly all those crimes were committed when the criminals were more or less under the influence of liquor. I found that a good many of the lower thieves would prime themselves with whisky before they would commit these thefts. Of course the professional burglar would need to have more nerve; but the less experienced ones nearly always blunted their sensibilities by drink. Then, of course there is drunkenness among the women, which in itself is ten times worse than men, because it causes them to lose their natural instinct and feeling, and they become thoroughly degraded.

11926a. Do you find there is much drinking amongst women?—Well, I see more of it perhaps than a good many would, because we see many of these women at the fresh air excursions with their children, and although we try to prevent them bringing bottles of whisky with them, we do find cases where we have actually to take the bottles from them. Then if we go to a summer resort these women will go to a hotel and seek to get liquor. There is a good deal of drinking among this class of women who neglect their families.