

Probably the most systematic and thorough inquiry into the relationship of drink to crime ever made was that by Hon. Carroll D. Wright, Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of Labor for the State of Massachusetts, who made, between 1st September, 1879, and 1st September, 1880, a thorough investigation of the personal history of all offenders sentenced in the county of Suffolk, including the City of Boston, for the years named, as well as the offences for which the sentences were imposed.

In his report of a careful investigation of 16,877 cases, he states that after deducting the cases of drunkenness and violation of the liquor laws, he found forty-five per cent of the *remaining crimes* to be fairly attributable to intemperance, making a total of eighty-four per cent of all criminal cases due directly or indirectly to the influence of liquor.

The report of the Ontario Prison Reform Commission, in 1891, says :—

Drunkenness does more than any other cause to fill the gaols, and it unquestionably does much to recruit the ranks of the criminal classes. Of the 11,893 persons committed to the gaols of the province during the year 1889 no less than 4,777 were charged with having been drunk and disorderly, and in all probability excessive use of strong drink was the chief cause of trouble in the case of 534 persons who were committed on the charge of common assault. Of the 11,587 cases disposed of in the police court of the city of Toronto 5,441 were cases of drunkenness and disorderly conduct caused by drunkenness. * * * The number of convictions on charges of drunkenness in the province during the year was 7,059, very nearly one third of the whole; and of the 675 prisoners in the common gaols at the close of the year a very large proportion were habitual drunkards.

CHILDREN MADE CRIMINALS.

Intemperance indirectly causes a vast amount of crime by creating such conditions of heredity and environment as to make it impossible for a great many children to become anything else than paupers and criminals. They are born of intemperate parents, they grow up surrounded by sin, degradation and all kinds of inducement to vice. It is impossible to estimate how much of our crime finds its origin in this way.

WHAT CANADIAN JUDGES SAY.

It would be easy to furnish a great array of evidence regarding this relationship of drink to crime. The Royal Commission on the Liquor traffic received 161 answers from judges and magistrates to the following question :—

In your opinion, what proportion of the criminal cases which have come before you is attributable, directly or indirectly, to the use of intoxicating beverages?