

the place where prohibition has succeeded?

Two facts at once impress the visitor. One is a standing advertisement for the edification of tourists that Prince Edward Island is the healthiest place in the world; that vital statistics reveal that of the great proportion of deaths on that island nearly all have lived to an unusually ripe old age. This being so, as it is, it seems very strange to find everywhere so large a number of drug stores far out of proportion to the needs of the population.

The reason is soon discovered. There is not a steamerboat leaving Picton for Prince Edward Island that does not carry from 100 to 200 cases of whiskey and also supplies of gin, rum and brandy. From 300 to 500 cases of whiskey and other liquors are going into Prince Edward Island every week by various routes. These known shipments comprise liquor from other provinces and from Europe.

Much of this whiskey reaches the town populations via the drug stores. In the towns Scotch whiskey is the liquor called for, and in the rural districts the choice is either rum, gin or brandy, or all three. In addition to the regular shipments, considerable smuggling in of liquor is carried on. About forty-five men and women on the island are convicted yearly of illicit liquor selling and nearly 200 for drunkenness. These figures do not seem impressive, but it is to be remembered that 80 per cent. of the 93,000 population is agricultural, and it is impossible to find out what goes on in every barn in the province.