

liquor, and treated his friends to some of the contents of the casks there stored. The officer therefore concluded to have his revenge, and arraigned the magistrate before Acting Stipendiary McCarthy, who fined Capt. Brereton \$100 and costs for dispensing liquor in violation of the Keewatin liquor law. The money was paid over under protest. All the parties are now in the city, and each seeking redress against the other, the upshot of which will be made known in a very few days."

Cases quite as flagrant as that adverted to have been of common occurrence. The *modus operandi* by which a prohibitory liquor law is made to serve other purposes is reported to be as follows:—

A person in Rat Portage keeps a saloon, and on the other side of the street he has a billiard room where liquor is dispensed at a bar. The keeper of the billiard room gets a quantity of whiskey and sells it openly. The constables frequent and drink at both places. When they think the proper time has arrived, they lay an information against the keeper of the billiard room. The offender is brought up and, for the first offence, is fined \$50 and \$7 costs. As he pleads guilty there is no trial. Then the owner of the saloon, who is, *de facto*, the owner of the billiard room, becomes the keeper of the latter, begins to sell and, when the proper time comes he is, in turn, fined \$50 and costs: again no trial. When both the saloon keeper and billiard room keeper have been fined, it becomes necessary to avoid their being again informed against and fined in heavier amounts. A stranger is then employed in each place and he becomes the nominal proprietor, recognized as such by the Dominion constables, who decide when another information is to be laid, when, again, the minimum fine under the Keewatin Act is inflicted. It would never do, apparently, to go on to second and third convictions; such a course might have the effect of stopping the traffic. Liquor selling is so profitable that, it is stated, and I believe, with perfect truth, that the proprietor of the saloon and billiard room adverted to, has been by himself and servants—i.e., the temporary nominal proprietors—fined over \$1,200 in one year, and, moreover, that he has been quite content to pay it, and also a large weekly allowance to the constables, for the impunity he has been permitted to enjoy.

The traffic openly flourished and the liquor interest was the most powerful in the community. Informations were nearly always laid verbally by the constables, and, not infrequently, convictions were unrecorded. Levying a periodical fine on transient bar-keepers had come to be regarded as another way of exacting a license fee; the illicit dealers, as a general thing, were satisfied, because the system secured them immunity from imprisonment, and did not stop the traffic. It was quite common to find the informing constables carousing in taverns immediately after the proprietors had been fined for selling liquor.

At this time, the Manitoba acting Stipendiary,—McCarthy, the engineer of the contractors,—attempted unsuccessfully to put a stop to the whiskey traffic on the line of railway. The reason alleged for his failure was, that the constables at Rat Portage were in collusion with whiskey peddlers on the road, who had a monopoly of the business. Informations were invariably laid against strangers who attempted to sell whiskey in the camps, but recognized offenders enjoyed impunity.

Of all the evils that attended the traffic, perhaps the worst was the facility with which the Indians procured liquor. It was quite common to see them excited by drink