

the corn gets 40 cents, and the consumer gets a headache. In Canada the Government gets even a larger percentage, but the consumer, we believe, gets less of a headache. The whiskey is better."

THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

An esteemed contemporary, to wit, the *Halifax, N.S., Acadian*, gets off the following regarding the Royal Commission on the liquor traffic:

"One hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars is the tidy little sum which the perambulating Royal Commission on the liquor question cost the country and the country is not, for some time to come, to receive any light on the result of the expenditure. The bills for printing the enormous mass of rubbish collected as 'evidence' have threatened to be so big that work on the cumbersome volumes has been stopped, and a fresh vote will have to be given before it can be started again. The evidence was being printed verbatim and then repeated in a boiled down form. The whole design of the Commission was apparently only to see how much money could be spent. The evidence will never be read anyway. It consisted, for the most part, of the addresses and sermonizations of enthusiasts for or against Prohibition. The Commission never was intended to do any good. It was meant, in the first place, to stave off for a time the problem of dealing with the liquor question, and secondly, to furnish pleasant employment for some of the Government's 'friends' who happened to be a little 'down in their luck.' Having served these two purposes we see no reason why it should not be allowed to drop into its merited oblivion as rapidly and quietly as possible."

Now it is doubtful in our mind if so many misstatements and exaggerations were ever before crowded into so small a space. In the first place it is not true that work on the "cumbersome" volumes has been stopped and that a fresh vote of supplies will have to be had before the work is renewed. We might ask, considering the volumes have not been issued, how does the *Acadian* know that they are or will be "cumbersome"?

In the next place it is absurd to say the design of the Commission was to see how much money could be spent. On the contrary the end always in view has been to keep the cost as low as possible, consistently with the thorough accomplishment of the task in hand.

The assertion that the evidence will never be read must be taken as misstatement number three. Not only is it sure to be thoroughly read and digested, but it would not surprise us if our contemporary were to exercise all the wit he possesses in deducing supposed arguments from the mass of evidence collected. If the sermonizing of enthusiasts is of no value, where does the *Acadian* stand and where the mass of temperance papers that certainly hold their words to be words of wisdom?

"The Commission was never intended to do any good." Surely our contemporary must have lost sight of the calibre of the men that formed the Commission. Such men as Sir Joseph Hickson, Judge McDonald, of Brockville; Mr. E. F. Clarke, ex-Mayor of Toronto; Mr. G. A. Gignault, Deputy-Minister of Agriculture,

Quebec; and the Rev. Dr. McLeod, of Fredericton, N.B., are not men that undertake fruitless missions and missions that are not likely to result in good. That Sir John Thompson did not need any further excuse than he already possessed for inaction as regards "the problem of dealing with the liquor question" is as surely abundantly proved by his answer to the Prohibitory Deputation that waited on him several months ago.

The most ridiculous of all the statements made by the *Acadian* is probably that the Commission was appointed to "furnish pleasant employment for some of the Government's 'friends' who happened to be a 'little down in their luck.'"

Is Sir Joseph Hickson, with an income of fifty or sixty thousand dollars a year, and an active interest in a number of financial institutions, besides being at the head of the advisory board of the Grand Trunk Railway, a man who is "down in his luck"? Sir Joseph, it is notorious, undertook the chairmanship of the Commission at great personal sacrifice and only after the most strenuous and influential pressure had been brought to bear on him.

Is Judge McDonald, a man of independent means, the senior judge of his country, who had to pay a substitute while he was away a man who is "down on his luck"?

Is Mr. E. F. Clarke, at the time of his appointment a member of the legislature, and managing director of an insurance company, the business of which has assumed such large proportions that his fellows on the board insisted that he must give up his legislative position in order to devote his whole time to the company's affairs, a man who is "down on his luck"?

Is Mr. G. A. Gignault, Deputy-Minister of Agriculture of this province, whose income is large and whose time is of the utmost value, a man who is "down on his luck"?

Last, but by no means least, is the Rev. Dr. McLeod, an ardent Prohibitionist and editor of a journal, to say nothing of his other duties, "a man who is down on his luck"? If so, perhaps, our able contemporary will mention the matter and possibly some of his friends who think as he thinks will chip in and help him, for assuredly he cannot have made enough out of the Commission to keep him in independence for any length of time.

If our contemporary has anything to say in refutation of our statement we should like to hear from him forthwith. If he has not we shall expect in common decency he will own up to his mistakes.

MGR. SATOLLI'S MEANING.

A DISPATCH to Washington to the *New York Times* gives an interview with Monsignor Joseph Schroeder, principal of the Catholic University of that city, in which he furnishes an authoritative explanation of the purport of Monsignor Satolli's letters on the trade's relation to the Church and its societies:

"The letters of the Apostolic Delegate," said Mgr. Schroeder, "cannot properly

be characterized as an edict or a decree, or a law, as has been done in various publications. Furthermore, it is an exaggeration, if the approval extended to a local regulation, intended for and limited to the diocese of the bishop, is represented to mean the promulgation of a routine for other dioceses. It is a distortion of the utterances of Mgr. Satolli to stamp them as a declaration of war against the proprietors or frequenters of saloons, or against the use of spirituous beverages generally.

"What are the facts in the case? A bishop whose noble purposes have never been doubted even by his adversaries considers it now opportune to call a halt to certain abuses by an incisive measure. Certain Catholic societies against which this measure was directed appealed to the Apostolic Delegate asking to have the regulations of the bishop set aside or modified. Two such written requests were received by Mgr. Satolli, and his answer to both of them was that he could not grant the request. The real point in these letters is the refusal of his Excellency to set aside the order promulgated by the bishop. Mgr. Satolli simply declined to nullify a regulation prescribed by the Bishop of Columbus for that Bishop's own diocese. This fact, however, does not in any way justify the various conclusions that have been drawn therefrom. The Delegate's approval of the steps taken by the Bishop of Columbus does not compel all other Bishops to promulgate similar regulations, nor is there even such a suggestion implied. Nor can it be implied that Mgr. Satolli, in giving this approval, has directly or otherwise issued a decree excluding all Catholic saloons frequented from Catholic societies, or that he considers the sale or consumption of spirituous beverages sinful."

Mgr. Schroeder added that the Church has never in any way condemned the reasonable and moderate use of spirituous beverages, nor has Mgr. Satolli. This is a kind of a knock-out for the *Temper* and other Prohibitory advocates who eagerly welcomed the accession of the Delegate Apostolic to their fold.

The *Boston Herald* thinks it is a pity that the United States treasury authorities feel unequal to the task of drawing the line betwixt liquors sold for medicinal and scientific purposes and those sold for less worthy objects, and the *Herald* is rather inclined to think they are justified in their decision, in view of all the deificulness in this wicked world. "And yet," it adds, "it is a pity that the arts and sciences cannot be benefitted to the extent that an exemption from the liquor tax would confer." It is a pity that it can't be done and we do not understand why the arrangement should be considered impossible. Doctors are entitled to prescribe liquor for their patients to be supplied by druggists, and if doctors and druggists can be trusted why not artists and scientists?

REPORTS received at the United States Treasury Department in Washington show that there is a great rush to take whiskey out of bond at the old rate of 90 cents a gallon, before the new tax of \$1.10 per gallon becomes operative. At most of the large distilleries, whiskey in bond had previously been gaged, ready upon payment of the tax to be withdrawn. A conservative estimate placed the amount

of whiskey in bond at 60,000,000 gallons. The average monthly consumption of whiskey in the United States is between 8,000,000 and 9,000,000 gallons. Since the increased tax on whiskey was first put into the Tariff Bill the receipts from internal revenue have largely increased. So far, in the current fiscal year, one month and a half, the receipts have aggregated \$33,795,000, against \$30,872,000 for the corresponding period last year. For this month they are \$1,000,000 ahead of the same period of last year. It is estimated that the total receipts from internal revenue for August will foot up \$23,000,000 because of the rush to withdraw whiskey.

UNIQUE AMONG ANNUAL EXHIBITIONS.

On Monday week the Toronto Industrial Exhibition will open, and every point to an unusually large influx of visitors from all parts, and a rich harvest for Toronto hotel-keepers and merchants. The entries are larger in number, and better in quality than ever before, and every foot of space in the buildings will be occupied. The display of horses and livestock generally will also be very full. The programme of special attractions presents a great diversity of entertainments, appealing to the tastes of all classes of amusement-seekers. The cheap excursions organized in connection with nearly every important railway in the Northern States will bring over a large contingent of Americans. Everybody who possibly can ought to see the fair this year. It is unique among annual exhibitions—regularly held fair on the continent presenting anything like as large and well arranged a display or so many spectacular features.

E. C. CAMP, of Buffalo, has purchased the 4-year-old pacing gelding *Impulse*, 2:13, by Baron Wilkes, dam by Star more, for \$2,000 from J. T. Hodges.

The Meander horse, *Pamlico*, in his heat race at Terre Haute, defeated the lay gelding *Azote*. The fastest heat was the fourth, which was done by *Azote* in 2:09.

The great \$5,000 purse at Terre Haute, on Thursday, was gathered in by Joe Patchen, who was compelled, by Kasten, to lower his record from 2:09 to 2:06.

It is reported that Sally Simmons, by Simmons, the mare who won the 25th trot at Buffalo, has been sold to Ed. Deereham for \$67,500. Deereham has also purchased David, 2:12, the horse who will be trained by Geo. Starr.

At Butte, Mont., last week, Robbie P., owned by Ed. Pyle, of Syracuse, Neb., lowered the world's record for horse-drawn by breeder, from 2:13, held by Nelson, to 2:12. The State record for two-year-olds was lowered from 2:35 to 2:29, by Dr. De, owned by T. R. Thompson, of Missoula, Mont.

FAMOUS ENOUGH TO BE HOSE.

Jinks (on the rail)—"I was talking with an eminent physician, in the smoker."

Mrs. Jinks—"What is his name?"

"He did not mention it, and I did not like to ask."

"Then why do you think he is an eminent physician?"

"I said that what was the best cure for consumption, and he said he did not know."