

them. But to show the utter ridiculousness of such a claim. I think Fredricton, N.B., was one of the places where such a claim was made. There are at least twenty liquor sellers in Fredericton. Each must sell in a day to make a living, say fifty drinks—this is a very low estimate. That would mean 1,000 infractions of the law. Can one conceive of 1,000 thefts in Fredericton in one day and 1,000 the next and 1,000 the next. Why such a condition could only exist under complete anarchy and the utter break down of civilization. Take Iowa's 6,000 liquor dealers selling fifty times a day; 300,000 thefts a day—could absurdity go farther?

Under this head reference might be made to smuggling and illicit distillation. The enormous amount of liquor-smuggling up the St. Lawrence has compelled the Government to go to the expense of practically fitting out warships to defend their revenue. If this would occur with practically unlimited sale of liquor in the country, what may be expected under a prohibitive law? As to illicit distillation, there is no limit to the possibilities if occasion required. I could make a still for \$2.50 that will turn out several gallons of alcohol daily, and under Prohibition, if it were attempted to be enforced, the imagination can hardly conceive of the amount of illicit distillation that would ensue.

### GENERAL INFORMATION.

“All other information bearing upon the question of Prohibition.” Under this heading we can properly discuss the employment of men with reference to the question frequently asked by the Commission, “Do employees waste much time through drink?” I do not think that as a rule any class of employees waste much time because the man who would waste much time would soon have nothing to waste but time, for he would very quickly find himself out of employment. In factories where I have had experience, as well as in sawmills, flouring-mills, foundries and works of that nature, generally speaking, the men lose practically no time through the use of liquor. I know men, moderate drinkers, who have worked for thirty years in one establishment and never lost an hour through this cause, and I know hundreds of working-men who are moderate drinkers and never lose time. In a printing-office there is some loss of time occasionally by those who are engaged in “piece” work; but I will say this—that I have known printers to lose much more time going to baseball matches than I ever knew them to lose through indulgence in drink.

“Does moderation lead to excess?” I think this is very seldom the case, except where excess follows moderation almost immediately. Frequently as time goes on somewhat heavy drinkers become more moderate—in fact, this is almost the invariable rule. There are to my knowledge now comparatively few moderate drinkers who are habitual drinkers.

With reference to Sunday closing and the other prohibitive clauses of the license law, reasonable restrictions must be welcomed by all and are not distasteful to the liquor-dealers themselves. But it must be borne in mind that people will have what they want, and where infractions of the Sunday-closing law, or other prohibitive features of the license law, are found, it is because of the fact that a portion of the community desire to be served contrary to the provisions of the law. That is the reason why some places observe Sunday-closing better than others. For example, take Omaha and St. Paul or take Toronto and Montreal. Sunday closing, except where the people are favorable to it, is by no means a success, and upon this point I beg to lay before the Commission a report upon the Welsh Sunday Closing Act, which will be found profitable reading. It demonstrates that in Wales Sunday-closing led to unmitigated evils, instead of doing good as was anticipated.