

The first great problem that greets most people on landing in Canada or America is the question of what to drink?

The price of wine is prohibitive; especially in hotels. Many people cannot live on water alone; moreover it is always a difficult matter to ensure a supply of good water, whilst the habit of drinking iced water constantly is most injurious. The Canadians seem to settle the matter by drinking tea at every meal, and must suffer much from indigestion in consequence. Bass's pale ale at a shilling a pint is not always satisfactory, and in any case many people are unable to drink beer twice or even once a day. Otherwise there is generally good "Lager" to be had, notably the Milwaukie and St. Louis brews. This costs about sevenpence halfpenny a pint at the hotels. I have found some Californian wines at three or four shillings the bottle, which are drinkable, and seem to be the pure juice of the peculiar flavoured grape of that country. Dry Catawba has been my most successful venture so far; but Diana is also fairly good; not unlike ginger wine in flavour. Still the drinking question is a very difficult one on this side the Atlantic, and the votaries of the Blue Ribbon are to be envied here if they do not fall victims to bad water.