

is so treated, surely the offence of selling intoxicating drinks as a beverage—one which causes more wide spread crime and misery than all the others—should not be excepted.

Finally, I would repeat the substance of the conclusions at which I have arrived after long investigation and reflection on this subject. The traffic in intoxicating drinks, to be used as a beverage, is not one that should be licensed at all.

It is one which should be curtailed and hindered by law as far, and effectually as, public opinion will from time to time permit, until the community shall be sufficiently enlightened to authorize its entire suppression.

If licensed at all, in the meantime, the regulations should be precise and stringent, and the law strictly enforced. It is not mercy to the trafficker to relax the law in his favour. The greatest mercy to him and his family would be to drive him out of it into some more respectable and moral calling.

And such relaxation is great cruelty to the public.

JOHN DOUGALL.

Montreal, 5th March, 1849.