

Liquor Traffic—Ontario.

12653a. What is the advantage of having a small number of licenses instead of a large number?—When there is a large number, I think it is made too accessible. With the smaller number it is made a little difficult to obtain, and if a man really wants it badly, he will go a distance to get it. But if it is thrown at him at every corner, he will probably step in, at first perhaps out of social feeling, and he may continue until he gets too much.

12654a. You think, then, providing facilities for the sale, increases the sale and use?—Yes, I think so.

12655a. And you think it is well?—That it should be limited.

12656a. And that, I suppose, is based on the belief that too free use is not good?—Yes.

12657a. I have heard that some physicians somewhere have said that the difference between men and the other animals is that man likes a stimulant, and takes it, and that our present civilization is attributable to the fact that stimulants are so freely used?—I do not think so.

By Judge McDonald:

12658a. You say that a temperate man would have the best chance of recovery from a severe illness. What do you mean by a temperate person?—Will you allow me to answer that by quoting a celebrated temperance lecturer, Mr. Gough. He says some one comes to him and says, "I am a temperate man." "What do you mean by that?" "Oh, I do not take a glass of wine or spirits once a week." Another man comes and he says, "I am a temperate man." "What do you mean by that?" "I take a glass or two of beer at dinner, and a glass at night." Another says, "I am a temperate man, I take ten or twelve horns a day." It is very difficult to say what is a temperate man.

12659a. Which do you think is the temperate man? You said a temperate man would have a better chance of recovery?—One whose system is not injured by the abuse of alcohol.

12660a. Do you mean a total abstainer?—Oh, no. I think there are some who would be decidedly benefited by a glass of beer—sour, dyspeptic persons who are unsocial and crabbed.

By Rev. Dr. McLeod:

12661a. Have you noticed that some persons are made unsocial and crabbed by the use of beer?—By the abuse, not by the use.

12662a. Do you think, in case of accident, one of temperate habits has a better chance than a drinking man?—Oh, yes. I can give another illustration of what I have been saying from my life insurance experience. The question is always put, "Are you a temperate man?" The answer is, "Oh, yes." But the value of the answer depends on the doctor.

12663a. What is the rule of the insurance companies in regard to the drinking habits of their applicants?—For instance, a man who sells liquor, a bartender, or a manufacturer of liquor is only taken on short endowments.

12664a. Why?—Because their lives are not so good.

12665a. Why not?—Because they use drink to excess, and they have more temptation. They are drinking all the time.

12666a. Suppose the bar-room keeper is a total abstainer?—Even so, we say the temptation is too great.

12667a. Although he is a total abstainer, the company is a little careful about taking him?—Yes.

12668a. Is it because the character of the business is supposed to endanger his life?—Yes.

12669a. I suppose that the insurance companies taking that course do it on pure business principles rather than on moral considerations?—Yes, entirely.