

12501a. What class?—I am now quoting the statement of the leading organ of the prohibitionists in Canada, the *Canada Citizen*, in which it was said that it was not their object to make the trade respectable, that they did not wish to see it go into the hands of respectable people. If that is the case with regard to a trade which may become dangerous in the hands of men who will try to force men to drink, there must undoubtedly great evils result. But in all those countries where the seller is tolerably certain of his license, where he has not been harrassed by vexatious and meddling petty legislation, as a rule they will not push for sales.

12502a. What do you regard as vexatious and meddling petty legislation in connection with the liquor traffic?—Cutting off a number of licenses without the slightest regard for the trade; making the business extremely precarious; in some instances also, I might say making the trade political.

12503a. You think there are some instances in which the trade as carried on does not induce men to use liquor?—Yes. There are men in the trade who would be a disgrace in any trade.

12504a. Are the instances of that kind more or less than those of the other kind?—I would not like to give statistics, but I know there are a large number of men whom I should like to see wiped out of the business.

12505a. In Toronto as well as elsewhere?—Not so much in Toronto, because I think in general our hotel-keepers here are good citizens and well intentioned men.

12506a. Still, in Toronto you think the license law is not as judiciously administered as it might be?—It is impossible to make it perfect, but on the whole it is fairly satisfactory.

12507a. Would you make any changes in the regulations governing the liquor traffic?—What regulations I would make, and would simply offer as suggestions, would be in the direction of encouraging the manufacture of wine in Ontario, for which, so far as light wines are concerned, there is not a better climate in the world. I would also suggest the use of very much lighter malt liquors than are at present manufactured. The trade here, even in regard to lagers, incline too much to heaviness. As I said some time previously, there is scarcely any difference, so far as the alcoholic and other constituents are concerned, between lager and other beers. In the United States and Germany the lager rarely runs over one and a-half per cent of alcohol, and is a very much better beverage than that which we get here under the name of lager. I would try to get those lighter liquors substituted as far as possible consistently with the health and habits of the people, by legislation favouring their use; not making them too expensive; for instance, not putting too heavy a tax on malt or rice or any other substance that could be and would be used for the manufacture of fermented liquors, and throwing the tax more heavily on distilled liquors, although it would be unwise to make even those too expensive. I do not know even whether it would be wise to force the price of whisky up to ten cents a glass. There are a large class of persons to whom whisky well diluted is exceedingly beneficial. Then, I would back such a law up with an Adulteration Act similar to the Adulteration Act in use in London, England, where the constables or any person having control of the trade can go into any public house and take samples for analysis. We have in Canada an Adulteration Act, but the cases of inspection are few and far between. There is nothing like a systematic examination of liquors. I would not allow any general saloons, that is, places for nothing but drinking purposes.

12508a. Do you believe that there are many such places in Toronto?—There are saloon licenses—I do not know how many now.

12509a. You think they are objectionable?—They are not generally objectionable but they have that feature about them, that men simply go there to drink.

12510a. You believe then in legislation that discriminates somewhat?—Discriminatory legislation, and as I said, the substitution of tables. That, however, I believe is gradually coming about. I do not know whether it would be well to hasten it by means of legislation or otherwise.

12511a. Do you remember a little while ago, in Boston they passed a law which made a man sit down to take his drink?—I do not think it would be very wise to push it. You cannot push these things. Legislation is simply a matter of compromise.

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