

## Liquor Traffic—Ontario.

make this city as sober a city as there is in the world ; and as for the Ontario farmers, I have been a good deal among them, and they are a sober class of men.

12373a. Is the average Ontario farmer a beer drinking man ?—They do drink beer.

12374a. Quite generally ?—I think there are a great many abstainers among them ; but still as a rule they drink their beer. For instance, when we are taking in barley, perhaps from forty to sixty loads a day, while the farmers are waiting, if it is a cold day, we offer them a glass of beer. A great many say they never take it ; a great many hem and haw, and say, " Well, it is a cold day ; perhaps I will take a glass of beer ; " and they take a glass, but they won't take more.

12375a. Is the beer likely to have a warming effect like whisky, or is it merely a drink ?—I should suppose that if a man who has been up from two or three o'clock in the morning, and has driven twenty or thirty miles, gets a glass of beer, it will warm him.

12376a. I think, perhaps, you misapprehend my former question ; it was not about the importance or right of legislating men into sobriety, but as to whether you think the increase in the use of your product will bring about a decrease in the consumption of whisky, and so promote temperance ?—That is a very hard question to answer.

12377a. Then you have not observed whether the increased consumption of beer has been met by a corresponding decrease in the consumption of whisky ?—When you look at the large number of breweries established all over the country, and the fewer distilleries in proportion, I think you must be satisfied that the consumption of beer has been increased in a very much larger ratio than that of whisky.

12378a. You spoke about the license law and its restrictions ; you approve of the restrictions of the present license law ?—I think the license law as it stands to-day is a very good one.

12379a. Do you think there are too many or too few licensed places in Toronto ?—I do not think that there are too many. In Montreal I fancy that they have three times as many licensed places as we have here.

THE CHAIRMAN.—They have nearly four times as many.

*By Rev. Dr. McLeod :*

12380a. They have a thousand places in Montreal, and the chief officer says he is not surprised to hear it stated that there are three or four thousand unlicensed places ?—That is very likely. I lived a good many years in Lower Canada, and I know that the French-Canadians drink a good deal of beer. In the old times they drank high-wines diluted with water to a great extent, but now they drink more beer.

12381a. There are about four hundred and fifty places in Toronto licensed as taverns or hotels ; do you know whether the majority of them are really hotels, or whether they are simply for the sale of liquor ?—I should think the majority of these would be for the sale of liquor.

12382a. And that they simply comply with the constitutions of the law for the sake of getting a license to sell liquor ?—Yes.

12383a. Do you know whether there is much illicit sale in Toronto ?—I cannot say. I have no knowledge of my own ; I only know from hearsay, and I have no doubt there are such places.

12384a. Do you know anything about the observance of the law by the licensees ?—I think they are very strict, both in the town and country. I can give you an example. I was out shooting last week, and on Saturday night I got back to the hotel where I was stopping, wet through, and asked the hotel-keeper for a little brandy and water. He said he could not give me a drop until Monday morning, and he did not. He could have given it with perfect safety, for I have been going to this hotel for twenty years, but he would not.

*By Mr. Gigault :*

12385a. About what is the value of your establishment and plant ?—About \$300,000.