

neuroses. Hence, in the course of time these people lose their tolerance for alcohol and blame the whisky. Of course I here speak of standard whisky and not a fabrication.

All the evidence goes to show that there is a vast amount of fabricated or spurious whisky in the market. Every considerable centre of population has its dark cellars supplied with the materials for carrying on this vile traffic. It says but little for our laws that a business so life-destroying and iniquitous, can be carried on without let or hindrance. Everybody knows that "forty-rod" whisky is extensively sold and consumed, but who has ever heard of any one being punished for the crime? The main object is cheapness. To accomplish this the quantity of alcohol must be small, but the stuff must be capable of producing some kind of intoxication or frenzy. To make up for the lack of alcohol, substances of less value are supplied. That briefly is forty-rod whisky, and we cannot always be sure we are not imposed upon. Not long since I heard an Irishman describe it as follows: "It is nather fit for man or baste; it has nather oats, barley nor whate; it is made of pure combustibles." It is but proper to add here that no respectable public house dispenses "forty-rod" to its guests. I presume it is mostly consumed in catch-penny way-side places, and in the low groggeries of the large towns and cities.

While on the article of whisky, it is worth remarking, that it is the only liquor made whose alcoholic strength is known definitely. The distillers turn it out of uniform strength. The hydrometer here is unerring. After the cask leaves the warehouse, and is out of bond, all confidence is at an end. Medical men should see that their druggist gets his whisky in bond, rather than from the cellar of a liquor dealer. Standard whisky is too strong and pungent for use without dilution. It is the custom of public houses to dilute it by adding one gallon of water to three gallons of whisky. For use as a mere beverage, the article would be improved by continuing this process *ad infinitum*.

The Scotch and Irish whiskys are made just like our own. They buy American corn-made alcohol; "fix it up," and re-ship it to us, handsomely labelled, and we are fools enough to

pay a high price for the fraud! These people find it more convenient and cheaper to import alcohol instead of corn, from which nearly all American alcohol is now made. Verily, had the poet Burns lived in these days of sharp practices, the world would never have heard of Sir John Barleycorn.

Having discovered beyond all cavil and question, the *new* way in distillation and whisky-making, we have the key which unlocks the main secrets of the liquor making business.

Brandy one dollar, to one dollar and fifty cents per bottle; good (!) port wine about the same. Let us see. The books say it takes from five to ten gallons of wine to make one of brandy. What, and selling for about the same price? That is what they say. Nothing more need be said. The Hennessy and Martel brands are frauds; so is all brandy sold at so slight an advance on wine. It is not, and cannot be real brandy, as claimed. High price is no proof of genuineness, it is true. Marking up the price to inspire confidence is a common trick of the trade. But a low price in this case carries with it the clear evidence of deception. This much, however, can be said in extenuation, that the deception which leads to the payment of an unnecessarily high price, constitutes the major part of the crime. It is dishonest to label a thing that which it is not, under any circumstances. Let the whole truth be widely known, and imported brandy will gradually be discovered. We know well, that there is not a bottle of old-fashioned brandy made. Now what is it? It is a solution of alcohol, stronger than whisky, with added ingredients to give it taste and boquet, as nearly as may be to genuine brandy. That is all. Some years ago the Dominion Government ordered an investigation. Brandy was purchased at different points and submitted to Professor Croft for analysis. All the samples proved to be about equal. Once some sample *known* to be fabricated was found to be as good as the French brandys. This proved of course, what must have been known before, namely; that the French brandys themselves were fabrications. What is to hinder, let me ask, a Canadian constructing as good a formula as a Frenchman? The French produce a large quantity of alcohol from the beet root. They