

Liquor Traffic—Ontario.

12613a. To a great extent?—I do not know that I would say to a great extent.

12614a. Have you had any experience of the working of a prohibitory law?—I have been in Scott Act counties.

12615a. Name some of them?—Halton.

12616a. What has been your experience?—It was rather comical. Some few years ago I was summoned to attend a court in one of the villages of Halton. I arrived there at about ten in the morning, with some gentlemen from Toronto. We had to walk two or three miles to the court-house. On the way we met several people who were intoxicated, among them some young men. I went to the court, stayed there all day until five or six in the evening. Coming home we met some more, and to my surprise, young gentlemen by their dress and appearance, in the same condition. I made the remark to some friends with me, "That is enough to make a man a Scottite." They said, "Where do you suppose you are? This is a Scott Act county, the famous Halton, and this is the second term of its existence." I saw more drunkenness there than I had seen in Toronto. I had no idea it was a Scott Act place.

12617a. Do you remember the section of Halton in which you were?—Milton.

12618a. And it was in and about Milton that you saw this state of things?—Between the railway depot and the court-house. It was the worst place I think I ever saw, and I had no idea it was a Scott Act county.

12619a. I may state to you that we have had evidence before us to the effect that in the County of Halton, while the Scott Act was in force, the assessed value of property increased, that a man who went on a wager from one end of the county to the other to get liquor was unable to get it until he succeeded in obtaining a doctor's certificate stating that he required it for medical purposes, that the only vacant house in the town of Milton was the county jail, and that everything was prosperous. Others have told us, among them the chief constable of Milton, that drunkenness increased while the Act was in force, that liquor could be easily obtained, and that many low places for the sale of liquor sprang up. From what you saw, which of these statements would you believe?—I believe the latter statement. The amount of drunkenness was shocking; and it was among young, respectable looking gentlemen.

12620a. In case of the enactment of a prohibitory law, would you deem it right that brewers and distillers should be remunerated for plant and machinery rendered useless?—That is a very difficult question to answer. They have invested a lot of money in their business, and the law has legalized it, rightly or wrongly, and I do not think they should be deprived of all their investments without some compensation. I do not know how it is to be done.

By Rev. Dr. McLeod :

12621a. What is the lack in the Canadian wine?—It is not palatable, in the first place. I think it is flat.

12622a. Does it not take the place of ordinary wine?—No, I do not think so.

12623a. Has the use of alcoholic stimulants by your profession decreased within your recollection?—It is hard to answer that. I believe that medical men along with others are more temperate.

12624a. I mean in prescribing it?—That depends upon the medical man himself entirely. The more scientific they become, the more guarded they are. Formerly a great deal was done by hap-hazard experience; we now try to base our practice on science.

12625a. You think the prescription of alcohol has diminished, then?—The indiscriminate use of it has diminished to a certain extent.

12626a. You attribute that to the fact that the profession is better equipped—that medical men are more cautious?—Better educated.

12627a. Therefore they prescribe alcohol more cautiously?—They prescribe it more cautiously.

12628a. Do you think it necessary as a beverage?—We are told it is the milk of old age.

12629a. You believe that?—I do.

12630a. Do you think it better that in all cases it should be used when prescribed by a physician?—I think as a dietetic substance it is useful.