

Liquor Traffic—Ontario.

use to the physician in charge. So the statement could not be made that no alcohol was used. It was not served out as an ordinary dietary allowance ; neither was it in the Ashantee campaign.

12489a. Do you know as a matter of fact whether the physicians allowed the men to have alcohol ?—I believe so.

12490a. I have here a public school book on " Physiology and Temperance," authorized by the Education Department for use in the schools, in which, at page 104, there is a paragraph which reads as follows : " Lord Wolseley, on his Red River expedition, did not allow spirits to his men, although they had to work hard, and were sometimes wet through for days together." Is that a correct statement ?—That is correct as far as the dietary allowance was concerned. The giving of alcohol was limited to the physicians.

12491a. Is it correct to say that the men were not allowed spirits ?—Yes, that is correct.

By Rev. Dr. MacLeod :

12492a. Without controverting your theories, Professor Richardson, for that is not our business, I would ask do you think the liquor traffic, as established, is necessary in order to such use as you think is warranted ?—Speaking broadly, yes.

12493a. Do you think the liquor traffic, as established, promotes the health of the people ?—I do undoubtedly.

12494a. And as carried on ?—Not altogether. I would have to qualify, because there are evils incident to all trades, and it is almost impossible to frame legislation in such a way as to completely eradicate those evils. We have, as practical men, to face those evils and reduce them to the lowest possible limit. If, however, you come down at one fell swoop and wipe out the whole use* of alcohol for beverage purposes, and therefore for food purposes, you practically have to wipe out its use for medicinal purposes, for who is to say, even the most careful physician, where disease begins and health ends. If, therefore, we were to wipe out alcohol, we would wipe out one of the greatest blessings conferred on humanity. I have been in the purlieus of London and those of the continent ; I have been in those of Glasgow, where you will see the evils of intemperance perhaps at their worst ; I have been in the salt market of Liverpool ; and taking into consideration, as an honest man, all the evils I have seen of the excessive use of alcohol, I must still say as a scientist that its average use is a benefit to the human race.

12495a. Then are we to understand that you believe that the liquor traffic, as established, promotes the health of the people ?—Broadly speaking, yes. There are very many of the customs that I should like to see modified. For instance, instead of the perpendicular bar drinking, I should like to see the continental system of tables adopted.

12496a. Is there any difference in the effects on the man between perpendicular drinking and the other ?—It is not that ; it is the number of drinks taken. Then, the liquor is taken down at one gulp. Even beer is not taken as the Germans take it, allowing a considerable time to pass between the sips. Men sitting at a table will spend a considerable time in conversation even when consuming spirits, and liquor drunk in that way has not the same effect on the coat of the stomach as it has when it is taken down at a gulp. There is a marked distinction.

12497a. Do you think the liquor trade as established and carried on promotes the prosperity of the people ?—Just in the same way as the boot trade, the butcher trade or any other. I believe it provides one of our daily needs.

12498a. You put them in the same category ?—I put them in the same category.

12499a. Do you think the liquor trade as carried on promotes the morals of the people ?—When used in moderation, yes, just in the same way that marriage promotes the morality of a people, while promiscuous intercourse does not.

12500a. Does the liquor trade as carried on encourage what you regard as the moderate use of liquors ?—In some instances, no. I am afraid that owing to the efforts of many of our citizens the trade is sometimes put into the hands of not the best class of people. In fact, it is the avowed object of one class of our citizens to make the trade disreputable.