

Three National Drink Bills!

What the Liquor Traffic costs the United States, Great Britain and Canada Every Year!
\$1,527,000,000!

TWICE AS MUCH AS FOR BREAD!

The diagrams given here hardly need any explanation. They present the truth regarding the liquor traffic with far more force than could be done by words. The three which are placed side by side represent respectively the expenditures of Canada, Great Britain and the United States, arranged according to the size of their respective bills. Canada with a population of four and a half millions comes first, Great Britain with a population of thirty-five millions comes next, and the United States with a population of forty-five millions comes last. These three diagrams, Nos. 1, 2 and 3, are all drawn on the same scale for purposes of comparison.

CANADA'S LIQUOR BILL, compared with various other large items of the expenditure of the Canadian people, based on the Census of 1881 and Government Blue Books, and compiled by Toronto Globe.

SCALE.—Each perpendicular inch represents \$200,000,000.

No. 1.

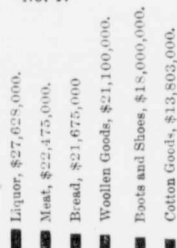


Diagram No. 4 is drawn upon a larger scale to show more accurately and more fully Canada's expenditure upon intoxicating liquors as compared with her expenditure upon other things.

THE NATION'S DRINK BILL FOR 1883.

(To the Editor of the Times)

SIR,—The publication of the Excise Returns for 1883 enables us to ascertain the amount of the nation's expenditure upon intoxicating liquors during the year. The following table gives particulars of this expenditure. I also append the figures for 1882:—

	1883.	1882.
British spirits, 28-713,997 gals., at 20s. 6d.	£28,713,997	£28,554,264
Foreign spirits, 8,235,738 gals., at 24s. 6d.	9,882,885	9,950,425
Wine, 11,382,983 gals., at 18s. 9d.	12,944,085	12,988,154
Beer, 965,809,410 gals., at 1s. 6d.	72,435,768	73,258,516
British wines etc. estimated 15,000,000 gals., at 2s. 0d.	1,500,000	1,500,000
Totals	£125,477,275	£126,251,359

Comparing the figures for 1883 with those for 1882, your readers will note that there has been a decrease in the expenditure of £771,084. In 1882 there was a decrease from 1881 of 823,101; so that the two years, in this respect, run very close together. When we consider the enormous efforts which have been put forth, and the almost universal opinion which exists in favor of temperance, there

DIAGRAM, comparing the average Annual Expenditure of the United Kingdom on Intoxicating Liquors, with some other principal items of expenditure based on the figures of Mr. Hoyle.

AVERAGE of ten years, 1874-83.

SCALE.—Each perpendicular inch represents \$200,000,000.

No. 2.

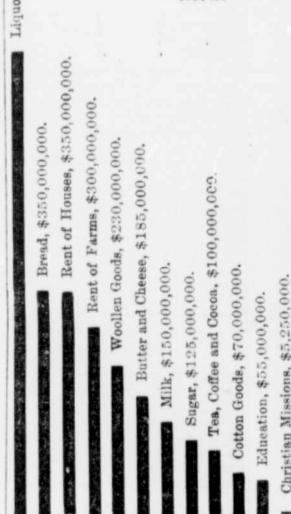


Diagram No. 5 shows the average expenditure for each person in the United States, Great Britain and Canada for purposes of comparison. In Canada liquor is cheaper than in either of the other two

will be in many minds a feeling of disappointment that the decrease has not been greater.

At the present time the public mind is deeply moved in regard to matters affecting the social well being of the people. The questions of the housing of our poor, of overwork in schools, of the safety of our sailors, of the unimproved population, of the neglected children of our slums, together with other similar questions, are all creating an amount of interest which augurs well for the nation's future. Every one knows that there is nothing which exercises such a beneficial influence upon the social habits of the people as our habits in regard to the use of intoxicating liquors; and it would betray indifference to the discussions which are going on if, in presenting the drink bill, I did not make some reference to the facts which illustrate its influence upon the social life of the nation.

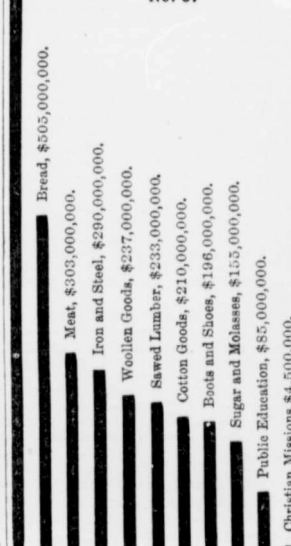
In presenting a few of these facts I will take the year 1860 and compare the facts of that year with those of 1882. I take 1860 because, first of all, the complete returns of crime were not published until a year or two before that date; and, secondly, because that year was a year when facilities for drinking were multiplied, and it was the beginning of a greatly increased consumption of intoxicating liquors in this country. We have the gradual rise in the consumption of intoxicating liquors, and along with it a faller record of its results.

In 1860, with a population of 28,775,000, the expenditure of the United Kingdom upon intoxicating liquors was £85,270,870. Year

DIAGRAM, comparing the Annual Expenditure in the United States for Intoxicating Liquors, with various other of the largest items of expenditure based on the figures of the Christian Union.

SCALE.—Each perpendicular inch represents \$200,000,000.

No. 3.



by year the expenditure rose until in 1876 it reached the enormous sum of £147,288,750. Thus, while our population had only grown 15 percent, our drink bill had grown 72 percent. Between 1876 and 1880 the drink bill receded from £147,000,000 to £122,000,000. This was largely owing to the great depression in trade, and to some extent it was also due to the vigorous efforts of temperance reformers. In 1881 the drink bill rose again to £127,000,000, since which year, as we have seen, it has fallen to the extent of about three quarters of a million sterling per annum.

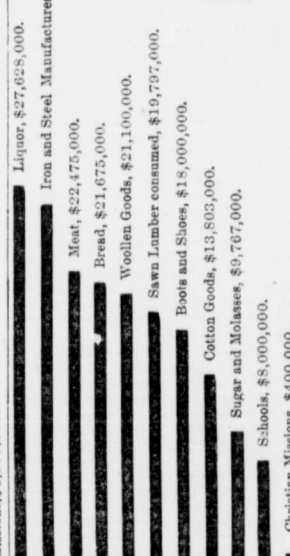
From a comparison of the judicial statistics for the year 1860, with those for 1882, I find that the total convictions for crimes which came before the magistrates in 1860 were 255,803, while in 1882 they numbered 575,593, being more than double. The population in the meantime having only grown about 23 percent. I am aware that the returns for 1882 contained some offences which had no existence in 1860, notably those connected with the Elementary Education Act; but most of these offences spring from, and are attributable to, the intemperance of our people. Having myself been for several years chairman of the school attendance committee in the Barry Union, I know that were it not for the intemperance of parents there would be very few children brought up for neglecting to attend school.

But it will be obvious to every one, and we shall be able to institute a fair comparison, if we take cognizance of such crimes only as were alike recognized by the law in 1860 and in 1882. The following table, copied from the judicial statistics for each year, supplies such a comparison:—

CANADA'S LIQUOR BILL, compared with various other large items of the expenditure of the Canadian people, based on the Census of 1881 and Government Blue Books, compiled by the Toronto Globe.

SCALE.—Each perpendicular inch represents \$10,000,000.

No. 4.



COMPARATIVE EXPENDITURE per head on liquor in Canada, Great Britain and United States, based on same authorities as other diagrams.

No. 5.

Canada,	\$6.33 per head.
Great Britain and Ireland,	\$17.64 per head.
United States,	\$18 per head.

Table showing the number of convictions before magistrates for various offences in each of the years 1860 and 1882:—

	1860.	1882.
Cases of drunkenness	88,341	189,697
Cases of assault	86,444	87,407
Indictable offences against the person	1,802	2,635
Deserting, or neglecting to support family	3,450	7,515
Larceny or theft	37,377	51,773
Prostitution	6,694	10,160
Burgling	7,545	20,493
Having no visible means of subsistence	3,090	6,576
Malevolently destroying fruit trees &c.	14,877	20,764
Offences punishable as misdemeanors	8,344	13,877
Offence under the Vagrant Act.	6,160	15,451
Total	261,770	426,349

The reader will see that the above table deals with a class of offences which, perhaps more than any other, indicates the demoralized condition of the population socially, as resulting from intemperance, and it will be seen that, despite all the educational, religious, and moral agencies which have been at work, this class of offences has increased on the average 62 percent, the population in the meantime having only grown 22 percent.

The following facts, which are taken from the Government returns, may be given as supplementary and confirmatory of those already given:—

1. In 1860 the number of persons committed to prison in England and Wales was 116,282, while in 1882 they numbered 189,221.