

Liquor Traffic—Ontario.

12417a. Supposing that the experiment with the egg were made with ale as ordinarily drunk?—It would have no effect whatever. It does not coagulate. It is only very strong alcohol that does so.

12418a. Have you seen the experiment tried?—I have done it myself.

12419a. Is the alcohol used pure alcohol or whisky?—I saw it performed in a pulpit in the County of Peterborough by, I think, Mr. Spence. It is a favourite experiment. On that occasion, from appearances, I judged the liquor used to be a very strong alcohol—either whisky or gin.

12420a. Ale would not have the effect?—No, unless some kind of bitters were used in the preparation, in which case small quantities would be precipitated by the tannin of the bitters.

12421a. Would lager beer be still less likely than ale to produce the effect?—Yes, for the reason that most of these liquors are clarified with isinglass.

12422a. Speaking of ale and beer, do they have different effects on different constitutions?—Undoubtedly. There are some people to whose constitutions beer is almost poisonous. At one time beer was a favorite drink of my own; but I cannot touch it now, especially the stronger ales. I can take a glass or two of light lager in a day very comfortably, but the hops seem to have a very deleterious effect on me.

12423a. Taking the general run of people, what would be the case in regard to beer?—Taking the average, I believe light fermented beers are of great value.

12424a. In regard to light clarets what do you say?—Clarets are wholly innocuous. They are a safe drink for the vast majority, even for delicate children.

12425a. How is it in regard to Canadian wines?—If you get a properly fermented wine, without any addition of sugar, it is extremely beneficial; but I am sorry to say that either large quantities of extraneous alcohol or large percentages of sugar are added. They are really not unsophisticated wines. Practically, in hotel bars it is very difficult to get a sound light wine.

12426a. Have you tested the wines as made at the vineyards by the grape growers who control the wine-making industry?—Yes. In very many instances I have found that there has been an addition of extraneous spirit. I am speaking now after having a complete analysis, and I know that it is to a considerable extent the custom in some of the large vineyards to add alcohol.

12427a. What is the object?—They have the idea it will keep better. But if the wine has been properly made and matured, there should be no necessity for it. Take the common Canadian wine of Pelee Island, the Catawba. I think you may safely put it down that not more than ten or fifteen per cent of the wine sold as Catawba is really Catawba. It is largely made up from other grapes than the Catawba. It is generally fermented apart from the skins, and a considerable quantity of silent spirit is added, which is the rectified spirit.

12428a. Do you know the wine called Saint Augustin?—No.

12429a. It is said that Dr. Richardson, who is the great authority quoted by many people on the subject of alcohol, has said that two ounces is a moderate quantity of alcohol. In taking claret or beer, what quantity of either of those would have to be drunk in order to take two ounces of alcohol?—In claret there is about twelve per cent of alcohol, so that it would be necessary to take a couple of pints in order to get two ounces of alcohol.

12430a. Which is the strongest kind of ale used?—The Scotch ale.

12431a. What percentage of alcohol does it contain?—Between seven and eight per cent.

12432a. What percentage is contained in the ordinary ale, such as is made in this city?—Between four and five per cent. It varies considerably.

12433a. Is that calculated upon a strength of fifty per cent?—No, that is absolute alcohol.

12434a. What is the case with lager beer?—The lager beer is very nearly the same. The only difference is a difference of fermentation.

12435a. In order to take the two ounces of alcohol spoken of by Dr. Richardson, how much lager would have to be consumed?—About a couple of pints. The effect of alcohol in the beer, however, is not the same as in the wine. A lady, who you would