

the great and abounding cause of a large share of all the crimes committed in every civilized country on the face of the globe.

Our own Board of State Charities, in their Annual Report for the year 1866, speaking of the criminals who had been confined in the prisons of the commonwealth during that year, use the following language :—

“The nativity of 3,007 prisoners, or a little more than one-fourth, was in Massachusetts, but the number whose parents were both Americans was but 2,589, considerably less than one-fourth. 7,343 or about *two-thirds*, are set down as intemperate; *but this number is known to be too small*. Probably more than eighty per cent. come within this class. *Intemperance being the chief occasion of crime as it is of Pauperism* and (in less degrees) of insanity.

Judge Sanger called by the petitioners, and who as Judge and District Attorney, has been for many years familiar with the criminal courts of the commonwealth, and especially in the county of Suffolk, was asked if he had any opinion whether the burden of taxation had increased by the present drinking usages? To which he answered: “I have no doubt that it is largely.”

“How much would it be in your opinion in this commonwealth?”

“I could not give the percentage. I think a large portion of the criminal costs of the commonwealth are from that cause. *There are very few cases into which the use of intoxicating liquors does not more or less enter.*”

The Hon. Mr. Evans, a member of the Executive Council, made a most valuable statement before the Committee upon the subject now under consideration, of which the following is a summary :—

For support of inmates of twenty institutions for town paupers, and for prisoners annually.....	\$1,500,000 00
Ten per cent. upon cost of construction of twenty Institutions	236,072 00
Ten per cent. upon valuation of town almshouses....	172,598 00
Ten per cent. on costs of prisons and houses of correction	150,000 00
Five per cent. on costs of court houses, (allowing half the use to be for other purposes than those connected with the administration of criminal law.....	45,000 00
Private organized charities.....	1,000,000 00
Private unorganized charities, (estimated).....	1,000,000 00
Criminal costs above receipts or fines.....	133,000 00

Total..... \$4,237,000 00