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Mercantile Summary.

DECISIONS IN COMMERCIAL LAW

The selling of liquor to Indians and minors is not only against the law, but is a particularly mean and reprehensible offense. The other day, the Toronto Court of Appeal gave judgment in the now celebrated case of the Queen against Murdock. The latter was convicted of selling liquor on the Brantford Indian reserve and sentenced to six months' imprisonment. He appealed to quash the conviction, and Mr. Justice Street, before whom the appeal came, decided that the punishment did not fit the crime, and increased the sentence to nine months. Murdock appealed to the Court of Appeal, and on Friday last that court approved of Mr. Justice Street's action. The case is the first in Canada in which a sentence has been increased on an appeal to quash it.

Another conviction of a like kind was given at Regina, N.W.T., at about the same time. Magistrates LeJeun and Trant, on June 29th, convicted James Flynn, of Hamilton, Ont., working on the C.P.R. track, of supplying bottles of liquor to Indians, and sentenced him to three months' hard labor, a fine of \$50, and in default another three months. The liquor was seized and destroyed.

PROFANE SWEARING IN PUBLIC.

Years ago, people in the States used to sneer at Boston because she fined her citizens for swearing in public places, for smoking on certain streets, etc. But anyone who has had experience of the frightful profanity of American large cities will be disposed to thank Boston for trying to stop it. In Montreal, last week, in pronouncing sentence upon Elie Thibault, who was found guilty of swearing and using blasphemous language on Harmony street, His Honor, Mr. Recorder Weir made the following remarks on the prevalence of the swearing habit in many quarters: "Profanity," said His Honor, "is a terrible abuse of the wonderful gift of speech; blasphemy is even worse. The light way in which the names of God, our Saviour and the Virgin, are constantly being used in the streets is matter for serious concern. The court will address itself to the correction of this evil by inflicting serious punishment." He condemned Thibault to eight days' imprisonment, a fine of \$10 or one other month in jail.

It is stated that American ship-yards on the Great Lakes are busy. They have work enough to keep them going at their full capacity until cold weather calls a halt. This work is mostly on contracts placed some months ago, before the great advance in prices of material occurred. There is no indication that any contracts for new work will be placed at once; ship owners will wait till iron prices go down.

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