

12478a. Have you had any experience of the working of a prohibitory law in any part of Canada?—I have observed the effects of the Scott Act in Ontario.

12479a. In what county?—In the counties of Peterborough, Halton and Ontario.

12480a. How did you find things in the County of Peterborough?—There were spasmodic efforts at enforcement there. In the town of Peterborough it would be sometimes a little difficult for a stranger to get liquor. To those who were known, however, it was not. In that town there was a man appointed as a Scott Act Magistrate under the provisions of the Act; I think his name was Dumble. He was, I believe, the secretary or president of the Scott Act Association, a man of very bitter feelings, and he was continually bringing up the liquor sellers. But even with all the resources he had at his command, and in spite of his living in the town itself, there was no difficulty in any resident obtaining liquor; and the result was disastrous, because it was simply breeding a number of sneaks.

12481a. What was your experience in the County of Ontario?—The same.

12482a. In what part of Ontario?—Oshawa and Whitby. In Oshawa, as in Peterborough, there were spasmodic efforts to enforce the Act, and I was led to believe that the periods of its enforcement were even worse in their effects on the community than the periods in which open sale practically went on. When there was open sale men did not go out of their way to get liquor, or carry it about with them. In Peterborough, Oshawa, Whitby and dozens of other towns and villages that I could cite, energetic attempts at stringently enforcing the law simply resulted in men carrying liquor about with them wherever they went. On one occasion, when I was at the town of Milton in the County of Halton, two Methodist evangelists were holding meetings in the Methodist church there. At that time statements had been made in Toronto and elsewhere that the Act was stringently enforced, and that alcohol could not be obtained in any form, in the town of Milton. At that very time several youths got bottles of liquor, and went into the gallery of the Methodist church during one of the meetings and got drunk and created a great uproar. They locked the door so that they could not be got at, and for a time the place was a pandemonium.

12483a. Do you know this personally as a fact?—I was not in the church, but I was in the town of Milton at the time. It was commonly current on the street, and was published in the Milton Champion, and I have not been able to find any contradiction of it. At any rate, drunkenness was prevalent. The worst feature was the youthful depravity; boys seemed to think it was a manly thing to get a bottle of whisky and go out to the fields and get drunk. In one instance three or four youths, all under fifteen, got a couple of bottles of whisky, and took some girl with them and made her drunk, and there was a terrible scene of debauchery right outside of the town of Milton. These facts were published in the papers of Milton at the time.

12484a. Do you know whether the authorities of Milton tried to stop these things?—Most decidedly. They were trying to enforce the law to the utmost of their power.

12485a. Are you acquainted with the high constable there, Mr. Bradley?—No, I am not. They resorted to all measures that were practicable, under one of the most arbitrary laws that ever disgraced a Statute-book, to enforce it.

12486a. Do you yourself favour the enactment of a prohibitory law for the Dominion prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes?—No, sir. I think it would be a most unwise and unjust measure.

12487a. In case such a law were passed, would you deem it right that brewers and distillers should be remunerated for plant and machinery rendered useless?—Undoubtedly, owing to their long continuance in the business. If it was a business that had grown up in a few years and had always been looked upon as an unsafe business so far as its prospects were concerned, the case would be different.

*By the Chairman:*

12488a. Did you state in your evidence that no alcohol was allowed to the men of Lord Wolseley's force going to the Red River?—I did not say that. On the Red River expedition the matter was wholly in the hands of the physicians. In ordinary campaigns up to that time alcohol had been generally served out like all other foods, and Wolseley was one of the first, I think, in the British army to limit the suggestion of its

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