

Index and Analysis of Evidence.

WEIR, W.—*Continued.*

to people with ample means the case is different (29786-89). The community is undoubtedly poorer by the expenditure of millions on liquor (29800). Would be willing to try a plebiscite ; but would not pass a prohibitory law by a bare majority of either the House or the country ; let Parliament enact a law providing that when three-fourths of the people favour prohibition it should become law (29804-07). Brewers and distillers should receive compensation in such an event, or they should receive notice (29808). Witness did not know of any country in the world where complete prohibition exists, and in Canada it would be an experiment (29813-14). Doubtless many people opposed the Scott Act or any local Act because liquor sales were continued in the adjoining counties (29815). A strong public sentiment is essential to the success of measures dealing with the liquor traffic ; the great bulk of the French people drink liquor but not to excess ; it would be impossible to stop them drinking, particularly along the border (29816).

WILLIAMS, REV. THOMAS G., D.D., Montreal Page **418**

Is minister of the West End Methodist church, Montreal, and has resided in the city four years (25736-8) ; resided in the province of Ontario, at Pembroke, Brockville and Prescott, during the nine years previous to his residence in Montreal (25739-40). When in Prescott a license law was in force in the Counties of Leeds and Grenville (25741) ; subsequently the Scott Act was carried, but it did not come into effect until lately (25741-3) ; Scott Act in force during first portion of his residence in Brockville ; subsequently repealed and license law adopted (25744-5) ; afterwards came to Montreal where there is a license law in force (25746) ; when visiting Pembroke had an opportunity of comparing Scott Act there, with license law in other parts of Ontario (25747-8). In Pembroke and adjoining counties the Scott Act was very thoroughly enforced ; violations occurred in some outlying townships ; vigorous efforts were made by Inspectors to suppress illicit sale ; then Inspector was superseded ; law was not successfully enforced under the new officer ; temperance people were asked to nominate an inspector ; they did so, but the old inspector, an opponent of the Scott Act was re-instated, the state of affairs in Pembroke was represented to the Chief Inspector, but no improvement was made (25750) ; that Inspector is now in office under the license law (25751). Repeal of the Act in Renfrew was due to indifference of its supporters, their opinion that it had not been properly enforced, repeated statements as to its inefficiency and frequent violation, but principally to the gross ignorance of a large proportion of the voters (25754-5) ; the German vote was polled in favor of repeal (25756) ; a heavy vote was unpolled when the Act was adopted, but more energy was displayed by opponents of the Act on the poll for its repeal (25757*a*). The Scott Act produced beneficial results ; during three years in Pembroke saw only three drunken men ; is a very orderly town either under license or Scott Act ; liquor was not sold openly, but secretly ; at Egansville liquor was sold but not openly ; at Brudenelle public opinion was strongly in favor of the Act ; the Act was enforced in Renfrew ; it was better enforced there and in the county of Renfrew than was the License Act in any town or county in which he had resided (25751) ; remonstrated with the Chief Inspector as to dereliction in duty on the part of the inspector at Pembroke ; yet the Scott Act was better enforced than the license law, but this was done by private individuals (25763-70) ; cannot explain reason for repeal of Scott Act in other counties in Ontario (25771). Had had experience with local option in Huntingdon County, Quebec ; on a vote being taken, the Council decided not to grant licenses ; but three men sold deliberately until action was taken and their establishments closed (25772-4) ; the decision was arrived at on a very close vote, but as a result liquor sale was thoroughly suppressed (25775-9). Had watched the operation of the license law in Montreal ; con-