

FACTS FOR FIGHTERS.

CRIME IN CANADA.

It is practically impossible to tell how much of the great amount of crime committed is actually chargeable to the liquor traffic. Many offences such as vagrancy, assault, disturbance of the peace, and even more serious crimes, are the result of indulgence in strong drink.

In this paper was published not long since a summary of the result of a careful inquiry conducted by the Bureau of Statistics of Labor for Massachusetts into the personal history of all offenders sentenced in the County of Suffolk. This inquiry showed that after leaving out cases of drunkenness and violation of liquor laws, forty-five per cent. of the remaining crimes were fairly attributable to intemperance, and that on the whole, eight-four per cent. of the crime of the country was directly or indirectly due to strong drink.

The Canadian Dominion Statistician some time ago prepared a table showing the number of convictions for crime of all kinds in Canada for ten years ending September 30th, 1891. Taking the average per year as given by his statement, and the figures for the different criminal years since, up to September 30th, 1896 (the report for 1897 not yet being issued), we get the following result:—

Year.	Total Convictions.	Convictions for Drunkenness.
Average from '82 to '91	34,846	12,195
1892	31,907	11,415
1893	35,653	11,051
1894	30,165	11,558
1895	37,585	11,558
1896	37,278	11,295

LIQUOR CONSUMPTION.

The total amount of intoxicating liquors on which duty was collected for the year 1896-7 is shown in the following table:—

Imported ale and beer	327,216 gls.
spirits and wines	1,303,136 "
Canadian spirits	2,782,514 "
malt liquors	17,888,230 "
Total	22,394,105 "

This amount is above the average, a large quantity of spirits having been entered for consumption at the end of the year in anticipation of an increase of excise duties. The Royal Commission Report estimates the average amount consumed for the five years ending June 30th, 1893, at 21,670,749 gallons per year. The actual amount entered for consumption for each 1,000 of the population of the Dominion for the past seven years is shown in the following table taken from the Inland Revenue Report. The figures represent gallons

Year.	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Total.
1891	745	3790	111	4646
1892	701	3516	101	4318
1893	740	3485	94	4319
1894	742	3722	80	4543
1895	666	3471	90	4227
1896	623	3528	70	4221
1897	723	3469	84	4276

THE DOMINION REVENUE.

The average amount of revenue actually collected by the Dominion Government from the liquor traffickers is a little over seven millions of dollars.

The report of the Royal Commission contains a statement showing that the average amounts from all duties, and from manufacturers' licenses, for five years ending June 30th, 1893, amount to \$7,101,557.22 per year.

A careful estimate of the revenue for the year ending June 30th, 1896, on the same basis shows the amount to have been \$7,071,315.

The Finance Minister in his budget speech recently submitted a statement showing the liquor revenue for the year ending June 30th, 1897, to be \$8,230,933.43. This amount however, is not to be taken as the ordinary revenue. The Finance Minister said:—

"It will be noticed that there is an apparent increase in the consumption of spirits in 1897, but that, I think, is to be accounted for by the fact that in anticipation of the changes in the excise duties last session, very considerable quantities were entered for duty, which will probably affect the consumption

for the next year, so that the figures which show an increase, rather show an increase in mercantile operations than in actual consumption."

The annual report of the Inland Revenue Department contains a similar statement, so that we may look for an important falling off in the year now nearly closing, and the Royal Commission figures may be taken as a fair estimate of the actual average Dominion Revenue from the liquor traffic.

NUMBER OF LICENSES.

Some provinces have no official reports showing the number of liquor licenses issued, in some cases no provincial revenue being collected. The Royal Commission after careful inquiry reported that so far as they could ascertain, licenses were issued in 1891 as follows:—Nova Scotia, 106; New Brunswick, 172; Prince Edward Island, none; Quebec, 2,453; Ontario, 4,226; Manitoba, 156; Northwest Territories, 109; British Columbia 400; Total 7,064. These returns were not by any means perfect.

It is probable that a full report would have shown the number to be about 8,000. Since that time there has been a reduction in the number. In the provinces of Ontario alone, the falling off has been more than 1,000. The total number of licenses issued in the Dominion must now be less than 7,000.

In this connection the following table will be interesting. It shows the reduction that has been going on in the Province of Ontario for a number of years. Between the years quoted there have been fluctuations, the number falling considerably during the Duikin Act and Scott Act periods. In no case however, has the number of licenses at any subsequent time been greater than the number for any year below stated. For the year just closing a still further reduction has been made.

Year.	Number of Licenses issued.
1874	6,185.
1883	4,201.
1889	3,560.
1896	3,096.

CIDER.

The question to be submitted in the Plebiscite, as approved by the House of Commons, but not yet ratified by the Senate, is in the following form:—

"Are you in favor of the passing of an Act prohibiting the importation, manufacture or sale of spirits, wine, ale, beer, cider and all other alcoholic liquors for use as beverages?"

Some discussion having arisen concerning the meaning of the term "Cider," we reprint in full from the Hansard report, the explanation given by the Minister of Agriculture during the debate upon the second reading of the Plebiscite Bill:—

Mr. BERGERON. May I ask my hon. friend (Mr. Fisher) the reason why he classes cider amongst the beverages which should be avoided?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am very glad indeed to answer the question of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bergeron). Cider is included because cider is known to contain alcohol very frequently, and being an intoxicating drink it ought to be prohibited by a prohibitory law. I may say, however, that personally—and I think I am speaking for others—that the word cider put here in the list of intoxicating liquors means cider fermented. It means "cider" and not apple juice. It means cider which is in the nature of an intoxicating drink and not simply apple juice. The hon. member (Mr. Bergeron) probably understands very well the difference between grape juice and wine. Grape juice is simply the juice squeezed out of the grape; wine, is after it has passed through certain stages of fermentation and has become alcoholic. So in the same way the word "cider" means apple juice which having been treated in manufacture has become an intoxicating drink, and it does not mean apple juice simply in its raw state.

Mr. BERGERON. As my hon. friend (Mr. Fisher) says. I know something about it, but of course we are to assume that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) himself does not know. I believe my hon. friend (Mr. Fisher) is very sincere in wishing that this question in the Plebiscite should be answered "yes," but is he not frightened that when cider even is forbidden, a great many people will vote "no" instead of

"yes." When the hon. gentleman speaks of cider which is intoxicating, he no doubt refers to cider that they make in Normandy, France, which really is intoxicating, but we never had that kind of cider in this country, and the people who vote on this ballot paper are people who are accustomed to get weak cider.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Bergeron) is mistaken when he says the cider in this country is not intoxicating.

Mr. BERGERON. How do you know?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bergeron) will endorse my statement when I say that I am not in the habit of drinking intoxicating liquor, but I have frequently been tempted to drink cider by people who told me it was not an intoxicating drink, and when I was younger and more innocent I sometimes took them at their word, and tried the cider which they told me was not intoxicating.

Mr. BERGERON. What was the result?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I can assure the hon. gentleman that sometimes under such conditions and circumstances, I have felt the effects of that cider in my head, and consequently as a temperance man I consider that it is very important that such cider as that should be prohibited in this country.

Mr. TAYLOR. Then that should be explained to the voters.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I therefore think it quite right that this question should read as it is printed here:—

"Are you in favor of the passing of an Act prohibiting the importation, manufacture or sale of spirits, wine, ale, beer, cider and all other alcoholic liquors for use as a beverage?"

If the hon. member will read the question carefully he will see that cider is put in amongst certain alcoholic liquors, and that there is the qualification immediately afterwards: "and all other alcoholic liquors." This very evidently indicates that this cider which it is intended to prohibit, is the alcoholic cider which I have just described and which certainly any temperance man who values his principles must hope to see prohibited, just as much as wine. I venture to say that to-day there are wines in Canada and elsewhere which contain no more percentage of alcohol than do hard ciders or fermented ciders. Therefore I am satisfied that it is important and right that cider should be included, meaning the cider which is an intoxicating liquor.

Mr. BERGERON. That word "cider" in the question will surely make a great deal of difference in the vote.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I think, with the explanation I have given, if it is read at all or understood at all, there can be no doubt about what this cider means; and if the people understand what they are prohibiting, those who are in favor of prohibition will be quite desirous of prohibiting that as well as "all other alcoholic liquors."

IT DOES NOT PAY!

It does not pay to have fifty working men poor and ragged, to have one saloon-keeper dressed in broadcloth and flush of money.

It does not pay to have these fifty workingmen live on bone soup and half rations in order that the saloon-deeper may flourish on roast turkey and champagne.

It does not pay to have the mothers and children of twenty families dressed in rags, and starved into the semblance of emancipated scarecrows, and living in hovels, in order that the saloon-keeper's wife may dress in satin, and her children grow fat and hearty, and live in a bay-window parlor.

It does not pay to have ten smart, active and intelligent boys transformed into hoodlums and thieves, to enable one man to lead an easy life by selling them liquor.

It does not pay to give one man for a trifle, a license to sell liquor, and then spend an enormous amount on the trial of Tim McLaughlin for buying that liquor and then committing murder under its influence.

It does not pay to have one thousand homes blasted, ruined, defiled and turned into hells of disorder and misery, in order that one wholesale liquor-dealer may amass a large fortune.—Selected.

CAMPAIGN LITERATURE.

DEAR FRIEND,—

You are respectfully requested carefully examine **The Camp Fire**, a neat four-page monthly Prohibition paper, full of bright, pointed, convenient facts and arguments; containing also a valuable summary of the latest news about our cause. It is just what is needed in the plebiscite campaign to inspire workers and make votes.

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A TEMPERANCE CONGRESS.

A strong committee representing many temperance organizations, among which are the I.O.G.T., Sons of Temperance, Anti-Saloon League, W.C.T.U., Catholic Total Abettainers Union, R.T. of T., United Society of C. E., and National E.L. and many others, has issued a "call" for an International Temperance Congress to be held at Prohibition Park, Staten Island, N.Y. from July 1st to 6th inclusive. Plans will be discussed for the securing of united effort to promote total abstinence in connection with medical practice, life insurance requirements, colleges and public schools and military service, and to secure agitation on all lines that may result in advantage to the temperance cause. Every national and general organization is invited to send representatives. Full particulars may be obtained from Isaac K. Funk, Secretary, 195 Washington Park, Brooklyn, N.Y.