

THE CAMP FIRE.

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DRINK AND CRIME.

Important evidence of their intimate relationship.

AS SHOWN IN THE R. C. REPORT.

From the Camp Fire.

In the majority report of the Royal Commission and in the appendices thereto are numerous tables of figures relating to the criminal record of Canada. These tables unfortunately are not arranged so as to show the relationship between the liquor traffic and the offence of drunkenness. Calculations showing ratios of offences per thousand and per million of the population for the chief cities and the different provinces, and referring to many years, are given, but are not arranged so as to be of any value to the student of the temperance question. The following statement prepared by Mr. George Johnson, Dominion Statistician, is instructive:—

During the ten years, 1882-91, there have been recorded for the Dominion 348,460 convictions. By years these are as under:—

1882	31,305
1883	33,388
1884	29,538
1885	33,869
1886	33,874
1887	34,453
1888	37,649
1889	38,431
1890	38,540
1891	37,415

Total..... 348,460

By provinces these convictions are divided as follows:—

	10 YEARS.	ANNUAL AVERAGE
Ontario	197,549	19,754
Quebec	82,909	8,290
Nova Scotia	14,203	1,420
New Brunswick	22,840	2,284
Prince Edward Island	5,473	547
Manitoba	15,934	1,593
British Columbia	8,193	819
The Territories	1,359	135
Total	348,460	34,846

According to classes of crime these 348,460 convictions are divided as follows:—

Murder, manslaughter, and attempts at	265
Offences against females	847
Other offences against the person	47,826
Robbery with violence, burglary, house and shop breaking	2,283
Horse, cattle and sheep stealing	421
Other offences against property	30,530
Other felonies and misdemeanors	1,435
Breaches of municipal by-laws and other minor misdemeanors	142,897
Drunkenness	121,956
Total	348,460

The tables given above show the extent to which drunkenness figures as an offence in the criminal records

The majority report refers to the fact that the same person is frequently represented by different offences, but omits any mention of the vast amount of drunkenness which finds no record on police court books. Even the convictions for drunkenness as quoted, are far below the actual number of arrests for this offence. From a number of documents is compiled the following table showing the figures for arrests in the principal cities of Canada for the year 1893:

City.	Pop.	Arrests for drunkenness.	Ratio per 1,000 Population.
Halifax	30,225	762	19.42
Charlottetown	11,325	198	17.48
St. John	39,200	947	24.15
Moncton	9,145	82	8.96
Quebec	63,650	430	6.75
Sherbrooke	10,000	203	20.30
Montreal	235,000	2,440	10.38
Hull	22,500	86	6.88
Ottawa	47,850	261	5.45
Brockville	9,100	164	18.02
Peterboro	10,300	96	9.32
Kingston	20,520	322	15.69
Belleville	10,000	118	11.80
Toronto	200,000	3,644	18.22
Guelph	10,755	103	9.57
Hamilton	52,000	355	6.83
London	32,750	710	21.68
Brantford	13,340	217	16.28
St. Thomas	10,800	66	6.11
St. Catharines	9,065	88	9.70
Winnipeg	30,100	562	18.66

DRINK AS A CAUSE OF CRIME.

The absolute failure of the majority of the Commission to deal with the important question of the relationship of drunkenness to crime in general, adds the more importance to the minority report which deals with this question to some extent. Evidence of this relationship is so plentiful that it is only needful to refer to a few of the important facts that have been presented.

The connection between drunkenness and these deplorable results is forcibly set out by Felix L. Oswald, a well-informed and a thoughtful writer in the following terms:—

1. Drunkenness excites the instinct of destructiveness and thus becomes a direct cause of violence and often of wholly unprovoked assaults.
2. Inebriety clouds the perceptive faculties and thus disqualifies its victims for judging the consequences of their acts or realizing the force of dissuasive arguments.
3. Habitual intemperance weakens the influence of self-respect and almost deadens the sense of shame.
4. Intemperance tends to idleness, the parent of vice.
5. Intemperance is the chief cause of poverty, and thus indirectly of the crimes prompted by hunger and distress.
6. Alcohol tends to beget a disinclination to intellectual employment, and thus neutralizes a chief agency of reform.
7. Intemperance begets a hereditary disposition to idleness and vice.

The report of the committee of the Convocation of York, England, sets out a startling array of testimony from officials of all kinds who have to deal with crime, showing that drink is both a predisposing and an exciting cause of very much wretchedness and crime. Summing up this evidence, the report says:—

Many magistrates, governors of gaols, chaplains of gaols, and superin-

tendents of police, concur in stating that of those crimes which obtain public notice, from 85 to 90 per cent. are the direct result of drunkenness. Others declare that the chief use of the police in their districts appears to be to look after the public houses and their frequenters; whereas, in those cases where clergymen are able to rejoice in the fact that 'there is no known thief, rogue or vagabond in our parish,' they add, as a reason, that 'there is also no public house or beer shop.'

The report of the Ontario Prison Reform Commission, in 1891, says:—

Drunkenness does more than any other cause to fill the gaols, and it unquestionably does much to recruit the ranks of the criminal classes. Of the 11,983 persons committed to the gaols of the province during the year 1880 no less than 4,777 were charged with having been drunk and disorderly, and in all probability excessive use of strong drink was the chief cause of trouble in the case of 534 persons who were committed on a charge of common assault. Of the 11,587 cases disposed of in the police court of the city of Toronto 5,441 were cases of drunkenness and disorderly conduct caused by drunkenness. The proportion in the other cities, as will be seen by reference to the return published elsewhere, was about the same. The number of convictions on charges of drunkenness in the province during the year was 7,050, very nearly one third of the whole; and of the 675 prisoners in the common gaols at the close of the year a very large proportion were habitual drunkards.

HEREDITARY VICE.

One of the most serious charges made against intemperance, and fully sustained, is that it creates such conditions of heredity and environment as to make it impossible for a large proportion of children to become anything else but paupers and criminals. From birth they are handicapped by evil surroundings and tendencies that are the direct result of intemperance. There is to be found in the thirtieth annual report of the executive committee of the Prison Association of New York, an estimate that the notorious Jukes family had cost the community in seventy-five years nearly one million dollars. The history of this remarkable family is thus summed up:—

The ancestry of this family is traced to Max, a man who was a very hard drinker, and who became blind. Many of his descendants for two generations were also blind, and a multitude of them inherited his intemperance. One of the most notorious of his offspring was a woman named Margaret, of whose progeny Richard L. Dugdale writes:—"In tracing the genealogies of five hundred and forty persons who descended in seven generations from this degraded woman, and one hundred and sixty-nine who were related by marriage or cohabitation, two hundred and eighty were adult paupers and one hundred and forty were criminals and offenders of the worst sort, guilty of seven murders, theft, highway robbery and nearly every other offence known in the calendar of crime." He estimates that the cost to the public of supporting this family of drunkards, criminals and paupers was \$1,308,000.

AN EXPERT'S TESTIMONY.

Probably the most systematic and thorough investigation into the relations of drink to crime ever made was that by Hon. Carrol D. Wright, chief of the Bureau of Statistics of Labor for the State of Massachusetts, who made, between 1st September, 1879, and 1st September, 1891, a thorough investigation of the personal history of all offenders sentenced in the county of

Suffolk, including the City of Boston, for the years named, as well as the offences for which the sentences were imposed. From his report of this work and its results, the following paragraphs are taken:—

The total number of sentences for the year of our investigation, the distinctive rum offences included, was 16,877; 12,820 were directly due to rum causes, 1,221 being sentences for the various grades of drunkenness, and 69 for liquor keeping and liquor selling without licenses, etc.

Thus, for the year, the sentences for rum causes alone constitute 72 per cent. of the whole, leaving a small balance of 27 per cent. Now, to discover what was the influence of intemperance in the commission of this balance formed the object of this investigation.

We sought to compass the object of our investigation by ascertaining the connection between rum and the criminal in five directions: 1. Whether the criminal was under the influence of liquor at the time the crime was committed. 2. Whether the criminal was in liquor at the time he formed the intent to commit the crime. 3. Whether the intemperate habits of the criminal were such as to lead to a condition which induced the crime. 4. Whether the intemperate habits of others led the criminal to a condition which induced the crime. 5. What were the drinking habits of the criminal, whether total abstainer, moderate drinker or excessive drinker? And for the purpose of enabling us to make this investigation as thorough and accurate as possible, we endeavored, through our agents, to acquaint ourselves with each criminal, his history, his friends, his neighborhood, his real name and the exact name and nature of his offence; his residence, his occupation, his age and birth place.

In each of the nine courts of criminal jurisdiction in the county of Suffolk, we had an agent, paid to investigate each case that appeared in the same. It was the duty of these agents to interview each criminal separately, to hear his statements relative to the points of our enquiry; to follow the evidence offered in each case in open court; and to acquaint themselves, as far as practicable, with the circumstances connected with the past life of each criminal. The result of their several researches were transmitted at the end of each month to this office where the returns were carefully canvassed. All those which were satisfactory were filed away for future use; those which were not complete were returned with instruction that they be reinvestigated and corrected.

Mr. Wright gives the result of this thorough investigation in a series of tables that are very instructive. They are two extensive to be quoted in full, but their showing is epitomized by Mr. Wright in the following statements:—

It appears that 2,067 of the 4,008 which constitutes the 27 per cent. balance of crime—were in liquor at the time of the commission of the various offences of which they were found guilty. This number is equal to 45 per cent. of the 27 per cent. balance, or to 12 per cent. of the sum of all offences for the year; the distinctively rum offences included; that 1,918 were in liquor at the time of the formation of the criminal intent; that the intemperate habits of 1,804 were such as to induce a moral condition favorable to crime; that 821 were led to a criminal condition through the contagion of intemperance; that, of the 4,008 convictions, the total abstainers numbered 1,158, the moderate drinkers, 1,918, and the excessive drinkers, 1,317.

The above figures indicate the enormity of rum's share in the 27 per cent. balance of criminal cases in Suffolk county for the year of the investigation. They show that to the 72 per

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