

an approximate estimate by first ascertaining the quantity positively known to be used in the Dominion and then estimating whether we use our proportion of that amount. Be it remembered however that the quantities represented to the government by no means include all that is consumed in the country, nevertheless the figures which do exist tell their own sad tale.

The Dominion Government receives into the treasury as its tax on the intoxicating liquors imported into the country, or manufactured in it the immense sum of \$5,611,112.52. It would be too long a story to enquire minutely what amount of money all the liquor of which these millions are the government tax, cost the country. The duties received at the custom house from liquors imported into the country amounted to \$1,661,900.52 and the excise tax imposed on what was manufactured at home amounted to \$3,949,212. This last enormous amount was all paid in by seven distilleries six of which are in the Province of Ontario and one in Manitoba. There are two distilleries in Charlottetown but in consequence of the C. T. Act being declared in Prince County they both had to close up.

Let us pause for a moment to consider the extent of the traffic which the figures given represent. Just think of it \$5,661,112 paid into the Dominion treasury for the government tax! The duty or excise on the lower grades of liquor is more than the first cost apart from that and less on the higher grades of liquor, taking them of all kinds and grades together we are certainly within the mark when we say that the first cost was as much as the government tax. And that if we add the items of expense included in freight and insurance the liquors consumed in the Dominion must have cost the wholesale dealer at least \$12,000,000.

There are large profits in the rum business and suppose he sells at an advance of 25 per cent then he sells annually to the retail dealer for \$15,000,000. The retail dealer must have a large profit on his business for he has licences or fines to pay and sundry other expenses to meet. We are safe in saying that he has 100 per cent profit on his business, that is that he always doubles it. Any one who will look into a newspaper and note the advertised price of liquor per hogshhead and then enquire what the retail price per pint is will soon learn that our estimate is within the mark. He therefore sells for \$30,000,000, even if he measures it

out just as he gets it, this however he rarely does. A Halifax wholesale dealer informed a customer that brandy (and I suppose other kinds of liquor in a somewhat similar proportion) needs to be diluted with one gallon of pure water to four or five of brandy before it is fit to use. Increasing the quantity to this extent it requires but few figures to prove that the retail dealer must sell for \$35,000,000.

Then it is well known that a vast amount of adulteration is practised. Vast quantities of Jamaica Rum, and Scotch and Irish whiskey and French and Italian wines that are quite innocent of foreign travel or of ever being inside the walls of a distillery are retailed from many a groggery. And then the enormous extent of boundary line that girdles our widely extended dominion and the innumerable creeks and bays around our coast afford every facility for smuggling.

Besides there were seven stills seized by the government last year one of which was in Nova Scotia and no doubt there were many that escaped the official eye. We are moderate in our estimate when we say that the people of this dominion pay \$40,000,000 annually for intoxicating liquors. We are saying nothing now of the time expended in the traffic by the thousands who are engaged in the sale and manufacture of liquors, and the time lost from labor by those who drink it, and of the expense the country has when in supporting those who are beggared or demoralized by it and of the crime and misery that it everywhere brings with it.

Leaving all these items out of account even the demoralizing effect of the traffic on those who drink and the indelible infamy it stamps upon those who sell, think of the financial chain upon our resources to which we are tamely submitting! The people of this dominion pay \$40,000,000 a year for intoxicating liquors, \$10,00 for every man, woman and child. \$50, for every family! This is certainly a dark record and it is little relief to know that others are as deeply sunk in this vice as we are ourselves. According to David A. Wells commissioner of the United States treasury in the year 1870 the earnings and income of the nation amounted to on an average a trifle over \$1000 per family and the liquor bill to \$203.35 or rather more than one fifth of the average earnings of all the families of the country. In Great Britain matters are still worse. It is said by those who have made the facts and figures a study that one fourth of the