

Samuel Carsley, Chairman Association for Protection of Women and Children.—Our report says that considerably over ninety per cent. of the cases (dealt with by our Society) were caused by intemperance. We put that as the maximum, you may say nearly all the cases.

THE TRAFFIC THE CAUSE.

It seems hardly needful to offer evidence to show that these terrible evils are not only the direct outcome of intemperance, but are the fruit of the liquor traffic. Here are some sample statements:—

Convocation of the Province of York.—The multiplied facilities for obtaining drink may be regarded as the greatest conducting cause of intemperance. The returns invariably show that when these facilities are increased, drunkenness increases also; that when they are lessened, there is a corresponding diminution in intemperance; and this rule seems to operate with all the force of a natural law.

Report of the Convocation of the Province of Canterbury.—"It appears an unquestionable fact that in proportion as facilities in any shape for procuring intoxicating liquors are countenanced and afforded, the vice of intemperance and its dismal effects are increased. That this would be the case has been continually maintained by members of the community desirous of the repression of intemperance, and extensively acquainted with different phases of its workings. This conclusion the evidence before your Committee amply confirms."

Hon. George E. Foster, late Finance Minister of Canada.—No intelligent observer will, for a moment, attempt to deny that a large part of the intemperance of our people arises from the multiplied facilities for drinking which are set up and maintained by authority of our laws.

Minority Report Royal Commission.—The drink habit is specially characterized by its tendency to rapid growth when it is fostered. The liquor traffic differs from other business which simply furnishes a supply of that for which there exists a demand. The sale of liquor is generally recognized by those who have studied the subject as a cause of drinking, and as being chargeable with the drunkenness that exists and the evils that follow drunkenness.

AN AWFUL RECORD.

Hon. Sir Oliver Mowat, now Minister of Justice for Canada, stated that in his opinion "an enormous proportion probably three-fourths of the vice that prevails at the present day, of the crime with which we have to contend * * * * is owing to the foul evil of intemperance." Applying this statement to the convictions recorded by Canadian courts, averaging 34,846 per year, we reach the saddening result that fully 25,000 of these convictions are the actual result of the liquor system.

These figures are startling enough in themselves, but they only give a faint idea of the terrible evil which they represent. Behind every single conviction lies a sad tale of degradation and shame, in many cases a pitiful record of sorrow and suffering for others besides the offender. Far beyond all reach of imagination is the fearful extent of heart-break and home-wreck, and all the physical and mental woe, involved in the tragic history of so many ruined lives.

Surely the law of a Christian community should prohibit, not sanction, such a terrible evil.