

to support prohibition. These are the reasons I have for favouring state control of the traffic.

12311a. Have you read of the system in Norway and Sweden?—I have not read of it, but I know they have a system of state control there.

12312a. A part of the system is to remove from the men who sell all personal interest in the profits, to endeavour to secure as pure liquors as possible being sold, and in every way to throw about the traffic as many restrictions as possible. It is such a system as that you favour?—Yes, some such system.

12313a. In case a prohibitory law were enacted in Canada that would prevent the manufacture of intoxicating drinks; would you deem it right that brewers and distillers should be remunerated for plant and machinery rendered useless?—I do not think so, because the liquor traffic is not in my opinion a vested right. It is merely a privilege granted by the people, and if the people choose to withdraw that privilege through their government I think they have a perfect right to do so.

12314a. Is the manufacture of liquor only a privilege granted?—That is the way I look at it.

12315a. We understand that the law requires brewers and distillers to put into their works certain plant and machinery?—You could just amend that law by getting them to take it out again.

12316a. In the meantime there has been an expenditure of capital in putting these things in under the requirements of the government. I would ask whether your remark would apply to plant and machinery put in in that way, or whether you would consider it right that they should be remunerated for them?—I certainly would not give any compensation; but I would allow a little time before the law was put in force, so as to give them a chance.

12317a. Is there any other statement you would like to make yourself?—I would just like to make myself clear. I do not think the liquor is the cause of all the poverty some of our friends think. I think poverty causes a great deal of drinking. The physical and mental strain of working so many hours, and the want of sufficient backbone to stand out against the temptations, causes many men to drink. I think if we abolished poverty there would not be much trouble with the liquor traffic afterwards.

12318a. You have said that the influence of the trades organizations among the tradesmen has had the effect of improving their ideas and their life in their homes to some extent. Do you believe that as the comfort of the home increases, the temptation becomes less?—Oh, yes; I think that is so.

12319a. And that as there is improvement along that line in the conditions of the men who work, there may also be looked for an improvement in their drinking habits?—The fact of men having better homes and that shows that they are working fewer hours than they used to; and the man not having so great a strain on him gets more time for recreation and reading.

12320a. I suppose that you consider that the establishment of free libraries and reading-rooms also produces an effect in the same direction?—Yes.

*By the Chairman:*

12321a. Do you think that the provision of parks for recreation and amusement has some tendency to draw the working classes away from saloons and from intemperance?—It tends to elevate them, no doubt.

12322a. You think it is beneficial to them?—Oh, yes.

12323a. I did not ask you whether you were working in some establishment?—Yes, I work in a factory.

12324a. Not on your own account?—No.

12325a. Do you think the wives of workingmen as a rule are as well instructed in the matter of cooking and domestic duties as they might be?—I could not say about that.

12326a. Do you think the comforts of the home are greatly increased by those duties being carefully and well attended to?—I should say so.

F. C. CRIBBEN.