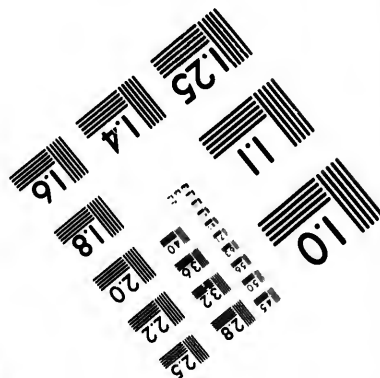
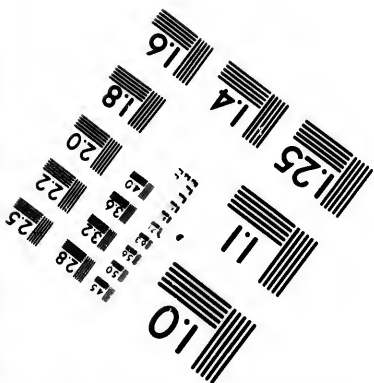
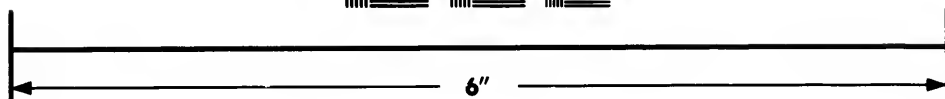
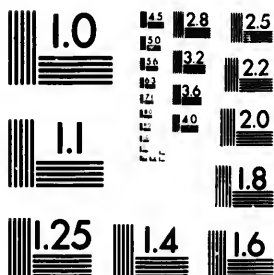


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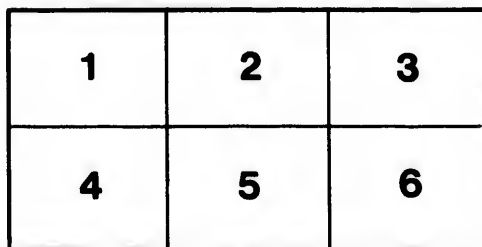
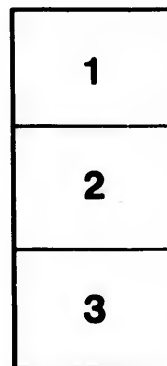
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(1859) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE POLICE OF MONTREAL

A FEW FACTS

BEARING ON THE

SOCIAL & CIVIL CHARACTER OF MONTREAL.

The Committee of the Montreal Temperance Society have frequently directed attention to Intemperance as a great cause of crime. An inspection of poor-houses, hospitals, and prisons, affords ample proof of this; and Montreal is no exception to the rule. It is the opinion of the Police Magistrate and the Recorder that almost all the cases which come before them have their origin in intemperance, and that drunkenness prevails in proportion to the facility with which intoxicating liquors can be procured. Laws have been enacted to limit the number of persons who trade in them; yet, the partial restraint has not stopped the flow of poverty, disease, and crime. For example, the Chief of Police reported that the criminal calendar of the city for 1859, contained 6881 cases, apportioned as follows:—

Tippling.....	11
Drunk.....	2793
Drunk and disorderly.....	417
Breach of the peace.....	487
Assaulting the Police.....	71
Protection.....	1853
Vagrancy.....	467
Larcenies, &c.....	782

There can be no difficulty in concluding as to the origin of very nearly all these cases.

The expense of the Police establishment (omitting Jails, Courts, hospitals, &c.) for 1859 was \$35,404; while the revenue of the city from licenses (if that can be denominated *income* which is *unpaid!*) was as under:—

From Innkeepers' licenses.....	\$10,230
do. do. <i>unpaid</i>	675
From grocers' licenses.....	2,421
	<hr/>
	\$13,326

Respecting the \$675 *unpaid*, it probably consists of the sum (\$27) which should be paid to the Corporation by each of twenty-five persons whose applications may have been granted by the License Committee, but who have not paid the dues,—selling liquor nevertheless like licensed houses! The number of licensed houses (afterwards referred to) ought therefore to be raised from 366 to 391,—the city revenue ought to have been \$675 better,—and the general Government ought to have had \$1000, which is now lost to the exchequer by defaulting publicans. More than that, there are a number of such defaulters every year! Who are they? Inquiry was made at the proper City officer about them, but he interposed a very respectful waiver.

The following are the cases tried before the Recorder in January, February, and March, of this year:—

Drunkenness, men,.....	438
do. women,.....	129
Fighting, Assaults, &c., men,.....	106
do. do. women,.....	19
Protection,.....	306
Vagrancy,.....	19
Larcenies, &c.....	214

Total, 1231

When navigation opens, and commerce crowds the wharves, the Police Magistrate's court will greatly swell the numbers. The first three months of the year are never the busiest in this department of city life. The evils to which these figures point are distributed through Montreal by license laws; and some of their provisions are as follows:—

14 & 15 Vic. cap. 100, enacts:—

Section 4. Revenue Inspectors shall issue licenses.

Sec. 5. No license shall issue until a certificate is produced, signed by fifty municipal electors, approved by the Municipal Council or Corporation, and signed by the Mayor and Secretary. [The certificate here referred to, should set forth that the applicant is "personally known to each of us, that he is a subject of Her Majesty, is honest, sober, and of good repute, and is a fit and proper person, &c."]

Sec. 6. Municipal Council "may refuse to confirm any such certificate, if they see fit so to do."

Sec. 9. Persons selling without license are liable in a penalty, of £12 10s.

Sec. 12. The keeper of every licensed place shall keep a peaceable, decent, and orderly house, shall not permit gambling in it, nor vend liquors to any intoxicated person, *nor on Sundays to any persons whomsoever*, except sick persons or travellers, "nor to any soldier, seaman, apprentice, or servant,

knowing him to be such, on any day after eight o'clock in the afternoon in summer, under a penalty of five pounds for each offence."

Sec. 21. Revenue Inspector, or Deputy, to visit and examine every licensed house at least once a year, and prosecute for offences against this Act.

Sec. 26. "License to be constantly exposed in a conspicuous place and manner."

Sec. 35. Licenses of persons convicted under the act, "or of any felony," shall be revoked.

Sec. 36. List of Licensed houses to be published once a-year or oftener.

Sec. 37. Persons convicted of giving liquor to others, who afterwards, being intoxicated, commit suicide, &c., to be adjudged guilty of a misdemeanor, and liable in fine or imprisonment.

Sec. 42. All suits under this act (except Sec. 37) to be brought in name of the Revenue Inspector.

16 Vic. cap. 214, (amendatory of the foregoing,) enacts:—

Sec. 2. The fifty municipal electors must reside in the ward for which license is asked.

Sec. 3. City Councils are required to verify the signatures attached to applications.

Sec. 4. And may require proof.

To ordinary minds, these provisions indicate a positive limitation of the traffic to such as comply with certain requirements. Those who grant licenses, must also investigate applications to secure conformity to these laws "for the repression of intemperance." In reference, however, to licenses granted by the City Council last year, little or no investigation was made respecting the signers of applications. True, the Chief of Police was required to examine and report upon a few cases, which were consequently refused, but *afterwards* granted. Then, as now, liquor-sellers' applications were hawked about for signature by persons who received from \$2.50 to \$4 for each (*including the swearing of it through, if necessary.*) In a certain instance, license was granted in one Ward, while the names on the application were evidently copied from one presented from another Ward; and this is understood not to be a solitary instance. One of the signature-solicitors employed last year to "get up" a number of applications, called on a butcher for his name, stating that he must sign *three* copies, one for the Mayor, one for the Council, and one for the Revenue Inspector; being too busy to examine, he signed thrice, but on a *fourth* being presented, he looked and saw he had been cheated into signing for so many different hotels and taverns, of the keepers of which he probably knew nothing at all! In this way houses of infamous reputation have procured license to sell liquor. The effrontery of some of the canvassers is only equalled by the baseness of the business. Last

year a member of committee of the Montreal Temperance Society was called upon, and *volens volens* the name-hunter commenced writing the gentleman's signature on four or five petitions. A few days ago, a Chief Officer in the Order of the Sons of Temperance was remonstrated with for unneighborliness, in refusing to sign an application for a man he did not know.

The applications for license from 1st of next month are now being got ready. There is one person who states he has 17 on hand, for the completion of which he will be paid \$4 each. Another individual (the carrier of a city daily newspaper) has 25, for which he expects an average of \$2,50 each; while another person (alleged to be unable either to read or write) has from 8 to 12, for which he is to get from 10s. to 12s. 6d. a piece! Had the license committee acted as the law and public morality demanded, a large number of applications would have been peremptorily rejected last year. Instead of that, the city suffers from a brood of fashionable Valhallas and miserable stews, saloons, recesses, and rum-holes, whence issue unspeakable evils as from a dread Pandora's box. Here is the illustration:—

TABLE,—*Shewing the number of licensed Inns, Taverns and Shops, in Montreal, with the population by the census of 1851, the number of municipal electors, and supposed population in 1860.*

WARDS.	INNS AND TAVERNS.	SHOPS.	POPULATION IN 1851.	SUPPOSED POPULATION IN 1860.	MUNICIPAL ELECTORS.
Centre Ward.	19	4	2004	2779	289
West "	26	7	2580	3540	361
St. Ann's "	39	20	8599	11899	1773
St. Antoine "	32	4	9940	13790	1730
St. James' "	37	7	8447	11747	1331
East "	47	17	2285	3185	374
St. Lawrence "	50	8	8268	11468	1414
St. Louis "	21	11	9012	12462	1365
St. Mary's "	24	3	6580	9130	922
	285	81	57,715	80,000	9,559

Accordingly, there are 366 places within the city limits, licensed to sell intoxicating liquors—being one for every 219 of the population, one for every 44 families, or one for every 27 municipal electors.

But there is another feature of the evil—namely, a legion of unlicensed houses where intoxicating liquors are vended—in some instances secretly, the drink only being sold to such as give a preconcerted signal or pass-word,—in others openly and fearlessly, as can be de-

monstrated by the records of the Courts! In 1857, the estimate of such places was that they were as two to one of the legalised houses. The number has rather increased than diminished. At present, 800 are believed to be the inside figures! According to this estimate the ratio is 1 to every 100 persons, or one for every 20 families, or one for every 12 electors! If the estimate of the unlicensed traffic is nearly correct, and the licensed figures are supplied from the Revenue Inspectors' books, there are 1166 places in Montreal where liquors are vended—being one for every 70 of the inhabitants, or one for every 14 families, or one for every 8 electors! Deduct several thousands of abstainers, and the figures become truly appalling. Exclusive of local preachers and city missionaries, there are in our city (of all denominations, Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational, Baptist, &c., &c.) 117 clergymen, who have each, on an average, to contend against the malign influence of *ten liquor shops or bar-rooms!*

But there is another note-worthy consideration. There are very few grocery stores in Montreal where liquors are not sold. A grocery license does not permit sale in quantities less than three half-pints—not to be drunk on the premises, yet many sell in small quantities to suit customers! Nearly all the unlicensed places are groceries or provision stores, numbers of which have been previously licensed, and some of them still have “licensed to retail spirituous liquors” over their doors!

A particular aspect of the evil which over-rides Montreal is, frequent and flagrant violations of the revenue laws. None but a person who is a subject of Her Majesty, and who “is honest, sober, and of good repute,” is supposed to be licensed. But this is almost a fiction, so far as this city is concerned. Court records will show whether some of the privileged or licensed class are not violators of a law, which they have given bonds not to infringe. There are charges entered on the Police books against 109 liquor-sellers (some of them unlicensed;) and the numbers of informations against individuals range from one upwards—nine of them having been reported 40, 42, 44, 45, 47, 49, 59, 62, and 75 times respectively, since last August—and not proceeded against! One house is reported as “never closed, and is frequented by bad characters.” An unlicensed house is thus described—“entertains disorderly persons at late hours, drinking and fighting.” Another unlicensed house is designated—“the worst place in Griffintown, the resort of thieves and prostitutes, open the

whole night." Another unlicensed place is reported to be "open almost all night." And another unlicensed den, out of which three cabmen issued on a recent *Sabbath-morning about four o'clock*, in time to find their sleighs *en route* for the Police Station,—of which it is reported, "kept open all night as a rule, from sunset to sunrise throughout the greater part of the year." The cabmen were fined by the Recorder,—but the Magistrate could not reach the keeper of the place, (there being no noise or disturbance on *that* occasion,) the power to prosecute lying with the Revenue Inspectors.

In this connection it should be mentioned that authority to prosecute under the license acts is vested exclusively in the Revenue Inspectors. At the door of the General Government, therefore, lies the heavy responsibility of allowing all this violation of law to pass unpunished. For example, by sec. 12 it is enacted that no gaming whatsoever, by which "money, or anything which can be valued in money, shall be lost or won," shall be permitted in places licensed to sell intoxicating liquors. Yet it is notorious that gambling is practiced regularly in certain licensed houses; and it is well enough understood that billiard, bagatelle, pigeon-hole, and Mississippi tables are in constant use in Montreal, in violation of a city ordinance which imposes a tax upon each of them of \$100

Worse still, are not the liquor traffic and the drinking customs, the stepping-stones to the great "social evil" that, like a cancer, is striking deep into society? There are said to be thirty common houses of prostitution in our city, kept in premises made comparatively respectable by a corporation license to sell liquor; and there are, besides, as many houses of assignation where liquors are covertly sold. Comment is not desirable, further than to say, the names of the keepers have been shown. Why, for the sake of the morals as well as the finances of the city—as also for the pecuniary welfare of Government—do not Licensing Committees and Revenue Inspectors do their duty? There may not be any consolation in the circumstance, still it may be mentioned, that immunity from prosecution is not alone a city privilege. Information from municipalities in the vicinity justify the belief, that an official inquiry would uncover a large amount of transgression winked at by officers.

There is another point to be referred to. Hon. Justice Mondelet, in his address to the Grand Jury at the opening of the recent session of the Court of Queen's Bench, (24th March) called their attention in strong language to the intimate connection between intemperance and

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crime. On the 27th the Committee of the Montreal Temperance Society sent a deputation to the Grand Jury, to produce the testimony which is the basis of this statement. They had an interview with the Foreman; documentary evidence was shown to him, and further personal testimony proffered; in reply to which he expressed entire satisfaction, and stated that special notice would be taken of the matter by the Grand Jury. He requested a paragraph to be written, to be embodied in the presentment,—which was furnished to him. The following note was subsequently received by one of the deputation:—

GRAND JURY ROOMS, 30th March, 1860.

DEAR SIR:—I beg to inform you, that the Grand Jury were not of opinion to make any presentment during the term,—not through any opposition from their part to your suggestions, which they cordially approve, but merely from want of any other topics brought before them during this sitting.

I remain, Dear Sir, yours truly,
(signed) P. LACOMBE,
Foreman.

This naive communication implies, that the subject after all does not deserve special attention—notwithstanding the cordial approval.—With becoming respect for the judgment of the gentlemen of the jury, it is nevertheless submitted that the flagrancy and extent of the evils herein set forth, demand a thorough investigation,—that but for the liquor-traffic and its attendant evils, Grand and Petit Juries would have fewer cases before them,—and that the whole subject merited presentment.

In conclusion, it may be explained, that investigations in which the Agent of the Montreal Temperance Society has been engaged have disclosed so much material for serious reflection, that a statement of but a few of the facts is all that can be offered at present. It is published for the purpose of directing the attention of the public, the members of the Corporation, and particularly the License and Health Committees, to great and growing evils,—and to enable those at whose instance the inquiry was instituted, to discharge a duty incumbent on all who have the welfare of society at heart.

SUGGESTIONS RESPECTING LICENSES.

Would it not be competent for the License Committee, with consent of the Corporation, and prior to considering applications for licenses, to determine how many hotels, taverns, saloons, shops or groceries, should be licensed for the retail sale of intoxicating liquors in each Ward of the city—taking into account the number of inhabitants, and any special necessity that may be supposed to exist?

Should not the License Committee examine, or cause to be examined minutely, every application, and especially the signatures appended thereto, and ascertain the character of each applicant, and the reputation of the house for which license is asked,—ascertain whether the signatures on the bond required by law are the names of reputable and responsible persons,—and then grant only so many as may appear to be required?

Should there be more than one licensed house for every one thousand of the population?

Under Act 19th and 20th Vic., c. 101, the Council could require all houses of "entertainment" to have a certain number of sleeping apartments, stabling accommodation, &c., for want of which there are now so many one-hole places licensed in this city.

Would it not subserve the interests of society that the committee publish, first, the names of all applicants for license, with the full designation of their premises? and, second, publish a similar list of those to whom license had been granted?

The following are altered from a statement laid before the Royal Commission on the Forbes' McKenzie Act, by the Glasgow Abstainers' Union:—

No grocer or provision dealer should be licensed to sell intoxicating liquors.

No premises having back or side doors should be licensed.

No liquor license should be granted for, or in connection with, places of public amusement.

No intoxicating liquors should be allowed to be sold on river or canal boats, or railway cars, or at railway stations, nor at fairs, races, or other public gatherings.

No property belonging to any Municipal Corporation, nor the premises of any Municipal Councillor, nor of any public officer, or of any officer under the general Government, should be licensed.

No house for the sale of intoxicating liquors should be opened before 8 o'clock, a.m., nor kept open after 8 p.m., during the week days—nor at all during the Sabbath.

Tenants or occupiers of premises where illicit traffic is carried on, and all parties found on such premises, accessory to or cognizant of illicit selling, whether purchasers of liquor or others, should be subjected to penalties as actual traffickers.

Dealers in intoxicating liquors should bear the entire expense incurred in attending to, and dealing with such cases brought before the Courts, as are known by the designations "drunk," "drunk and disorderly," &c., and all cases of accident or death traceable to their instrumentality,—besides being liable to civil suits in certain cases.

NOTE.—The facts comprising the foregoing Statement were selected from among a mass of items the result of inquiries made at the request of the Committee of the Montreal Temperance Society, by their Agent, W. J. Patterson; and they are now published and circulated under their superintendence.

