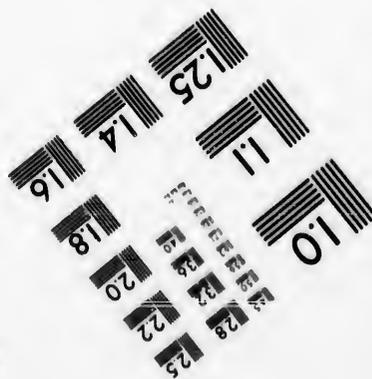
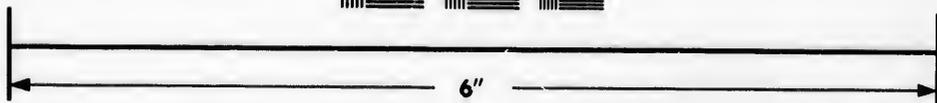
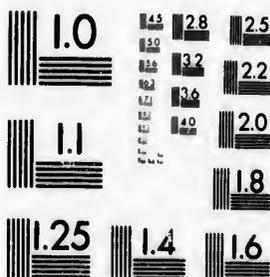


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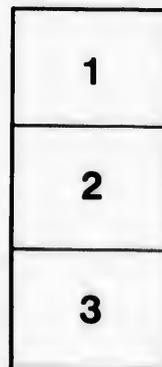
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Drink and Crime in Canada.

It would be easy to fill a volume with forcible evidence demonstrating that among the causes of vice and crime, intemperance has the foremost place. Mr. George Johnston, Dominion Statistician, has prepared the following classified statement of crimes for which convictions were made in Canada during the ten years from September 30th, 1881, to September 30th, 1891 :—

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

EXTENT OF DRUNKENNESS.

This table shows that drunkenness figures as one of the most prevalent evils with which police authorities have to deal. Even the *convictions* for drunkenness as quoted, are far below the actual number of *arrests* for this offence, the figures for convictions not including the great number of "drunks" who are arrested and discharged by the magistrates. For example the *arrests* for drunkenness in the City of Toronto alone for the ten years mentioned aggregated in number 42,665. No doubt a number of offences are committed by the same person, but on the other hand the figures show nothing of the vast amount of drunkenness which finds no record on police court books.

OTHER CRIME CAUSED BY DRINK.

The drunkenness which police officials have to deal with, is however, only a part of the crime which results directly from indulgence in strong drink, and therefore indirectly from the liquor traffic. The Report of the Committee of Convocation of York, England, sets out a startling array of testimony from officials of all kinds who have to deal with offences against the law, showing that drink is both a predisposing and an exciting cause of very much wretchedness and crime. It says :—

Many magistrates, governors of gaols, chaplains of gaols, and superintendents 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.

Probably the most systematic and thorough inquiry into the relationship of drink to crime ever made was that by Hon. Carroll D. Wright, Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of Labor for the State of Massachusetts, who made, between 1st September, 1879, and 1st September, 1880, 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.

In his report of a careful investigation of 16,877 cases, he states that after deducting the cases of drunkenness and violation of the liquor laws, he found forty-five per cent of the *remaining crimes* to be fairly attributable to intemperance, making a total of eighty-four per cent of all criminal cases due directly or indirectly to the influence of liquor.

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 11,893 persons committed to the gaols of the province during the year 1889 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 the 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 number of convictions on charges of drunkenness in the province during the year was 7,059, 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.

CHILDREN MADE CRIMINALS.

Intemperance indirectly causes a vast amount of crime by creating such conditions of heredity and environment as to make it impossible for a great many children to become anything else than paupers and criminals. They are born of intemperate parents, they grow up surrounded by sin, degradation and all kinds of inducement to vice. It is impossible to estimate how much of our crime finds its origin in this way.

WHAT CANADIAN JUDGES SAY.

It would be easy to furnish a great array of evidence regarding this relationship of drink to crime. The Royal Commission on the Liquor traffic received 161 answers from judges and magistrates to the following question:—

In your opinion, what proportion of the criminal cases which have come before you is attributable, directly or indirectly, to the use of intoxicating beverages?

The answers were classified by the Commission as follows :

Under 10 per cent	8
10 per cent. to 25 per cent.....	11
25 " 50 "	6
50 " 75 "	65
Over 75 per cent.....	15
Indefinite	53

161

It will be noticed that a large number of answers are indefinite. This no doubt means simply that the persons replying did not give their answers in percentage form, many of them, however, probably being overwhelming evidence that drink is a cause of crime.

ONE CITY'S RECORD.

As further illustrations of thousands of testimonies that might be quoted, a few are submitted confined to only one Canadian city.

The Select Committee appointed by the House of Commons in 1874 reported the following statement made by police officials in Montreal.

The Recorder of Montreal—The Clerk of the Court and two assistants, all barristers, gentlemen of mature age, perfectly competent to offer opinions on the subject of this question, are of opinion with myself that apart from the violations of statutory law and the by-laws of the city, every case tried before the court, with but very few, if indeed any exceptions, arises out of intemperance. The Clerk of the Court is of opinion that the proportion of the cases, which directly and manifestly owe their origin to intemperance is at least three-fourths; his first assistant sets the same proportion down at seven-eighths, and the second assistant at nine-tenths. My own opinion corresponds with the last estimate.

Chief of Montreal City Police.—Mostly all offences are due either directly or indirectly to intemperance. What is the cause of almost all larcenies? Drink! Of assaults? Drink! Disorderly conduct? Drink! Fights, furious driving, interference with the police, foul language, blasphemies? Drink, drink, drink! Of cowardly wife-beating? Drink! In short, intemperance is to be found as the universal direct or indirect cause of all evils.

The following extracts are from the evidence taken in 1892 by the Royal Commission on the Liquor Traffic.

Hon. Calixte A. Dugas, Police Magistrate of Montreal.—To intemperance, leaving aside the provincial criminals, I attribute eighty or ninety per cent of police court cases. Generally the people here are good, but when they are drunk they are apt to commit many offences more or less serious which they would not do if they were not drunk.

Hon. Benjamin A. D. de Montigny, Recorder of Montreal.—If I am to judge from the daily list, more than three-fourths of those cases are on account of drunkenness. As I told you, the number set down as drunkenness does not represent it all, because assaults, disorders, and furious driving and much are indirectly due to liquor. The cases of keeping disorderly houses and being inmates and frequenters of disorderly houses are mostly due to abuse of liquor.

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.

