

The Commission on 29th March, 1895, presented its final report with the evidence taken in the Provinces of Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia, the North-west Territories and the States of California, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Maine, Massachusetts, Nebraska and Illinois, remarks on the evidence, oral and documentary, and its conclusions.

The report, after remarking on the previous absence of systematized data or information, describes the status of the traffic in each province.

It proceeds to treat each clause of the commission *seriatum*.

564. *Clause 1.*—The report gives statistics of the manufacture of liquors, the farm produce consumed, the capital invested, the employment given, the wages paid, the deterioration of property expected to result from prohibition, the consumption of liquors and the public revenue derived. The evidence of the effect of prohibition on other interests is reviewed.

*Conclusions.*—“In the foregoing statements the Commissioners have endeavoured to indicate the various agricultural, commercial, industrial, financial and other business interests, and the extent of them, necessarily somewhat indefinitely, which are affected by the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors. Sufficient information has been given to show that these interests are very extensive, and that any serious interference with the traffic must necessarily depreciate the value of a large amount of property—a property, which, if the estimates made in regard to its value are to be accepted, is equal to, or, rather in excess of the capital of the whole of the chartered banks of the Dominion—and would interfere, for a time at least, to no inconsiderable extent with the general business of the country.”

565. As to the effect upon the community at large, the report gives statistics of convictions, of arrests and of the insane, with tabulated answers to questions sent to clergymen of all denominations, medical men, judges, magistrates and insurance companies.

*Conclusion.*—“The buying and selling or bartering of intoxicants for beverage purposes can hardly be said of itself to produce injurious effects. Such evils as do arise flow from the misuse of the article bought and sold. That many and grievous evils and much wretchedness and misery are caused by over indulgence in the use of intoxicants does not admit of controversy. It is impracticable to reach the number of individuals in the community who are guilty of such over-indulgence, and who thereby inflict injury upon themselves and their families, and dissipate means which might and should be applied to worthier objects. Considering, however, the repeated offences committed by those who do so offend, the proportion of them to the total population of the Dominion the undersigned believe to be comparatively small, and probably smaller in Canada than in any other country in regard to which it has been practicable to obtain information. How much of the crime, poverty and insanity of the country is to be attributed to the use of intoxicating liquors cannot be accurately determined from any information accessible to the Commissioners. In regard to crime the evidence taken is fairly unanimous that the more serious offences, such as forgery, perjury, arson, &c., are committed by those who do not over-indulge in the use of intoxicants.”