

566. *Clauses 2 and 3.*—The report deals with these subjects together. The legislation of the Dominion and the provinces, and of the effects in each of them, are described, with quotations from the evidence, and with statistics. The laws in the British Colonies and Great Britain are given in some detail. The legislation and its effects in the United States are described, and in the case of the States visited by the Commission the evidence is reviewed, especially in regard to Maine, to which much space is devoted. Information is given as to the liquor laws of other foreign countries with a full account of the Gothenburg system.

Conclusion.—"It has always to be remembered that there are other influences than legislation affecting the liquor traffic and the consumption of liquor in a community. How much of such results as may be achieved is to be attributed to these influences, and how much to the effect of legislation can never be clearly defined. The investigations of the undersigned, and the evidence taken, all lead to the conclusion that legislation aiming at restriction or lessening the trade in or consumption of liquor, if it is to be at all effective, must have the active and continued support of a very large majority of the community in which it is to be enforced. If it has not such support, experience shows that opposition will overbear the law and it will either become, in effect, inoperative and demoralizing, or it will be repealed."

567. *Clauses 4 and 5.*—These clauses are treated together. The evidence of witnesses is quoted on some points.

Conclusions.—"The advocates of prohibition in Canada aim at the entire suppression of the use of intoxicants for beverage purposes. They desire to prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale for all purposes other than sacramental, medicinal and mechanical. Some of the extreme advocates of the system would eliminate the first, that is sacramental, from the list of exemptions. The Commissioners have not been able to discover that any such sweeping system of prohibition is in force in any self-governing community. The question was put again and again to witnesses, but only to elicit the answer that they did not know of any country, state or colony where such a law was in force."*

"No where, so far as the Commission has been able to investigate, have prohibitory laws had the effect of stopping the use of alcoholic liquors as a beverage."

"In previous portions of the report comparison has been made, as far as it has been possible, of the results secured under the prohibitive system elsewhere with those which have been obtained in the Dominion under the license and local option systems that have been in force, and the conclusion arrived at by the undersigned is, that progress towards the suppression of intemperance, the curtailment of offences against the laws, and the suppression of vice generally, has been greater and more satisfactory in Canada than it has been in any of the neighbouring States similarly situated which have adopted protection."

"The undersigned have already expressed the opinion that more substantial progress has been made under the system pursued in Canada for regulating the liquor traffic than has been achieved under prohibitory legislation

*The Maine law does not prevent a private citizen from importing liquor for his own use. It was afterwards found that Pitcairn Island, with 125 inhabitants, has a prohibitory law.