

EXTRACTS BY

ROWLAND BURR,

FROM THE REPORT OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE LEGIS-

LATIVE ASSEMBLY OF CANADA,

ON THE

PROHIBITORY LIQUOR LAW.

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TORONTO:

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88 YONGE STREET.
1860.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT,

IN THE SESSION OF 1834,

RELATIVE TO AN

INQUIRY INTO THE EXTENT, CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

OF THE

PREVAILING VICE OF INTOXICATION,

EXTRACTED BY

ROWLAND BURR,

FROM THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE SAID HOUSE.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

In the Parliamentary session above mentioned, James Silk Buckingham, Esq., then one of the members for Sheffield, moved in the House for the adoption of the following resolution:—

“That a select committee be appointed to inquire into the extent, causes and consequences of the prevailing vice of intoxication among the labouring classes of the United Kingdom, in order to ascertain whether any legislative measures can be devised to prevent the further spread of so great a national evil.”

The motion was opposed by Lord Althorpe, on the part of the Government, and by several others; but on a division, after Mr. Buckingham's reply to the various objections that were urged, it was carried against the Government; the unexpected majority being received with loud cheers; and the following committee, in which almost every part of Great Britain and Ireland was represented, was appointed. [Here the names are given of the 38 members composing the committee, among whom are Mr. Buckingham, as chairman; Lord Althorpe, Chancellor of the Exchequer; Sir Robert Peel; Mr. Baring; Mr. Hawes; Alderman Wood; Serj't Lefoy; Sir Andrew Agnew, and other distinguished gentlemen.]

The list of witnesses will be found to embrace men of various ranks, professions and localities, so that their experience was gathered over an extensive range of countries and occupations; and on the evidence elicited from them after many days of patient examination, extending from the 9th of June to the

28th July, 1834, both inclusive, an elaborate Report, from which the following extracts are made, was agreed to by the Committee, which Report in full, was subsequently adopted by the House, and was ordered to be printed among its records.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT, &c.

CONSEQUENCES TO INDIVIDUAL CHARACTER.

“That the consequences of the vice of intoxication among the humbler classes, and the prevalence of intemperate habits, and pernicious customs among the middle and higher ranks, are so many and so fearful to contemplate, that it is as difficult as it is painful to enumerate even the outlines of them.

“That the following are only a few of the evils directly springing from this baneful source:

“1. Destruction of health; disease in every form and shape; premature decrepitude in the old; stunted growth and general debility and decay in the young; loss of life by paroxysms, apoplexies, drownings, burnings and accidents of various kinds; delirium tremens, (one of the most awful afflictions of humanity); paralysis, idiotey, madness and violent deaths,—as proved by numerous medical witnesses, who have made this the subject of their long and careful investigation.

“2. Destruction of mental capacity and vigor, and extinction of aptitude for learning, as well as of disposition for practising any useful art or industrious occupation.

“3. Irritation of all the worst passions of the heart,—hatred, anger, revenge, with a brutalization of disposition that breaks asunder and destroys the most endearing bonds of nature and society.

"4. Extinction of all moral and religious principle, disregard of truth, indifference to education, violation of chastity, insensibility to shame, and indescribable degradation; as proved by Clergymen, Magistrates, Overseers, Teachers, and others examined by your Committee on all these points."

CONSEQUENCES TO NATIONAL WELFARE.

"Among others, the following evil consequences may be distinctly traced:—

"1. The destruction of an immense amount of wholesome and nutritious grain given by a bountiful Providence for the food of man, which is now by distillation converted into a *poison*; the highest medical authorities examined, in great numbers before your Committee, being uniform in their testimony that ardent spirits are absolutely poisonous to the human constitution; that in no case whatever are they necessary or even useful to persons in health; that they are always, in every case, and to the smallest extent deleterious, pernicious or destructive, according to the proportions in which they may be taken into the system, so that not only is an immense amount of human food destroyed, whilst thousands are inadequately fed; but this food is destroyed in such a manner as to injure greatly the agricultural producers themselves; for whose grain, but for this perverted and mistaken use of it, there would be twice the present demand for the use of the now scantily fed people, who would then have healthy appetites to consume, and improved means to purchase nutriment for themselves and children, in grain, as well as all the other varied productions of the earth.

*

"2. The increase of pauperism in its most fearful shape, divested of that sense of shame which would disdain to receive relief, whilst honest industry could secure the humblest independence, and associated with a disregard of consequences and a recklessness of all obligations, domestic or social.

"3. The spread of crime in every shape and form, from theft, fraud, and prostitution in the young, to burnings, robberies, and more hardened offences in the old; by which the gaols and prisons, the hulks and convict transports are filled with inmates; and an enormous mass of human beings, who, under sober habits and moral training, would be sources of wealth and strength to the country are transformed, chiefly through the remote or immediate influence of intoxicating drinks, into excrescences of corruption and weakness; the population thus made criminal being like the grain, subjected to distillation, converted from a wholesome source of strength and prosperity into a poisoned issue of weakness and decay.

"4. The retardation of all improvement, inventive or industrial, civil or political, moral or religious; the hindering of education; the weakening of good example, and the creation of constant and increasing difficulties in the propagation of sound morality and the sublime truths of the Gospel, both at home and abroad, according to the testimony of teachers, pastors, and others, examined by your Committee."

REMEDIES TO BE APPLIED.

"That the remedies to be applied to the cure of evils so deeply rooted, so long established, so widely spread, and so strongly supported by selfish indulgence, ignorance, prejudice, custom and pecuniary interests, are two-fold; first, legislation; and, secondly, moral.

"That the *right* to exercise legislative interference for the correction of any evil which affects the public weal, cannot be questioned, without dissolving society into its primitive elements, and going back from the combined and co-operative state of civilization, with all its wholesome and lawfully imposed restraints, to the isolated and lawless condition of savage and solitary nature.

"That the *power* to apply correction by legislative means cannot be doubted, without supposing the sober, the intelligent, the just and the moral portion of the community unable to control the excesses of the ignorant and disorderly, which would be to declare our incapacity to maintain the first principles of government, by ensuring the public safety."

"That the *sound policy* of applying legislative power to direct, restrain or punish, as the cases may require, the vicious and contaminating propensities of the evil disposed, cannot be disputed, without invalidating the right of government to protect the innocent from the violence of the guilty; which would in effect declare all government to be useless, and all lawful authority to be without any intelligible object or end."

Among various other immediate remedies proposed in the Report, the following are recommended:—

"1. The encouragement of Temperance Societies in every town and village in the Kingdom; the only bond of association being, a voluntary engagement to abstain from the use of ardent spirits, as a customary drink, and to discourage by precept and example, all habits of intemperance in others."

"2. The diffusion of sound information as to the extensive evils produced to individuals and to the state by the use of any beverage that destroys the health, cripples the industry, and poisons the morals of its victims."

"3. The institution of every subordinate auxiliary means of promoting the reformation of all such usages, courtesies, habits and customs of the people, as lead to intemperate habits."

"4. A national system of education, which should ensure the means of instruction to all ranks and classes of the people, and which, in addition to the various branches of requisite and appropriate knowledge, should embrace, as an essential part of the instruction given by it to every child in the kingdom, accurate information as to the poisonous and invariably deleterious nature of ardent spirits as an article of diet, in any form or shape; and the inculcation of a sense of shame at the crime of voluntarily destroying or thoughtlessly obscuring that faculty of reasoning and that consciousness of responsibility which chiefly distinguished man from the brute, and which his Almighty Maker, when he created him in his own image, implanted in the human race, to cultivate, to improve, and to refine; and not to corrupt, to brutalize, and to destroy."

The following are the ultimate remedies recommended in the Report:—

"1. The absolute prohibition of the importation from any foreign country, or from our own colonies, of distilled spirits in any shape.

"2. The equally absolute prohibition of all distillation of ardent spirits from *grain*, the most important part of the food of man in our own country.

"3. The restriction of distillation from other materials, to the purposes of the arts, manufactures and medicine, and the confining the wholesale and retail dealing in such articles to chemists, druggists, and dispensariacs alone."

The Report contains the following concluding suggestions:—

"Your Committee deeply impressed with the long catalogue of evils which they have endeavoured thus briefly and faintly

to describe, and feeling the strongest and most earnest desire to lessen their number and amount, humbly venture to suggest to the House the importance of drawing the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the immediate introduction of such improvements as your Committee have recommended in the navy and the army, and in the ships employed in the merchant service; to the causing such other ameliorations to be made in this respect as can be effected by their authority, wherever that may extend; and to the public declaration of their determination to introduce early in the ensuing Session some general and comprehensive law for the progressive diminution and ultimate suppression of all the existing facilities and means of intemperance as the root and parent of almost every other vice.

"They venture still farther to recommend the most extensive circulation during the recess under the direct sanction of the Legislature, of an abstract of the evidence obtained by this inquiry in a cheap and portable volume, as was done with the Poor Law Report, to which it would form the best auxiliary; the national cost of intoxication and its consequences, being ten-fold greater in amount than that of the poor rates and pauperism itself, being indeed chiefly caused by habits of intemperance."

*To the Honorable the Legislative Council and Assembly of
Canada, in Parliament assembled.*

It will be seen, that several of the foregoing clauses of the of the said approved and adopted Report afford the most express and the highest authority in proof that the Legislature, both Imperial and Colonial, possess the *right* and the *power*, according to the principles of the English Constitution, to pass such enactments for the ultimate and entire prohibition of the manu-

facture and sale of intoxicating liquors, as ordinary beverages, as may under existing circumstances seem requisite or expedient. As it is most deplorably manifest, that all the great evils attending the sale and the use of those liquors as a beverage, are still most extensively and deeply afflicting the various communities of this Province, the special and serious attention of the members of the Provincial Parliament, and of all reflecting and well-disposed persons among us, is most earnestly and respectfully requested to the subject at large, and their influence co-operation and are especially desired in support of the applications which are being made to the said Parliament, in the present Session, for the passing of some enactments for the immediate or early prohibition of the traffic in those liquors as articles of ordinary beverage.

I certify that the aforesaid extracts are correct, and Editors generally would confer a favour on the cause of humanity by giving them an insertion.

ROWLAND BURR.

Toronto, July, 1860.

AN INCIDENT.

In these days of the "Maine Law," there are many and lamenting voices croaking out their Jeremiads over the *invasion of human rights*, which they charge upon that most just and beneficent legislation.

"May not men choose their beverage? May they not decide for themselves, the questions, 'What shall we eat, and what shall we drink? What tyranny to interdict the free exercise of these natural rights!'"

Perhaps it has not occurred to these advocates of the largest liberty that many of those for whom they offer such disinterested pleading pray no prayer with so much fervor and sincerity as this: "Save us from such friends!"

Some months since, when the adoption of the "Maine Law" was about to be submitted to the suffrages of the people in a neighboring state, I had occasion to be driven a short distance in a hired carriage, from a railroad depot in that state to a village a few miles off the track. Upon taking my seat in the carriage, I found that I had for a driver a man whom I had known, when I was a boy, as one of the young men prominent in the circles of young people as the "prince of good fellows." His appearance was very much changed from what I remembered it in those times to which my thoughts instantly carried me back. The change was not one for the better. There were manifold and manifest indications in his face, and person, and speech, that excesses at the bowl had wrought sad havoc upon him.

Said he, "I s'pose you don't remember me, though I know you."

"O, yes, I do," I replied, "though you have *altered* a good deal since I have seen you."

He seemed to feel what was implied in the change of which I spoke, and was silent for a moment; then, without any very remote transition, began again,

"I am working hard for the election."

"Well, how is it going?"

"O," said he, "I am a Whig; I always was a Whig: and I always mean to be; I go that ticket."

"What," I enquired, "Liquor bill and all?"

"Yes, *sir*! if I never was a Whig before, I would be now, to put that bill through."

Had I mistaken the character and cause of the change I had noticed in him? I looked at him again to correct or confirm my judgment. He seemed to understand the significance of the glance, and went on:

"Yes, I go for that bill. They laugh at me at the tavern there for that. They all know I love a glass of rum, and take it too. But I tell them, *I am the very man to vote for that law. If ever a poor fellow knew what such a law would be worth to him, I am that man.* I do love rum, and I do drink it, and I will have it as long as I can get it; I can't help drinking it when I see it, and I can't keep away from where it is."

The tears startled out of his eyes.

"Well," he resumed, "it will be a happy day for my wife, if ever that bill becomes a law."

"I remember her, I think."

"Well, she's been a good wife to me, and *she'll be glad when there's no more rum to be had.*"

That's one of the men whose *rights* are outraged by the "Maine Law," whose *sufferings* under the tyranny of such despotic legislation are so pathetically written about, and harangued about in rum editorials and political gatherings, whose *liberty* is so cruelly taken away by the state, and whose prerogative of self-government in the matter of strong drink is so urgently argued.

Poor, patient, sorrowful wife, the hour of her gladness has not yet chimed. The help of the law has been denied her imperiled husband. Shall we here turn back the wave of light and blessing which has rolled its bright-crested surge through the homes of our ancient commonwealth?

CANADIAN ACTION.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF CANADA ON THE PROHIBI-
TORY LIQUOR LAW IN 1859.

REPORT.

The Committee to whom were referred the Petition of Stephen H. Follett and others; praying for the enactment of a stringent Prohibitory Liquor Law, and all other petitions on the same subject presented during the present Session, beg leave to submit this their *Second Report*:—

There have been referred to your Committee, up to the date hereof, 240 petitions, signed by 108,894 individuals, 22 petitions from Municipalities, 3 petitions from temperance organizations, and 1 petition from the Canada Christian Conference; praying for the enactment of a Stringent Prohibitory Liquor Law; 2 petitions from Municipalities, praying that the use of liquors may be prohibited, except for medicinal and mechanical purposes; and 3 petitions, signed by 328 individuals, praying that the sale of Liquor may be restrained.

Your Committee have had before them several gentlemen who have long taken a deep and active interest in the extension of the cause of temperance, viz.: Messrs. Beatty (of Cobourg,) Farewell, (of Oshawa,) and Burr, (of Toronto,) whose evidence and observations accompany this Report.

Your Committee were anxious to obtain, and, through one of their number, invited the attendance of the Honorable Neal Dow, as they considered his thorough practical acquaintance

with the subject referred to them would be of signal value. Mr. Dow, however, was unable to leave his official duties for the length of time requisite for a journey to Toronto, but kindly favored your Committee with a very interesting communication on the history and working of the prohibitory system in the State of Maine, which also accompanies this Report.

Your Committee invited the attendance of the Police Magistrate and Recorder of Toronto, the Governor of the Toronto Gaol, and the Episcopal Chaplain of the Provincial Penitentiary; the evidence and remarks of these able and experienced officers also accompany this Report.

And among the evidence will be found the statements and views of two gentlemen, one of whom is largely engaged in brewing, the other in distilling. And your Committee append Returns showing the quantity of whisky and beer manufactured in Upper Canada during the year 1858; and also, the quantity of wines, liquors, and beer imported into the Province during the same year.

Your Committee forwarded a series of questions bearing upon the subjects referred to them, to the Sheriffs and Wardens of Counties; the Mayors, Recorders, and Police Magistrates of Cities; and the Chief Magistrates of Towns and Villages in Upper Canada; copies of which appear in the appendix to this Report.

Returns have been received from the Sheriffs of 28 of the 42 counties of Upper Canada, from which it appears that in the gaols under their control 15,975 persons were imprisoned during the 3 years ending with 1858; and as from the united testimony of these gentlemen more than three-fourths of the prisoners were committed for drunkenness, or for offences perpetrated while under the influence of liquor, it follows that 12,000 for the three years, or 4,000 per annum, of the entire commitments, are directly traceable to the use of liquor. By

the same returns it is shewn that in 24 of the counties intemperance is on the increase, while in 14 no increase has been observed.

From the evidence appended to this report, from the returns received by your Committee from all parts of the country,—from villages, towns and cities, as well as from the rural municipalities,—and from their own personal observation, your Committee are thoroughly convinced—

1. That indulgence in the use of intoxicating liquors is the cause of most of the suffering and sorrow, the poverty and crime, which afflict Upper Canada; and
2. That it is the duty of Parliament to mitigate, diminish, and, if possible, extirpate the cause of these evils.

Your Committee therefore recommend that an Act be passed authorizing and establishing the prohibitory system in all the municipalities in Upper Canada, wherein, in the month of July next, at a meeting of persons authorized to vote for school trustees, held for the express purpose of considering the matter, the majority of persons present at such meeting shall not vote against its taking effect within the limits of said municipality.

The whole, nevertheless, respectfully submitted.

JOHN SIMPSON,

Chairman.

Committee Room, 30th March, 1859.

JOHN BEATTY, Esquire, of Cobourg, was in attendance, and was examined as follows:

1. What do you consider the state of the public morals in reference to the use of intoxicating liquors?—My convictions are, that the prevalent use of intoxicating liquors has a most deplorable effect upon public morals, and is a principal cause of the very great majority of the crimes which so seriously affect all classes of the community. These convictions are based

upon, 1st. Personal observation forced upon me in pursuit of my profession. 2. Personal experience as Surgeon to a County Gaol for several years (at different intervals.) 3. Upon the discharge of duties for many years as a Magistrate, wherein a very large majority of the cases coming before me are directly caused by intemperance; and, I think I would not be overstating the matter by saying that nineteen-twentieths of these cases may be traced directly or indirectly to this cause. 4. The privations and suffering affecting so large a proportion of the lower classes in cities and towns are, without doubt, in my mind, vastly augmented if not directly caused by the more than wasteful expenditure of limited means, and by the thriftlessness which the habit of intemperance begets. 5. Statistics of crime published by Police authorities, records of all descriptions of Criminal Courts, testimony of public officers, presentments of Grand Juries, admission of Judges, and the history of public executions, will all confirm the truth of the convictions above expressed.

2. What remedy would you suggest for the evils now existing?—The remedy must be in some degree commensurate with the evil, and the only one which appears to present any such feature, is a stringent prohibitory law, directed against the common traffic in liquors of every form. Personally I would use every effort and influence to enforce any restrictive measure, but it would be still with the conviction that a temporary palliation was being applied to the evil, not an effectual remedy. In surgery it would be unhesitatingly condemned as malpractice to apply an emollient poultice or soothing sedative to a dangerous limb, where nothing but excision could save the life of the patient, that estimate should be formed of similar Legislative practice, for a moral and a social gangrene of the most formidable character, judge ye!

3. Do you think the public are prepared to sustain a Prohi-

bitory Liquor Law?—I think that the public in cities and towns, judging from the increase of intemperance therein, is not favorable to such a law; nevertheless I am certain that the appalling magnitude of the evil is forcing very many to look anxiously for a remedy, who were formerly adverse to anything like restrictive legislation on this subject. The rural communities, I believe are prepared to sustain such a law, and it would, in my opinion, be enforced as well as all laws of that class are. The Synods, Conferences, &c., of almost every religious denomination of the Province have pronounced in favour of, and petitioned for a prohibitory law. I believe, if time be allowed, that public opinion will be expressed by the number of petitions which will be presented to Parliament in a manner that would be deemed very significant on any other subject, whatever opinion may be entertained thereupon in reference to this.

4. What has been the effect in other countries with which you are acquainted of the passage of the Maine Law, or other laws of a restraining or prohibitory nature?—License or restraining laws have entirely failed everywhere, to afford a remedy for the ends of intemperance, indeed such laws may be said to have nourished quite as much as to have restrained the end referred to. Prohibitory laws even where partially enforced have been essentially and largely beneficial and remedial. As I am informed that the Hon. Neal Dow is expected to appear before the committee, it is quite unnecessary to enlarge on this point.

5. In what manner has the power vested in the Municipalities for prohibition and restraint been exercised, and with what effect?—This power has been exercised in but a few instances, and the attempt to do so has been almost if not quite abandoned. This has arisen from two causes: First, from the conviction of the very great difficulty which must be met with in the

attempt to enforce such a measure in one municipality when surrounded by those pursuing a contrary course. Secondly, from adverse decisions given in the Superior Courts upon cases of appeal. The decisions convinced the friends of such measures that it would be almost impossible to frame a By-law that could not be set aside. In the decision of Chief Justice Robinson, in the case of *Barclay vs. the Township of Darlington*, it appeared to be set forth that the Municipal Councils cannot by By-law prohibit the sale of liquors in Taverns. Other decisions of a similar character are to be found in the records of our Law Courts. On this point I would refer the Committee to a lengthy and instructive note by Mr. Harrison, upon section 245 of the last Municipal Act, to be found in the last edition of the Municipal Manual. Circumstances like those referred to led to the conviction, that local measures of a prohibitory character could only lead to vexation and expensive issues, and that a general law affords the only ground for hope of ultimate success.

We beseech your Honorable House to grant us such a law.
Respectfully submitted,

JOHN BEATTY, JR., M. C.

Toronto, March 10th, 1859.

A. Farewell, Esquire, of Oshawa, then gave in his evidence, which was similar to Mr. Beatty's, but too long to re-print.

Friday, 11th March, 1859.

Committee met. Members present: Mr. Simpson, Chairman, Mr. Hartman, Hon. Mr. Cameron, Mr. Playfair, Mr. A. P. Macdonald, Mr. McKellar, Mr. McDougall, and Mr. Walker Powell.

Read minutes of last meeting.

George Gurnett, Esq., and George Duggan, Esq., were in

attendance; and after deliberation it was agreed, that both witnesses should submit their evidence in writing to the Committee on Monday next.

The Committee then took into consideration the Bill from the Legislative Council, No. 82, intituled, "An Act to restrain the sale of Intoxicating Liquors from Saturday night to Monday morning," and after careful examination, it was agreed to report said Bill to the House without amendment.

Adjourned till Monday at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Statement exhibiting the whole number of Prisoners committed to Gaol in the United Counties of York and Peel for the years 1856, 1857 and 1858, and also showing those who were committed specially for drunkenness:

1856.....No. of commitments.....	1979
"for drunkenness.....	1511
1857.....No. of commitments.....	1906
"for drunkenness.....	1539
1858.....No. of commitments.....	1941
"for drunkenness.....	1482

JOHN CARLING, Esq. M.P.P. was then examined as follows:

What is your name and business?—John Carling; my business is that of a Brewer.

What number of barrels do you make annually?—About 6,000; average value \$8 each.

What number of bushels do you consume?—20,000 bushels of barley, and grown in my own neighborhood; about 8 tons of hops, grown also in Canada. Hops \$15 per hundred weight.

What amount of capital invested?—About \$40,000.

What amount in buildings \$25,000, and employ 15 or 16 hands.

What would you lose if your business was prohibited?—About \$12,000 in the buildings and fixtures.

Do you employ deleterious drugs to any extent in the manufacture of beer?—Not any, and I am not aware that such drugs are used.

What is your opinion of the policy of a law prohibiting the manufacture of intoxicating liquors?—I don't think it would be carried out.

The Committee then adjourned.

ROWLAND BURR, Esquire, of Toronto, then submitted the following, in answer to the five questions of the Committee:

1st. I believe the morals of the public are greatly injured by the use of intoxicating liquors. My experience as a Justice of the Peace and Jail Commissioner for nearly 20 years, shews that 9 out of 10 of the male prisoners, and 19 out of 20 of the female prisoners, have been brought there by intoxicating liquors. I have visited the Jails from Quebec to Sandwich through the length and breadth of Canada, and I have personally examined nearly 2,000 prisoners in the Jails, of whom two-thirds were males and one-third females; they nearly all signed a petition that I presented to them for a Maine Liquor Law, many of them stating that it was their only hope of being saved from utter ruin, unless they could go where intoxicating liquors were not sold.

I examined the Jailers' books, wherein they all kept a record of the number of persons, their age, country and occupations, and their crime; also whether they were brought there by the use of intoxicating liquors. In four years there were 25,000 prisoners in the Jails, and it appears from the records that 22,000 of that number had been brought there by intoxicating liquors; and I believe, from the 2,000 whom I examined, that 24,000 out of the 25,000 would never have been there had it

not been for the Liquor Trade and License Law. I have the record now before me, kept by myself, of the Liquor Dealers of Yonge Street, for 54 years past, 100 in number, and I will mention the abstract of the record, viz:

Number of ruined drunkards in the 100 families.....	214
Loss of property once owned in real estate.....	£58,700
Number of Widows left.....	46
“ Orphans.....	235
Sudden deaths.....	44
Suicides publicly known.....	13
Number of premature deaths by drunkenness.....	203
Murders	4
Executions	3
Number of years of human life lost by drunkenness...	1,915

I have been acquainted with these 100 families, and I have kept written records of them, for the purpose of printing them, leaving out the names.

2nd. The remedy and the only remedy in human power is a Prohibitory Law.

In this opinion I am supported by the Report of the Committee of 39 of the most illustrious members of the British House of Commons recommending such a Law after sitting in Committee during three months, and taking evidence from Judges, Sheriffs, Mayors, Jailers, Magistrates, Naval and Military Officers, from all parts of England. The Report of the Committee occupies nearly 600 pages, mostly of evidence of such a black character as I never saw before.

I am also supported by the testimony of thousands of persons wishing in their sober moments to refrain, but when the liquor is within their reach, the sight, taste, or smell of it overcomes all good desires, and they are ruined.

3rd. I believe the people of Canada are prepared to sustain a Prohibitory Liquor Law. In the towns and cities there would

be difficulty and labor at first; but in the city of Toronto there is a sufficient number of Prohibitory Law men to fairly support such a Law if we had it; but it must be a strong one. If the Law is mistified and not clear, so that all could understand it, it would then fail. But give us a clear, strong, sensible Law, and I have no fear but that in 20 years the Government would be out of debt most assuredly, and not one pauper or prisoner to where there are now ten. Some years ago when there was a Bill before the House for a Maine Liquor Law, there were 180,000 persons petitioned for it, and I have no doubt that two-thirds of the householders are in favour of it now.

4th. The effect it had on the State of Maine worked well for some time, but its friends relaxed their energy, and the opponents got new men in power who repealed the law; and the liquor dealers sprang up like mushrooms. Crime and misery returned to such a fearful extent that, in about five months, the people of the State became aroused like a lion bereaved of her young, and at one sweep sent all the Members out of the House who voted for the repeal, and re-enacted the law stronger than ever; and it is now a blessing to the people of the State.

I have travelled through six States which now have the Maine Law—they are all doing well—the State of Minnesota has embodied it in the constitution on becoming a State. It is not entirely carried out in any of the States, but it is increasing, and the people are generally satisfied with it; there is no class of people so much benefitted by the law as the liquor dealers themselves. It has been ascertained to a demonstration that three-fourths of the dealers themselves were ruined by the traffic, and often their families. I visited their jails, some were without a prisoner, some had one or two; and Judges, Juries, Magistrates, Lawyers and Jailers, had little to do in those States.

5th. As to the power of the municipalities of restraining the sale of it, I reply, in answer, that the Township of York exer-

cised its full power, and would not grant licenses. The Supreme Court of Law quashed their By-law, and every man got a license that asked for it, and made the matter worse than ever. Chinguacousy, in their council, discussed the matter, and decided that, the way the law stood, they had not the power to refuse any man a license that had a certificate of certain qualifications, whatever might be their situation or standing in society. So all got licenses that asked, and had the qualification. The Township of Lobo carried it out until the decision of the Judges in the York Township case; then they threw open the flood-gates. Sarnia and Darlington were similar cases.

AMOUNT of Wine and other Intoxicating Liquors consumed
in the Province.

	£	s.	d.
The importation in the year 1855.....	250,672	1	4
Do do 1856.....	360,252	4	11
Do do 1857.....	122,380	4	11
Amount of Duty for 1855.....	85,498	7	4
Do do 1856.....	133,117	4	11
Do do 1857.....	55,436	19	7

AMOUNT of Spirits distilled in the Province.

<i>Lower Canada.</i>			<i>Upper Canada.</i>		
Year.	Stills.	Gallons.	Year.	Stills.	Gallons.
1855	6	668,694	1855	112	2,011,882
1856	6	618,766	1856	107	2,346,057
1857	14	936,824	1857	94	2,218,732

AMOUNT of Duty on Stills and Liquors.

<i>Lower Canada.</i>				<i>Upper Canada.</i>			
Year.	£	s.	d.	Year.	£	s.	d.
1854	2,836	4	6	1854	9,133	15	6
1855	3,192	3	4	1855	9,472	16	10
1856	3,658	18	8	1856	13,620	1	3
1857	9,555	2	11	1857	14,807	1	6

Total amount of Duty in the year 1857, £24,362 4s. 5d.

The annual average amount of gallons is 3,000,000.

This is more than doubled by drugs and water, and costs the consumer at least half a dollar a gallon, equal to \$3,000,000.

Imported Spirits and Wine amount to £1,000,000, and that will cost the consumer double the foreign cost.

So we may safely say that Liquor costs Canada, *Five Millions* per annum, or *Fifty Millions* in the last ten years.

The average income to the Government on the duties and Licenses on Wine and Intoxicating Liquors, is as follows:

Average duties on Imports.....	\$400,000
Cost of collecting do.....	200,000
Net proceeds.....	\$200,000
Duties on Stills and Liquors.....	100,000
Tavern and Shop Licenses in every way.....	200,000
Annual amount	\$500,000

The Government derives in ten years, 5 millions; it costs the people 50 millions, leaving a loss of 45 millions of dollars in ten years to the whole Province.

The number of bushels of grain annually used in the Distilleries, chiefly corn, is one million, equal to 10 millions in the last 10 years.

The amount of barley used in brewing, for the last 10 years, amounts to ten million bushels, and costs the Province ten millions dollars, amounting to 55 millions loss in 10 years.

Then the cost of criminal Justice is annually \$100,000, of which can be fairly set down to Liquor one-half, which amounts, in ten years, to \$500,000,—making a fair average loss of \$55,500,000 in 10 years, deducting the revenue derived from the business.

According to the table which I have kept of 100 Liquor Dealers for 50 years, the loss of human labor by drunkenness in 10 years would amount to 30,000 years, which labor, at \$200 per annum, would amount to six millions of dollars which should be added.

There are many other ways in which the Province has suffered great loss in dollars and cents, of which I have not the statistics and cannot compute.

But I have answered the 5 questions which you put to me, to the best of my ability.

(Signed)

ROWLAND BURR.

Adjourned till to-morrow.

Committee met. Members present: Mr. Simpson, Chairman, Mr. A. P. Macdonald, Mr. McKellar, Mr. Playfair, Hon. Mr. Cameron, and Mr. Walker Powell.

GEORGE GOODERHAM, Esquire, in obedience to summons from Committee, submitted the following:

1. What is your name and business?—George Gooderham, is my name.
2. How long has your firm been engaged in the distillery business?—Upwards of twenty-five years.
3. What amount of capital have you now invested?—In distilling between eighty and one hundred thousand dollars.
4. How many bushels of grain do you distil annually?—About one hundred thousand.
5. How many gallons do you make annually?—About half a million gallons at 35 per cent. under proof.
6. What is the wholesale price of whisky per gallon?—Just now twenty-seven cents.
7. Is your whisky consumed in this Province, or do you send any abroad?—Our trade extends east to Belleville, north to Collingwood, and west to London; this extent of country consumes all we make now.

††

8. If a law were passed prohibiting the manufacture of distilled liquor for use as a beverage, confining the sale to foreign purchasers and for domestic use in the arts, how would your business be affected?—It would nearly destroy our home trade, and oblige us to have recourse to exportation, which is at all times critical, and could not be prosecuted to advantage, only at particular times, and during the season of navigation.

Honorable Neal Dow's letter, and the evidence of Messrs. Farewell, the Police Magistrate, the Recorder, the Governor of the Jail of Toronto, the Chaplain of the Provincial Penitentiary, and forty-two Sheriffs of counties of Upper Canada, they, if given in full, with all the proceedings of the Committee, would make this pamphlet too large for the people to read at one sitting. But I have selected the evidence of two in favour of the law, and two against it, in full. The other evidence went to show the necessity of some stringent law being immediately enacted: it informs us on good authority that nine-tenths of all the crimes and pauperism which had afflicted the country was caused by the sale and use of intoxicating drinks; and in every state and province where a prohibitory law was in force it was found to be a great blessing to the people—and although in some instances not fully put in force, yet every where it was gaining favour. Since making the afore-said extracts I have witnessed the most distressing scenes, caused by intemperance, that ever fell to the lot of man: one was the death of a clergyman dying in delirium tremens, a man formerly in high standing; the others, two doctors, whose cases were similar. But time would fail to mention all I have seen: I can only stop to appeal to every reader's own experience.

I will mention one case of the benefit of a prohibitory law, which I ascertained in my late travels through the State of

Michigan to gain information as to the working of the Prohibitory Liquor Law. I came to a place in the interior part of the State where a great part of the people were Canadians; many of them I had been acquainted with in early life—one I recognized and said, “Well, John, what brought you here?” He replied, “I guess you know; will you stay and get dinner and I will tell you?” I did stay and get dinner with him, and his statement though sorrowful was short, and substantially as follows:—“You knew me for twenty years; I owned four good farms in Canada, all at one time, and did not owe a shilling; I worked hard, but got in the way of drinking whisky, and entered on a downward course until I became a drunkard; I lost my four farms, and did not care what I did, or whether I lived or died. We lost all our children in infancy by neglect and bad usage. You well know my uncles who lived on Yonge Street, who owned large farms, and were in the liquor trade; eleven of my uncles and cousins all lived and died drunkards. The last one of the male line spent two farms on Yonge Street in two years, worth twenty thousand dollars. I know he worked for you some time after that, and then hung himself in York (now Toronto) Jail. I said, ‘poor Blevens, you have left your young wife a widow and a pauper; I shall soon follow you.’ My young companion, Sam, soon hung himself on the limb of an apple tree in the orchard of the farm that his father gave him, and he spent. Poor fellow, he quit drink for a while, but took to it again, then hung himself. My other young companion, Dan, after a drunken spree, hung himself in his father’s chamber, both at Thornhill. One day my wife said to me, ‘O John, if you will go with me to some new place in some part of the State of Michigan, where there is no liquor, we may yet live and be comfortable. You know that I am now near my confinement, and if I have a living baby I should like to raise it; the weather is warm, and we can lie at nights

under sheds, and we can beg our way and get there; we can but die on the road, and that we shall do here if we remain.' We started and got here and are now comfortable. Here is the child, strong and healthy. A great number of our neighbors are from Canada; one returned to Canada; he was a blacksmith, and went to some one to purchase some iron, or on some other business, got some liquor and was found dead on the wharf at Port Sarnia, with two bottles containing whisky, one nearly all drank. The rest of us will stay away until they get the Prohibitory Law in Canada. If you see my poor brother Jake, who is a cripple by a waggon running over him when drunk, tell him to try and get here and he will be safe. Tell my two other poor drunken brothers, to come here if possible. If my eleven poor uncles and cousins, who fill drunkards' graves, if they had moved here they might have been living, or died as Christians. The law is not put in force all through the State, but we can put down the liquor traffic in any neighborhood. In our part of the country it is effectually done. If a man who wants liquor was known to get a bottlefull, or to get drunk, the whole neighborhood would be alarmed, and the person that dealt out the liquor would be hunted like a murderer."

Mary, the wife of John the Canadian slave, had harder times to save her infant than the slave of Uncle Tom's Cabin, that crossed the Ohio river on the floating ice to save her child. But she is now free, and a happy mother. I left them with renewed energy and a full determination to have a Prohibitory Liquor Law in Canada, or spend the remainder of my life and estate in pursuit of it.

The main points of John and Mary's narrative I know to be true. I was personally acquainted with his friends.

Yours, &c.,

ROWLAND BURR.