

March 13th

JURY BLAMES NO ONE FOR DEATH OF WOMAN UNDER ANAESTHETIC

Pathological Condition of Lungs Found to Have Been Responsible

"NO CAUSE FOR ALARM"

Satisfaction With Conditions in Toronto Expressed in Verdict

A verdict attaching blame to no one, but praising those concerned for the manner in which they carried out their work, and at the same time attributing the cause of death to the pathological condition of the lungs from which the woman suffered, was brought in by the jury early this morning, following the two-day inquest into the death of Mrs. Myrtle Rodgers.

For two hours the jury deliberated the facts of the case, and the many angles of the anaesthetic situation which were presented during the evidence by the prominent experts. At 10.15 p.m. the jury left the courtroom, and at 12.15 a.m. it returned.

The verdict read: "We find that Myrtle Rodgers came to her death in St. Michael's Hospital on Feb. 21, 1930, following an operation for acute and chronic appendicitis, death having followed owing to a pathological condition of the lungs, wherein they failed to function under the effects of anaesthesia."

REGIONAL PERMITS COME INTO EXISTENCE AS BOARD DECREES

New Regulation Told Of in Liquor Control Board Report

TOTAL SALES FOR YEAR

Announcement was made yesterday by the Ontario Liquor Control Board, through its annual report which was tabled in the Legislature, that the regional principle of purchasing liquor, while not approved of as general policy, will be henceforth applied to those persons "who really require the closest supervision of a vendor knowing all about them and their circumstances."

All permits "under suspicion," but as yet uncanceled, are to be stamped, the board intimates, so as to make them good only in the store convenient to the residence of the permittee and where the permittee is known.

Vendors' Instructions.

Vendors will be required to carry out to the letter the following board instructions:

(a) Liquor must not be sold to those who abuse it, and sales should not be made so as to render possible a continuance of drunkenness.

(b) Liquor must not be sold to those who, from the amount of their purchases and from their standing and circumstances, are likely to be supplying bootleggers.

(c) Liquor must not be sold when the financial standing of the purchaser is such that the sales must be followed by a diminution of the comforts of life in the family.

The move, as Sir Henry Drayton, Chief Commissioner, points out, is launched as "an added check on those who may offend."

"Sin of Drunkenness."

This foregoing announcement, coupled with the statement that \$55,360,569 worth of liquors was sold during the fiscal year to establish a Government Treasury profit of \$7,505,600, and the admission of the Chief Commissioner that "the sin of drunkenness is still with us and probably will remain, with the host of other crimes that

scourge humanity, just as long as human nature is what it is," supplied the feature of the annual statement.

"Permit supervision means much more than the taking of steps looking to the cancellation of permits," says the report. "It often involves a sympathetic study of the individual and the family. Mere cancellation of permits in some cases does no good, but only adds to the market of the illegal operator, and, sometimes, leads to the use of dangerous substitutes. In the many difficult cases dealt with by the chief of the permit department, the effort is always made to carry the judgment of the 'patient'—to convince that all that is said or done is solely in his interest and that of his family. Once carry that judgment and create that conviction, further troubles and excesses may be avoided. Often a return of the permit with a restriction self-imposed by the permittee himself is found to work well. In other cases, it has been found that the taking away of the permit from the husband or son, and giving it to the wife, or mother, works well, and has resulted in restoring proper conditions in the home. The problem is always a personal one, and each difficult case has to be studied in the light of its own peculiar circumstances. In many cases the department has found that a return of the permit with a limitation of purchases, governed by the size of the family, and its purchasing power, solves the problem. The problem being personal, the effectiveness of control grows with the ever-increasing knowledge the vendors have of their customers and of their habits and circumstances. A good vendor, properly understanding and conscientiously enforcing moderation and control, is made the more useful to the Province by each day's service."

Regional Permits.

"The board has given full consideration to the question of regional purchases. That question has been dealt with by a circular, addressed to the vendors and permit issuers, a portion of which, dealing with this particular feature, reads as follows:

"Consideration has been given to the adoption of so-called regional purchases. The regional permit, in effect, would mean that it would be good only at the store nearest to the domicile of the permit-holder. The advantages of such an arrangement would be that the one vendor would know all about all the purchases of those to whom he sold liquor, and so be, therefore, in a better position to exercise proper control."

"The disadvantages of such a system lie in the fact that many travel from one point in the Province to another, either on business or for pleasure, and that such a ruling would inevitably result in the carriage of much more liquor through the Province from one residence to another than is desirable. It is desirable that there should be just as little liquor in carriage as possible, and especially in automobiles."

Summer Homes.

"As the position stands today, a man in Toronto, having a summer residence in Muskoka, is not obliged to take with him in his automobile any liquor for his stay at his summer home, where he has an equal right to have liquor as he has in his city residence. Instead of carrying the liquor with him, he may now purchase liquor at the Gravenhurst or Huntsville stores, which are at the gateways of the lakes district."

"But, over and above all this, the Liquor Control Act ought to be administered without creating any unnecessary or vexatious difficulties for the public. The public have the legal right under the act to purchase liquor, and regulations ought not to be so drawn as to multiply inconveniences on the one hand and on the other invitations for infractions of the law."

"On the other hand, there would appear to be absolutely no reason why the regional principle should not be adopted in the case of those who really require the closest supervision of a vendor knowing all about them and their circumstances."

Every vendor, Chief Commissioner Drayton discloses, will be furnished with a rubber stamp reading: "Purchases are henceforth confined only to Store No. _____"

"This," says the report, "is to be stamped by the vendor on the line following the last entry, when such limitation is, in the opinion of the vendor, necessary in order that the board's instructions, as contained in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c), may be fully carried out."

Sales for Year.

Total sales for the year amounted, as previously stated, to \$55,360,569.81—an increase of 13 per cent., or \$6,364,978.62, over the fiscal year of 1928. For the purposes of comparison, the following table is included in the report:

	1928.
Domestic spirits	\$10,915,969.75
Imported spirits	18,977,367.25
Native wines	998,664.49
Imported wines	1,152,444.08
Domestic beers	16,660,675.62
Imported beers	290,470.80
	\$48,995,591.19

*Decrease.

1929.	Increase.	P.C.
\$12,043,271.33	\$1,127,301.58	10.3
20,225,232.58	1,247,865.33	6.6
2,083,953.05	1,085,288.56	108.7
1,153,891.45	1,447.37	1.3
19,621,165.10	2,960,489.48	17.8
233,056.30	*57,413.70	*19.8
\$55,360,569.81	\$6,364,978.62	13.0

According to the board figures, November and December of 1929 and January of this year show, when compared with the corresponding months a year ago, a considerable decrease in all sales, with the exception of native wines and domestic beers.

"The comparison of sales for the first half of January," reads the report, show a still greater proportionate decrease in the sale of spirits in 1930 as against 1929. The decrease amounts to \$254,163.80; and the decreases in imported wines and beers shown make a total decrease of \$258,130.20, which is almost entirely attributable to the decreased sale of spirits. As against this, however, the sale of native wine increased by \$36,097.20 and domestic beers by \$51,048.15; a total net reduction of \$170,984.85 for the half of the month, therefore, results."

"Legitimate Demands."

"It must not be thought that similar reductions will of necessity apply the year around. They will if the legitimate demand be not increased; if the tourist business remains stationary, which is not expected. The term legitimate demand for liquor is used as covering cases unaccompanied by excess."