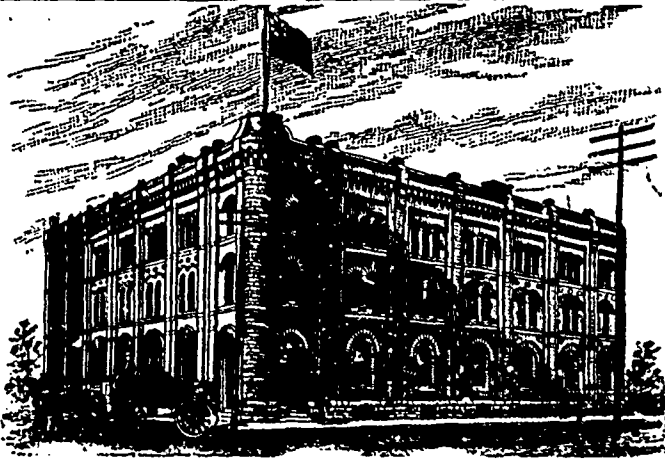


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Ontario Prohibition.

The recent defeat of the Scott Act in several counties in Ontario, almost puts an end to prohibition in that province, and shows a very marked and radical change in public opinion there since the prohibition wave of three years ago was swelling so irresistably. It should also show to many well meaning but not overly wise people the folly of trying to enforce such a law upon any community, upon a slender majority vote, secured as is invariably the case with such votes by appeals to the emotions and not the calm judgment of the people voting.

It must not, however, be assumed from these sweeping Scott Act defeats of the past two months, that a prohibitory liquor law cannot be successfully enforced in any community. Such an assumption would be the opposite extreme of folly. These defeats do indicate beyond doubt that the vote which carries a prohibitory law, must be one of a heavy majority of the community voting, and be secured during a time of popular calmness, before it can bring any lasting results. There are communities on this continent where prohibition has been made law in this deliberate and sensible manner, and in these it has been found to work as smoothly as almost any other law on the statute books. These are, however, the only communities where it has worked smoothly.

In almost every local community of a free country popular opinion oscillates backwards and forwards on all matters of public interest, and it is this same oscillation of public opinion, in connection with a country's politics, that furnishes the greatest safeguard against the masses becoming mere tools of any clique of political schemers. No doubt this oscillation is often the result of popular emotion instead of judgment, but it has its limits each way, and its good effects all the same. A vote which would make prohibition permanent, would have to carry a majority sufficiently large as to completely overstretch the limits of this oscillation, and the more calmly the community made the vote the more permanent would be the decision. But when a law is enforced upon a slender majority vote caught on the snap of

popular emotion, it will soon lose the respect of many who helped at the moment to make it law, and this is specially the case with a law, which can declare a man a criminal to-day for carrying on what was his licensed occupation the previous day.

The Peddler's License.

The question of increasing the license for peddlers doing business in the city of Winnipeg from \$10 to \$50 a year for hawkers on foot and to \$125 a year for those driving a horse or team, was to have been discussed by the City Council on Monday last, but all the spare time of the council was taken up by arguments against the increase from a deputation of Knights of Labor, who marched to the council chamber in a body with banners flying, and from representatives of the Grocers' Association in favor of the proposed increase of license fee.

The scene in the council chamber was a novel one, as the city's representatives had evidently met, not to discuss the matter, but to enjoy a public debate on the subject. They listened to a harangue from some of the representatives of the Knights of Labor, which was frequently more forcible than either logical or convincing, all of which however was patiently listened to. When the representatives of the Grocers' Association commenced their innings, there was much less display of patience. The first speaker was interrupted with hisses, groans, cat calls and other disagreeable noises, none of which his Worship the Mayor made any effort to quell, and it was only when the second speaker called for his protection that the city's official head made a half-hearted effort to call the galleries to order, which was only partially secured.

Altogether the meeting was anything but an orderly one, and made plain the inability of the Mayor to control the gathering, to such an extent as to make many of his former supporters who were present regret the support given.

The question agitating the minds of a large crowd of tax payers is, What right have depu-

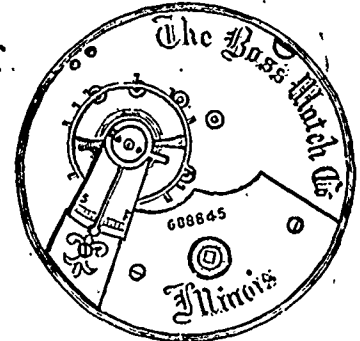
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tations of Knights of Labor, Grocer's Association or any other body of citizens to take up the time of city council meetings with speechifying. If such people have anything to lay before the council, let them do so in memorial form for the council's consideration. The arguments of Monday night were anything but instructive, and the council should so far show its sense of dignity by compelling all petitioners to confine their arguments to written memorials.

Grocery Pointers.

A new product is being introduced into the Canadian market in the shape of cotton seed lard, manufactured by the Cotton Oil Product Co. of New York. On behalf of the product it is claimed that not only is it equally nutritious and as cheap as the best refined hog lard, but that the same results can be obtained with 25 per cent. less quantity, which means a very considerable saving. It can be used for all cooking and domestic purposes, and those who have tried the article are free in their expressions of satisfaction, and have bought more.—*Gazette.*

Finnan haddies are the same as Finnan haddocks, and are prepared at Finnan, County Kincairdine, Scotland. The fish are cleaned while fresh, and, after a certain preparation, are smoked with the green branches of the fir tree, or better still, the spruce, thus communicating to the fish its peculiar odor and color. The imitation, or what one might call the adulterated, Finnan haddies, are prepared by the use of pyroligneous acid; but the genuine are always prepared by the use of the fir or spruce. The fresher they are the better. In fact, the Scotch feel they are not good after the fourth or fifth day.—*Ex.*

It was agreed by the fire, water and light committee, to recommend that Acting Chief Code be appointed permanent chief of the fire brigade and fire and building inspector. A recommendation that has the entire approval of the citizens generally.