

came before him for assaults on women, or to be discharged from bonds, but had the same story to tell, and laid all their troubles to indulgence in liquor.

Such a remark from an experienced judge is of infinitely more weight than all the asseverations of a host of interested advocates of free trade in alcoholic beverages. Nor is Judge Sinclair's testimony unique. On the contrary, it is borne out, as he asserts, by the experience of many, if not all, of the other judges and magistrates who are engaged in administering our criminal law. But for intoxicating drink there would be little criminal business at any of our assizes or sessions.

It is absurd to say that a traffic which produces such results is a legitimate traffic which must not be meddled with. Society has a right to refuse to be burdened any longer with such a pest if there is any way of getting rid of it, and the reasonable and proper determination of the decent part of the community to suppress the nuisance, by cutting its tap-root, is the secret of the recent series of Scott Act triumphs in different parts of the Dominion. Should the Scott Act fail something else will be tried, for the great bulk of the people, who make nothing by the traffic and are yet muled in heavy costs on account of it, will not readily abandon their efforts to shake society clear of the incubus.

On one point we must differ from Judge Sinclair—the wisdom of separating the shop liquor traffic from the grocery trade. He questions the expediency of doing so, while we have no doubt of it, and neither have the great majority of all who have had an opportunity of witnessing the evil effects of the unholy alliance. It has been a very efficient cause of female drunkenness, and has done much to teach children that there is no harm in drinking whiskey or even procuring it by stealth. Whatever might be said in favor of keeping the trade in the hands of "respectable" men it is notoriously true that it is largely in the hands of a class of men whom the Judge had not in his mind's eye when he made use of the term *quod*. The pleas urged on behalf of applicants for licenses are very various and often very effective with commissioners. The shortest way to deal with the evil is to root it out as much as possible, and therefore the separation between the liquor and grocery trades is in the right direction.

Judge Sinclair, in the same charge, gave the jury a sketch of the amendments made last session in the Crooks Act, of all of which, with the single exception noted, he strongly approved. By all means let us have the Crooks Act made still more stringent. If we must have a license law in parts of the Province let it be made as effective as possible. The evidence of statistics goes to show that the amount of drinking diminishes as the facilities are diminished. Lessen the number of saloons, and make the number of tavern licenses as small as possible. Each municipal council can, under the law now, virtually prohibit the traffic, and the power should be exercised.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

The smoke of the recent conflict has now about cleared away, and a clear view may be had of the situation. The first point noticeable, of course, is the fact that the Republican party is ousted from power by the Prohibitionist bolt. We are fairly warranted under the circumstances in viewing this fact from a temperance standpoint, while we consider whether or not this change is likely to benefit our cause. There is no doubt whatever that the Democratic party is even more hostile to the temperance cause than the Republican party. It was the Republican party that was disrupted by St. John's candidature. Every one concedes that Blaine owes his defeat to the secession of the Prohibitionists from the ranks of his supporters. Have then Prohibitionists acted wisely or not in organizing a third party, when by so doing they permitted their worst enemies to assume the reins of authority?

The matter would present a different aspect if it could be shown that this were the last election to be held in the United States, but it must be considered now in face of the fact that in all probability there will be many more in the case of one whose system is morally certain to survive the shock, and who will undoubtedly reap benefit from it through the whole of his after life.

The position taken by the Prohibitionists was not one of their own choosing; they were driven to it by the men who now abuse them for occupying it. Nearly every St. John voter in the United States made a personal sacrifice to do what he felt was his duty. The wire-pullers of the dominant party had to get this lesson sometime, and there was no reason for delaying it. The case would have been different had there been a chance of the temperance party securing recognition inside the old party line. If Prohibitionists had remained in the Republican party they would always have been snubbed and ignored; now they are certain to be either flattered or fought. They humbly presented petitions and their petitions were scorned; now they announce a platform and must be met either in the council hall or in the field of fight.

The leading men of the temperance organization were deliberate, judicious, united and brave. We cannot but appreciate the heroism that sacrificed so much partizanship for principle, and we cannot but wonder at the success of their effort. Look at the following record of Prohibition votes and then say whether our American friends are fighting in a hopeless or a winning cause:—

Year.....	1872	1876	1880	1884.
Votes.....	5,608	9,839	11,601	150,760.

In many places the feeling of the disappointed Republicans have found vent in such malicious insult as cannot fail to show the true spirit that animates some of them, and fully justifies any effort to build up a party free from the influence of such a lawless and dangerous element. Those who hang and burn effigies of men who differ from them in political opinion, are not likely to ever show favor to a movement of moral reform, whose success would restrict the opportunities for developing and displaying such malicious inclinations.

It is hard to believe that an institution with such a glorious record as the Republican party, will really permit itself to be permanently arrayed against progress and truth. We earnestly trust that their recent salutary lesson will not fail to make the better men of the R. P. ashamed, and the politic ones more ready to accede to a determined and righteous demand. The Prohibitionists are now recognized; let us hope that some wise result of that recognition may be to bring them what they desire, even more speedily than if they had to make a still harder fight to win it.

We must not omit to notice the fact that the Prohibition candidate was the only one whose moral record went through the test of a fierce campaign and came out almost unchallenged, and entirely unstained. The representative man was worthy of the cause, and the cause was worthy of the man.

A hopeful feature of the situation is, that while many of the Republicans are wild with indignation, the liquor interest is wilder still, and shows by its frantic words and deeds that it feels that a deadly blow has been struck at its existence. We commend to our friends the following verbatim extracts from the *Champion*, the bitterest whiskey paper of the western states:—

"Although the complete returns of the election are not yet at hand, this much we know that in every state of the union the Prohibition candidates have received thousands of votes. With one or two exceptions, the vote for the cranky St. John throws into the shade the self-styled workingmen's or people's candidate. A similar strength of the Prohibition element was developed by the votes cast for congressional, state executive, and legislative candidates. What of it? What is that to the liquor trade? It is exactly what the firing of the first cannon at Fort Sumpter, on 12th of April, 1861,