

Prebiscite Points.

The following facts and figures in regard to the manufacture of liquor in Canada may be of interest just now. According to the last Dominion inland revenue returns the following quantities were manufactured during the fiscal year, ending June 30, 1892:

Proof spirits, distilled.....Gallons,
3,438,293
Malt liquors, brewed.....1,146,245
Total.....4,584,538
Every gallon of proof spirits represents from two to four gallons of the whisky and ordinary liquors retailed out. There is no account here of the home-manufactured wines, which amount to thousands of gallons each year, or to the cider, which, when fermented, is often as intoxicating as beer, or of the quantities increased by adulteration and the like. Add to the above figures the 1,500,000 gallons imported for consumption during the year and some estimate may be made of the enormous amount annually consumed in Canada, temperate as our country is. The enormous amount that the people who drink must be paying out from year to year for their worse than useless tipple may be estimated when over 20,000,000 gallons is divided up into many times that many millions of drinks at 5 cents per glass. The sum represents over \$50,000,000 per year. But that will be considered more particularly in these columns at a future time.

Now, as to grain and labor thus wasted and capital diverted from its proper and legitimate channels. Canada is yet a young and poor country and there are grievous complaints of hard times. Every bushel of our surplus grain ought to be exported and the cash it brings brought back to the country. That is one of our principal sources of wealth. As it is, while the distilleries and breweries are legalized as they now are, a large percentage of that surplus is now worse than destroyed. If it was burned up or poured into the sea instead of being turned into intoxicants in our distilleries and breweries the people would be better off. According to the Government reports no less than 1,063,907 bushels of grain were last year consumed in Canada for liquor-making purposes. Estimate the number of acres of our best lands required to feed these establishments alone, at the rate of 25 bushels per acre. Estimate the increased wealth to the country every year if these factories were closed up and the grain exported and the proceeds brought back and distributed through the legitimate channels of commerce. These estimates will furnish an interesting chapter in the ADVERTISER in the near future.

Then, in Canada, too, we need all the available capital of the country for legitimate industries that will help build up the industries and develop the resources of the country. The capital invested in liquor-making establishments is diverted from these purposes. At the recent big Conservative demonstration at Belleville, Mr. Distiller Corby, in whose honor it was held, made a speech in which he expressed an earnest desire for capital enough to build up large factories in that town. He clearly recognized the fact that they would be a blessing to all the people. His big distillery is located a few miles up the river, and, of course, his capital is invested in it, and the laborers he employs are engaged in turning out what does the people far more harm than good. It would be an interesting study to estimate how greatly it would add to the wealth and happiness of the people if the law at once closed up that distillery and the capital and laborers were turned into the development of a large rolling mill or some such industry, and the grain now destroyed were exported to the English markets.

A late Ottawa census bulletin states that no less than \$15,368,953 of capital is now invested in breweries and distilleries in Canada, and the output is estimated at \$7,924,208. See what good that capital could do in other and better lines of industry. The cotton factories of Canada are to-day among our most important and valuable industries, and they are a blessing to the country. No doubt Distiller Corby, M. P., would be very glad indeed if he had the capital to establish a successful one in Belleville. He would be a benefactor to his native town if he could succeed in establishing one there. In Canada to-day there is, according to the late census report, but \$13,208,121 invested in cotton factories, or two millions less than in breweries and distilleries. All the money made of capital invested in them, but little over one half as much as the liquor mills. All the boot and shoe factories have \$9,671,120 of capital invested in them and \$8,828,535, or those two great and important industries combined but little over the amount now invested in breweries and distilleries.

Canada is also in great need of more labor as well as capital for the development of its vast industrial resources. The labor of every man diverted from a legitimate channel into some business that is a liability to the people is an actual cash loss to the country of at least \$1 a day for every day thus diverted. The labor of the men engaged in manufacturing our grain and malt into intoxicants is labor diverted from the tillers, is labor diverted from the soil. Put that down as a well understood principle and estimate what is lost to the country in labor alone because of the legalized liquor traffic. The last Dominion census states that there are twelve distilleries in Canada and they employ 375 hands—a very small number compared with their capital and output. Probably three times that many more are indirectly employed, or 1,125 in all. There are also 134 breweries in operation, directly employing 1,863 hands, and probably engaged as many more are indirectly employed. Add these figures together and it represents a labor of about 5,000 men lost to the real industry of the country. There are also over 5,000 pure selling establishments, and these, on average, employ direct or indirect, two men each, or 10,000.

The makers and sellers then, divert the labor of at least 15,000 men besides that of 5,000,000 of capital. Estimate the loss of a day and the amount seems truly appalling and incredible. Canada now loses labor every year because of the drink question! The statesman seems startled, and yet it is successful demonstration, clearly and clearly, from our official government reports.

Over 1,000,000 bushels of grain were destroyed; over \$15,000,000 of capital thus diverted, and the labor

of over 15,000 men lost, to say nothing of the poor wrecks of the business and the lives prematurely cut off. And yet our would-be statesmen go about the country spending long weeks in discussing the business situation of the country, how our resources should be developed, how our trade should be built up, and how our people should be enriched, and never once allude to the legalized drink traffic unless heeled into doing so. And yet we have a Dominion Premier and Minister of Justice who persists in declaring that the prohibition question "is not a practical politics." And yet we have a Government with two or three liquor makers or sellers in it and a majority of the members in favor of the business going on just as it is!

At the late meeting of the Dominion Alliance there was an interesting discussion about the propriety of electing Mr. Dickey, M. P. of Cumberland, Nova Scotia, one of the vice-presidents. Mr. Dickey is, by the choice of the Alliance, leader of the prohibitionists in the House of Commons. Against him it was urged that he is not a personal abstainer and has not taken any active part in the Alliance work in any way. It seems somewhat unfortunate that the Alliance could not select a better mouth-piece and representative among the whole members. He is a Conservative, however—died in the wool—and it was thought better that the prohibition leader should be a supporter of the present Dominion Government. He seems to be about the best that could be found in the Ministerial ranks just now.

The story of Mr. Dickey's conversion to prohibition is a somewhat interesting and instructive one. When Sir Charles Tupper resigned his seat for Cumberland and accepted the office of High Commissioner in England, Mr. Dickey was selected by the Conservatives as their candidate to fill the vacancy. He was not known as a temperance man at all, but was best known as the son of his father, the Hon. Senator Dickey, a pretty strong anti-prohibitionist and anti-Scott Act man. The prohibitionists, who are strong in Cumberland, resolved to be represented by a man of their own views and so selected a candidate of their own, Mr. C. R. Casey, of Amherst. Seeing trouble ahead, Mr. Dickey at once announced himself a prohibitionist and gave assurance of his support of that measure in Parliament. It was a sudden and somewhat unexpected conversion, but he has not back-slidden. He is still contented in the ranks, and is now an Alliance vice-president, but does not generally appear to be fired with "all the zeal of a new convert." Such a conversion, however, is a significant indication of what prohibitionists can accomplish when once a few of them become united and determined. The lesson ought not to be lost on other localities.

The good practical results that will follow from the coming plebiscite vote are becoming more and more apparent. One very intelligent gentleman who was very strongly opposed to it, and to the Ontario Government, too, writes us as follows: "I now realize, after attending the great Toronto convention, that the plebiscite measure will do a great amount of good." He is but one of many. The fact is that no such great convention of prohibitionists of all parties and creeds could have got together but for the late action of the Ontario Government. Before the campaign is over thousands will have their hearts fixed for immediate and entire prohibition as never before, and thousands of others will find all their doubts removed as to the expediency, effectiveness and desirability of that great reform. Now for a strong pull and a pull altogether for a big prohibition majority.

Sir John Thompson publicly announces that he has no faith in a prohibition plebiscite—the verdict of the people—but is quite determined to shelve the report of the royal commission—the verdict of a body of his own creation and the men of his own selection. One independent journal remarks that all that shows which he would trust his case to is the report of the royal commission, and so does Brother John Carling, our big brewer. Such stunts indicate in which direction the current is most favorable. The cat is now on the fence and begins to feel somewhat undecided which way it is safest to jump. The plebiscite may not be at all according to his ideas but it may have a good deal to do with which side of the fence he may be found before a year rolls round.

We don't hear so much about the plebiscite being "a mere political dodge" to stave off the Martine Bill as we did at one time. Some of the leading and honest Conservatives refuse to join in that cry entirely. Senator Vidal has been a life-long Conservative, but he has also long been an honest temperance man. At the Toronto convention he publicly stated that he has full confidence in the plebiscite movement but no confidence in the "mere party dodge." cry. John Gibson, of Ingersoll, has also been a faithful Tory as well as a faithful temperance man, and he too refused to hunt with the hounds of his party against the plebiscite. Edward Carwell is another of the same political and temperance stamp and he heartily applauds the Ontario Government for what it has done in this matter. People have been hearing the cry so industriously raised that they begin to forget entirely that the plebiscite was petitioned for by thousands before the Martine Bill was ever heard of or ever dreamed about. In fact, the Martine Bill was devised to shut off the plebiscite and not the other way as some have been induced to honestly think.

Those who have been intelligently reading the reports of the evidence taken in every part of Ontario by the royal commission will be struck with this one significant fact: that diverse as are the opinions and suggestions of the various witnesses nearly every man of them suggests some important change from the present license system. It seems to be a dull man in fact who appears to be willing to allow things to remain as they are. This spirit of unrest is general with all intelligent and well-meaning men. There is no blinking that fact. Some change must come in the near future and the mere machine politicians and their best supporters cannot avert it much longer. The license system has had a fair trial of nearly 100 years, even in young Canada. It has been amended and varied and made higher and more restrictive almost times without number, but it has never been regulated and restrained as well-meaning citizens are convinced that the well-being of the community demands.

Surely if any one important lesson has been taught us by the terrible experience of the past it is this: So long as the law permit liquor selling there will be liquor drinking, and so long as there is drinking there will surely be drunkenness and all the attendant evils. If drunkenness is ever to be stopped the law must stop the manufacture, the importation and the sale. A hundred half-way measures have been tried

and failed. Give entire and unrestricted prohibition as fair a trial and no such disastrous failures need be looked for.

T. W. C.

Echoes and Etchings

BUTTERMILK.
A chemist who owns a fine farm on Long Island and has been experimenting in sugar making, says that the average farmer throws away in buttermilk one-half of the healthy solids in milk, especially if he uses the old way of churning. By the use of a small quantity of black peppin double the amount of butter can be made.

ZENANA WORK.
The 40 zenanas in Rampore Baulah are like small churches, says Mrs. Morison, for whenever it is known that the missionaries are to visit them, the neighbors are invited, a congregation of 20 or 30 is quickly gathered, eager to hear the good news of the Gospel. The change wrought in the lives of the women is testified to by their husbands thus: "We cannot understand it, but the very atmosphere of home is different."

THE FLY'S MISSION.
Flies though obnoxious in the dog days, are in general indispensable because in their maggot state they act as scavengers. There is, however, a dark side to the mature fly's nature in that it may quite unconsciously become the bearer of some grave, contagious diseases. Flies can infect cattle—especially calves—with cholera germs. Hence it is necessary to keep flies away from articles of food when cholera or other infectious disease is about.

A GREAT LIGHT.
An electric light of 40,000,000 candle power almost surpasses comprehension. Yet this great mass of light is to issue from a lighthouse tower on Penmarch point on the coast of Brittany. The beam will be seen twenty-five miles before it strikes the horizon, and after that it will reflect on the sky for a distance of thirty-eight miles further. The largest light on the coast of the United States can only be seen twenty-eight miles in clear weather.

A DEAR DONKEY.
Sir Robert Balfour, the new Governor of New South Wales, was visiting the zoological gardens at Sydney the other day, when his attention was directed to a donkey imported from the Sudan which an attendant assured Sir Robert had cost nearly \$2,000,000. Sir Robert again looked at the donkey, which seemed to be a very ordinary beast, and might have been looking yet if it had not been explained to him that the donkey was actually the only tangible result of the famous Sudan expedition which was to accomplish such great things.

A FISH BAROMETER.
The goldfish, which is distributed over nearly all parts of the world, is one of the most interesting members of the fishy tribe. It is apparently very susceptible to atmospheric changes, and anyone who takes the trouble to note its actions in the aquarium will be astonished to find that the little fish is a true prophet in matters relating to changes in the weather. When on a day of lower temperature with rain or snow, is approaching, the goldfish swims near the surface of the water, while if clear sunny weather is expected they will almost always be found near the center of the reservoir.

THRILLING MOMENTS.
Probably few men have had a more thrilling fifteen seconds or so than the driver of a heavy load of giant powder in Oregon a few days ago. He was piloting a four-horse team drawing a wagon containing 3,000 pounds of giant powder over a rough road into Tillamook. A trolley bridge spanning a narrow ravine gave way under the load, and the whole outfit was dumped down into the dry bed of the creek. There was no explosion, and the driver, horses, wagon, and powder were hauled out all right. The driver has not recorded his sensation as he felt the bridge giving way and during the few seconds between them and the time the load landed safely again.

TWO MILES A MINUTE BY RAIL.
Engineers are always, like the great Alexander, seeking new worlds to conquer. Mr. F. B. Behr, Associate of the Institution of Civil Engineers, finds steam locomotion on the surface of this planet too slow at a more or less dangerous maximum of 60 miles an hour, and is proposing to whirl the man of the twentieth century at the rate of two miles per minute. Under the title of "Lightning Express Railway Service," he publishes a full statement of his plans, with all the necessary details. The motive power proposed is electricity, and the method that which is known as the Lartigue single-rail system, which, in a rudimentary form, is now at work on a short line of nine miles and a half from Limerick to Ballinacorney, in Ireland, and from Tours to Pontlevy, in the department of the Loire, France. There are many advantages claimed for this idea, including the absolute impossibility of a train leaving the tracks; the cheapness of construction, as well as a speed that brings Edinburgh within three hours of London. The King of the Belgians has accepted the dedication of Mr. Behr's interesting little work.—[London Telegraph.]

COOKING BY ELECTRICITY.
The greatest novelty in cooking appliances at the fair is unquestionably the apparatus for cooking by electricity, shown in operation in the gallery of the Electricity Building. The electric current is conducted into plates of enamel, which it heats with resistance and is converted into heat. These plates are attached to specially constructed ovens, boilers, griddles, flatirons, etc. An ordinary stewpan, coffee or tea pot, or steam cooker may be heated on the "disk heater." An outfit of articles necessary for a private house costs \$50, or \$75.50 if a heater for a kitchen boiler is included. Electricity has the same advantages over coal that gas has its advantages over gas depend upon the fact that combustion, with its needs and limitations, is wholly done away with.

There are no products of complete or accidentally imperfect combustion, there is not even a slight loss of heat into the room or up the flue. The strongest points of electrical cooking are comfort and convenience, but claims are made for it also on the score of economy. It is said that the cost of cooking by electricity is less than the cost with coal; and about the same as where fuel gas is used. This is on the supposition that the electricity is furnished at half the price charged for lighting.—[Popular Science Monthly.]

PERFUMED MISTS.
On certain parts of the coast of France, including the channel, mists occasionally appear which are generally called "perfumed mists." They come in the morning, especially during the spring, and strangely enough, only when the wind is in the north-east. Sometimes they last only for a few minutes, at others they hang about all day. They have a characteristic smell similar to that of a lime kiln. The origin of these mists is a mystery. In one district the inhabitants thought the smell came from some lime kilns some miles to the northeast, and they may have been right; but that was not an explanation of the phenomenon, because the smell from these lime kilns could not have been carried by a northeast wind to all the other places where the mists were seen and the smell noticed. In one of these places the northeast wind comes from the sea, in another it comes overland. The smell does not, therefore, necessarily come from the ground. During the past few weeks the northeast wind has been very prevalent and the mists frequent. The best explanation given is that the blustering northeast and east winds sweep up the dust, gases and germs of the ground over which they pass and drive them toward the sea. When this wind has continued for some time it contains such a quantity of these things as to affect all our organs. Thus the cause of the complaints which appear when the east wind blows, and it may be the cause of those "perfumed mists."

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