

We have put the whole of the changes before our readers, and as briefly as possible. The Scott Act as it now stands is applicable to a wider territory than that in which it was before available. The provisions for enforcing it are clearer and simpler, but beyond this it has in it less of Prohibition than it had before, and one of its former weaknesses was that it had not in it enough of Prohibition. It now allows more liquor selling, in more places, by more people, and under fewer restrictions.

On the whole the situation is worse than it was, and the progress made has not been progress towards Prohibition, but in the opposite direction.

Contributed Articles.

A WORD WITH OUR FRIENDS.

We are thankful to have so many true friends of our cause, the Canada Citizen, as the medium through which they prefer to lay their ideas before their many co-workers. We appreciate all these contributions and shall be thankful for many more. We wish the moral reform workers of the Dominion to look upon our journal as their common property. No individual or set of individuals has any monopoly of thought, or has even ability or opportunity to deal with every aspect of this great, many-sided movement. Let all who have ideas, plans, arguments, experience, opinions, sentiments, jot down some expression of them and send it along. We shall be pleased to publish their articles, and their many friends and co-workers will be glad to read them.

Of course there must be restrictions, but they will not be irksome to those who seek to do good in the right spirit. It is hardly needful to say that all articles and correspondence must be courteous and kind in tone. Our space is limited and we must insist on brevity. Some of this week's contributions are a little too long. Readers appreciate brevity and variety. A letter that exceeds say 200 words, generally grows weaker as it grows larger, and is more forcible if further condensed. It will be better to send two or three articles if you have much to say; put one idea into one, and send them all the oftener. A column of the CANADA CITIZEN holds only about 800 words.

All contributed articles and all letters must be accompanied by the correct names of their writers. These names, however, will not be published if the writers desire them suppressed.

Let us hear from you, kind friend, and let us all in this great work get into fuller sympathy and closer union.

THOUGHTS BY THE WAY.

I spent a quiet half hour on the train a few days since perusing a copy of the address recently issued by "Canada's New Party." I like the ring of it. It has an honest ring, and the age needs more honesty in public and private utterances on public and private questions, as much as in the transaction of its public and private business. It has a patriotic ring, and I am ready to go the length of the new party in saying that the time is now when there should be a real patriotism animating the lives and motives of our Canadian people, as against the terrible excess of party spirit that prevails so largely in all sections of our wide Dominion.

The temptations to run party rather than country are many, especially if one is disposed to be governed by his selfish manhood in place of his better and nobler self. There are greater heights of ambition to be attained in the straight walk of party than in that of independent thought; and if it is the "loaves and fishes" one is after, either in the preferments and emoluments of office, or the direct slices of fat contracts, given because of party servitude, then I say stick to party.

Saying this much as suggested by the reading of the "New Party" address, the reader will likely at once set me down as a "new party" man. Well, I have not as a matter of fact subscribed to Bro. Moore's shibboleth. I have my party leanings as I suppose every man has, but I confess that these are becoming fast unloosed; and above all I stand a Prohibitionist before a partizan at any time, and so vote.

Around this principle of Prohibition let us rally, as did the Abolitionists around their one principle in the days of American slavery. It is the way to secure our desired ultimatum—absolute and entire Prohibition.

I am glad to note in this connection that the New Party has amended the fourth plank in their platform to make it read, in place of Prohibition the

ultimate goal only to say plainly and unequivocally, "The prompt and absolute Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic, and the honest and vigorous enforcement of all laws for the suppression of vice and intemperance."

There are no Temperance men who should not be ready to go this length. Call yourself Grit, or Tory, then if your party is not prepared to go this length, and if their continued policy is to be one of fighting shy of this issue, they must not be surprised if their followers break the ranks and refuse to stand longer on the terribly weak and uncertain platform of "further compromise."

My temperament is not such as to lead me to be chimerical in my views on matters either personal or public. Level-headed, hard pan common sense is the article that generally "takes the cake" in all ages. The dealer in something merely ethereal and visionary, no matter how sincere and noble may be his motives, will not find any extensive demand for his wares. But the twin questions of total abstinence and Prohibition have long since passed the crossroads "visionary," they are decidedly in the practical field of politics. And the very practical politicians of this day if they want to choke off this new rival, a "New Party," I believe, can only do it, by going the length of plunk four of this New Party platform—absolute Prohibition. And it is one of these cases where they will need all their supposed natural shrewdness in these matters by both speaking and acting quickly.

SCRUTINEER

On Offensive Epithets.

The charge frequently made against some Temperance advocates can in many instances no doubt be amply sustained, viz, that they too often call bad names, and use very coarse expressions in designating the persons and places employed in the liquor traffic, using words bitterly descriptive, and while perhaps quite authorized by hard facts, yet rather intended to be offensive to the enemy, than effective for good.

Calling the keeper of a saloon "Drunkard maker" may be pretty fairly indicated, when it is proved that such terrible results can be distinctly traced as the outcome of the saloon-keeper's business. But he can truthfully deny that the manufacture of drunkards is his main object in conducting his business. This he repudiates instead of avowing, as his profession or calling. "Boot maker" is not considered a name of reproach. A shoe-shop proprietor is not offended when his place of business is designated accordingly. These terms are not intended to be offensive. Neither is the drink dealer at all vexed when his place of business is named simply what it is, "a legally authorized bar," and he a duly "licensed vendor" of strong drink.

But when some one who has severely suffered, being disposed bitterly to stigmatize the saloon, becomes excited and wrathful, in view of his own past folly and sad saloon remembrance, becoming poetic, sings—

"My conscience and pocket and health are still sore
By the bruises I got in these hell-holes before."

It is presumed that his intention is mainly to torment the hydra presiding over the "delirium den."

Epithets calculated mainly to arouse the wrath of those to whom applied may be expected chiefly to answer the self-same purpose. "Whisky-heads" may be a very significant and well-enough understood heading, over a list of license-favoring politicians. But it is a serious and important question whether calling them by such name will have any tendency to convert them to anything better. Besides, might not quite as energetic expressions of severest condemnation be constructed in more parliamentary phraseology? For instance, had that frantic poet but slightly revised and remodeled a word or two, that stanza might be by many considered more fit for oft-repeated quotation thus:

"My pocket and conscience and health still feel sore
From my foolhardy fostering the drink fiend before."

While no doubt quite true that the licensed drink traffic is very far from being as sternly condemned as it deserves, yet the force of right thoughts may sometimes be rather impaired than improved by harsh expression. The ragged edge is not adapted to make the deepest or the cleanest cut. Truthful "hard words to hard deeds" should not be confounded with wholesale violent declamatory denunciation made up

in large proportion of offensive epithets more likely to involve disastrous recoil.

The Divine commendation of one of the seven churches is very suggestive, "That thou canst not endure them that are evil." The remark, too, of a modern close observer well deserves attention. "The want of indignation against flagrant known existing evils is one of the greatest wants of the present age."

Free, earnest benevolence must never be intensely impatient with persistently perpetrated cruelty. Exposure of such in befitting terms, and best effort to prevent must unquestionably be regarded as an imperative Christian duty, as well as the instinct and privilege of love to annihilate the destroyer of happiness—and here the use of words adapted more to torture than to kill seems entirely out of place.

But the next little instrument of modern warfare named the bill needs no accompaniment of lurid venomful fulmination.

"The weapon that comes down as still
As snowflakes falling on the sod,
But executes the voter's will
As lightning does the will of God."

Then in vigorous war of extermination let us use honorable, effective weapons. The best known antidote for darkness is light.

IN THE SWIM.

There are comparatively few people, if any, who have strictly independent ideas. Almost, if not all, are more or less influenced by the opinions of those with whom they are daily brought in contact. The currents of popular thought are occasionally almost irresistible in their force and persistency. Independent minds, thinking for themselves, may try to advance against the tide and eventually succeed, but their progress is much impeded by the surging multitude moving in the opposite direction. It is a difficult thing to keep out of the popular swim. It is always much easier to float than to paddle. It is more comfortable to think the multitude is right and submit to be carried with it, than to point out its error and struggle to turn it in the right direction. It requires both strength and courage to be active and aggressive.

This piece of moralizing has been occasioned by the action of the people on the Scott Act question. There can be no doubt that the vast majority of the people of Canada are and have been for years tired of the liquor traffic. They asked legislation and the Scott Act was given to them. True to their principles they sought to test it. The Act became popular and county after county fell into line and adopted it. Had the Dominion Government amended and perfected the Act and had officials sufficiently honorable to do their duty been appointed, it would have been a very few years before, by the vote of the counties and cities, practical Prohibition would have prevailed all over the Dominion.

The Governments, however, Dominion and Provincial, have hitherto not been manipulated in the interests of moral reform, and the Act proved a partial failure, not solely from its own inherent defects, but largely on account of the criminal indifference and inactivity of those in power. Then came the revolution in public sentiment and the tide turned in the opposite direction with apparently increased power and determination, and no epithets are now too strong to hurl at the unfortunate Scott Act.

This change in public opinion is all wrong and in no place will the mistake sooner be discovered than in those counties where the repeal has been carried. The Scott Act has not by any means been an unqualified failure and it is not true that more drinking is done under it than under a license law. It will not take three months of liquor rule to satisfy a wide-awake public in Halton or any other county that has been under the Act, that even a defective prohibitory law is better than no Prohibition at all. Let the people of other Scott Act counties keep out of this sadly retrogressive swim. Strike for Prohibition fast and hard, but don't give up the Scott Act until we get something better in its place.

THE TRIANGLE.

THE CONVENTION.

The Aim the Same; the Methods Different.

One of the great benefits to be derived from the Conference in Montreal in July will be the broadening of thought that will come from the meeting, upon a common platform, of all the branches of the Temperance army.

Here will be representatives of the Good Templars, the Sons of Temperance, the Royal Templars, the Alliance, the Patriot League, the Church of England Temperance Society, the W. C. T. U., the Band of Hope, and every other organization throughout the Dominion. These will meet upon common ground for, though the conference is called by the Alliance, it will not be an Alliance convention.

Because of its constitution and because of the time of its meeting, we expect this conference to be the largest most thoroughly representative, and most important, that has ever been held in Canada. The whole question of the prohibition of the liquor traffic in this Dominion will be lifted on a broader plane, and discussed with more vigor, than could possibly be the case even in an Alliance Convention, for we are sure to have in the conference some friends who are not in the habit of attending the gatherings of the Alliance.

We shall benefit by the experience of leaders and workers in the various organizations; we shall get the benefit of their trial of new methods, we shall learn wherein their methods failed, and why; we shall get encouragement from their success and amid the enthusiasm that will come from the recital of experiences and the expression of determination to go forward in the fight, we shall lose sight of our temporary relations to this society or the other, we shall forget our petty jealousies, and we shall recognize our position as soldiers in the vast army fighting against a strongly entrenched foe.

When we have reached that point, where we see that we are fighting in a common cause, all with a single aim, though working by different methods—we shall have gone a long way towards victory, for we shall then be in "fighting order"—each man ready for service.

In this attitude, every man will count as a power, and our leaders will be able to utilize every one of us. The work is so varied that no one need fear there will be none for him to do. Let us go to the conference willing to learn, willing to forget, willing to remember, willing to obey. Let us go in the spirit of true soldiers; then when all have had their "say" in our Council of War, and the final decision on plan and methods of our warfare has been reached, we shall take the places assigned us with heartiness and loyalty—ready to do and to suffer that we may win.

Thus, and thus only may we win, but thus we shall win, and win soon.

THE WEST.

A Leading Question for the Convention.

Too great effort cannot be put forth at the Montreal Convention to make it the means of welding together and solidifying the temperance forces of the Dominion. There is need for this. Not that there is any serious schism in the ranks of the temperance people of the country, but there is certainly too much division of means to accomplish the one end. We must unite on some leading and vigorous line of effort.

The times require just such united action. The experiences of the past two months have shown that our people have altogether outgrown the inadequate powers that are granted under the Scott Act. They want something a great deal stronger. They are without question decidedly set against anything in the shape of compromising measures. Such measures are always disappointing. They never do what they are expected to do, and their failure to reach such expectation is apt to reflect unfairly upon the cause itself.

An opinion has been expressed in several of the leading Dailies pointing towards compromise in the shape of High License. This will never do. It will be a greater disappointment to every one than even the Scott Act. Do not let us consider any measure that only goes part way. All history tells the story that it is by going the entire length of reform, that the object of such can be fully obtained. Neither Crooks Act, Scott Act nor High License—any of these measures—will rid the country of the evils of intemperance. They must be swept away, and it is to be earnestly hoped that at Montreal the friends will be determined on the one thing only—absolute and entire annihilation of the business.

Caution.

We not infrequently have trouble with letters received (sometimes even enclosing money) to which parties neglect to put their names, thus causing us a good deal of trouble in hunting them up. Will our friends kindly be very particular in carefully signing all forms sent in, and marking the exact amount of money enclosed.

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