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President . . . . . JAMES L. MORRISON.  
General Manager . . . . . J. V. WRIGHT.  
Artist and Editor . . . . . J. W. BENGOUGH.

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### Comments on the Customs.



THE TWO METHODS.—Two hundred and twenty Prohibitionists, duly delegated, assembled in the Dominion Convention at Montreal last week, so that the adjective "great" may very fairly be applied to the gathering. Many of the ablest temperance men of the country were present, and the proceedings throughout were marked by earnestness and enthusiasm. The work of the three days, as ratified by splendid mass meeting held on Thursday evening, is summarized as follows:—

1. Demand for a Government measure of immediate total prohibition.
2. Declaring the Convention definitely opposed to compensation to the discarded liquor traffic.
3. Expressing appreciation of the good results attained through the Scott Act, and calling on the temperance people to stand by it.
4. Recommending the formation of a Law and Order League, to watch and supplement official enforcement of anti-liquor legislation.
5. Endorsing the principle of woman suffrage.
6. Approving measures of scientific temperance instruction secured, and pleading for further extension of the same.
7. Providing a scheme for the reorganization of the Dominion Alliance on a broader basis, so as to make it a federation of all temperance and religious organizations.
8. Laying out an unanimously adopted scheme of political action in a detailed report, declaring for (1) united electoral action

towards total prohibition; (2) endorsing the Jamieson resolution of 1887, and calling for persistent Parliamentary action on the same line; (3) a definite plan to secure the nomination and election of known and publicly avowed prohibitionists, calling upon friends in the different Provinces and localities to at once inaugurate an organization for the carrying out of this electoral action policy.

The proposal to set up a third party was negatived for the present, after a red-hot debate, and "united electoral action" favored in its stead. This means that Grit and Tory prohibitionists are called upon to unite in voting for temperance candidates regardless of their party stripe, and if they will only do so, no better scheme need be asked for. But temperance men seem to lack altogether the cohesiveness of the liquor forces. With the latter, all politics is comprised in one word: ourselves. Sordid personal interest is unhappily a stronger motive in humanity than interest in the public weal, but in the absence of a Prohibition party, the temperance electors must unite as thoroughly as their opponents do if they mean to wring concession from the existing parties. GRIP sincerely hopes that the reorganization just completed will have the good effect of solidifying the temperance vote throughout the country, and once more he would remind the friends of the Prohibition cause that it is votes and not resolutions which count on election day.

JUST TWENTY-ONE!—The patriotic poet has done justice to the sentimental side of the fact that Miss Canada has just arrived at her majority; it is left to MR. GRIP, as the practical friend and well-wisher of the young lady, to look at the same interesting fact from its business side. How do the financial affairs of the sweet young creature stand? We have heard from the eloquent lips of Minister Geo. W. Ross a detailed statement of the "outfit" with which, on July 1st, 1867, Miss Canada was ushered into national being. She was born an heiress to immense wealth, and began life with what was regarded by the political doctors as a splendid constitution. Now, let us hear from the elderly gentleman who, during nearly the whole of her twenty-one years, has been her guardian and business manager. What is the extent of the dowry which has accumulated in his hands, not by brilliant speculations, but as the simple increment of her vast property? What is the state of her political health, as the result of ordinary attention to the ordinary wants of a young person who sets out with a good constitution? The blue-books furnish a reply to these queries, and they are particularly blue reading. This elderly gentleman has so muddled and mismanaged the estate that there is not a cent of increase to show, but on the other hand the unfortunate girl finds herself with a debt of nearly three hundred millions of dollars, and a deficit for the current year of a very formidable figure. She further finds that this precious manager has sold the greater part of her available land, and prepared the way for that worst of national curses, landlordism; that he has squandered her property upon the building up of monopolies whose bond-slave he has himself become; that he has put up artificial walls around her estate so that his own pampered favorites may feed upon the substance of the people; that by deliberate ill-usage he has well-nigh broken down her constitution; that, in short, he has done everything he should not have done, and left undone everything it was his duty to perform. That's what Miss Canada finds; and although the poets may twang their lyres and sing congratulatory odes, she doesn't feel a bit in the humor for jubilation.

"THE deuce!" ejaculated Mr. Farrar, emphatically, as he raised his eyes from his elaborate article on the "Evidences of the Existence of an Extinct Pre-historic Race of Anthropoid Apes in the Mountains of the Moon," and allowed them to fall for a moment on the editorial columns of the *Globe*—"the deuce! The situation is most unpleasant. It seems impossible to make these hide-bound partizans comprehend our position. I am not quite certain that I exactly grasp it myself, but no matter. It is most annoying, now, to turn from the— the unmentionable organ of that desperate set of rogues of whom I once was one, which makes us out a 'Junior Grit,' to the *Globe*, which stigmatizes us as a 'Senior Tory.' Which are we, anyhow?" And he returned with frenzied haste to his manuscript, turned on the scientific tap, and ere long forgot his sorrows in an able leader for the next issue on the "Minatory Motions of Minute Migratory Micrococci."