

## Sir Oliver and Prohibition.

At the Parliament buildings, Toronto, on Tuesday, Feb. 6, a large appearance deputation, representing the Provincial convention, then in session, waited on the Provincial Government, "to respectfully request them to declare in favor of total prohibition of the liquor traffic to the full extent of the power vested in the Legislature." A very member of the Government in the city was present.

## THE PREMIER'S REPLY.

Sir Oliver Mowat concluded his reply with the following positive assurance:

"If the decision of the Privy Council could be that the Province has jurisdiction to pass a prohibitory liquor law to sale, I will introduce such a bill the following session if I am then at the head of the Government."

"If the decision of the Privy Council that the Province has jurisdiction to pass only a partial prohibitory liquor law, I will introduce such a prohibitory liquor law as the decision shall warrant."

## THE ANSWER SATISFACTORY.

Rev. W. Kettlewell, chairman of the deputation, a leader of the advanced prohibitionists, and grand councillor of the Royal Templars of Temperance of Ontario, in response, said: "I am sure need not say your answer is everything to be desired."

Rev. Dr. Potts, a spokesman for the convention: "Eminently satisfactory." (Clip this out for future remembrance.)

## Charlottetown's Experience.

Charlottetown, the capital city of the province of Prince Edward Island, has had a somewhat varied experience with the License and Scott Acts during the last fifteen years. For years it was a license city and there was, probably, more drinking and drunkenness in it than in all the rest of the Province besides. In 1878 a first vote was taken on the adoption of the Scott Act and the majority in favor of it was very large, the vote standing 837 to 53.

The act went into force the next year and there was a very large diminution in the amount of drinking and crime in consequence. The machinery for enforcing liquor laws is not so good in that Province as in Ontario, the matter being left with the councils of each municipality. Charlottetown has, some years at least, been disgraced with some very unworthy and unfit aldermen. At one time two of them were in jail for unlawful liquor selling themselves, and when their terms as convicts expired they resumed their seats at the council board, apparently without any decided action of that body to purge themselves of such a membership. At another time the council passed a resolution of sympathy with a woman who had been sent to jail for repeated convictions of unlawful liquor-selling, and not because any doubts existed as to her innocence of the charges either. It is little wonder that, under such circumstances, the Scott Act disappointed many as to its beneficial results.

A second vote was taken on the Scott Act in 1884 and it was again sustained, though, under the circumstances, the majority was smaller than before. This time the vote stood 755 to 715, leaving a majority of 40. Three years later a third vote was taken, and though the law was in bad odor with many of its former friends, because of its imperfect enforcement, it was again sustained, but by a still decreased majority. This time, in 1887, the vote stood, 689 to 669.

The electors had become so evenly divided on the question by this time that the liquor interests put forward even greater efforts to bring the law into disrepute and the local authorities seemed incompetent or unwilling, or both, to regard its enforcement. As soon as the necessary three years passed round when another vote could be again taken, the fourth contest came, and this time the Scott Act was repealed by the slender majority of fourteen. Indifferently as it had been enforced, a good many of the better citizens, including nearly all the ministers and leading Christian workers, were convinced that matters were better than they would be under the ordinary liquor license system.

The city has now had three years' experience without the prohibitory restrictions of the Scott Act and the prohibition plebiscite vote given in December last showed that the electors had become total prohibitionists, nearly two to one. The prohibition majority in Charlottetown then was over 600, or larger than at any previous vote.

The fifth vote on the Scott Act in that city took place on Thursday, 19th inst., and though the liquor interests, with now much at stake, fought with great energy, and though many of the temperance people were disheartened about such a local measure being well enforced, in view of past experience, the act has been again adopted and by a larger majority than was given for its repeal. The exact figures we have not, at the time of writing, but they seem to stand 724 to 702.

That makes four Scott Act victories out of five votes on the question within the last seventeen years. An analysis of the above figures will show that the act never received less than 686 votes, or within a fraction of a half of all that

was polled, even in its most discouraging days. The well tried temperance people have always stood by it.

The entire Province of Prince Edward Island is now under the Scott Act and no liquor license can be lawfully granted. All the counties have retained the act for years and have kept clear of the license system. The city, having tried both systems, returns to even local and defective prohibition as preferable to anything else yet available.

We have little doubt but if the final legal decision is that the Provincial Legislatures have the constitutional authority to enact prohibition laws, Prince Edward Island will be among the first to see such a law on its statute books. The islanders are a remarkably intelligent, industrious and moral community.

## Mistakes About Total Abstainers.

Archdeacon F. W. Farrar, now recognized as one of the most prominent Christian ministers in England—whose fame is in all the churches, and also in the literary world—has contributed a thoughtful paper to the April number of the Contemporary Review on the total abstinence question. He takes moderate views on most points, but such as are well worthy of the attention of even those who have not yet become convinced of their duty to become total abstainers.

He thus refers to several of the stock objections that are frequently used against abstainers and their movements:

"No modest abstainer would claim his abstinence as a virtue, or Pharisaically pride himself upon it, but it is at least an equal absurdity to speak of the use of wine and beer as though the self-gratification involved in drinking them were a virtue which entitles the 'moderate drinker' to look down upon his neighbor from an indefinite altitude of superiority. The abstract condemnation of total abstinence as a sin, a weakness or a heresy, can only be characterized as a piece of silly ignorance."

"Let it be granted that the use of fermented liquors is quite open to Christian liberty, so most unquestionably is the total abstinence from them. St. Paul advised Timothy, when he was suffering from weak health, to take a little wine for his stomach's sake and his often infirmities. Many a total abstainer would be perfectly ready to give and to act upon the same advice. On the other hand, St. Bernard's warning should be borne in mind that St. Paul does not claim the use of wine for himself nor does Timothy demand it. In giving such advice under such circumstances to one who, like Timothy, evidently wished to abstain, the Apostle felt perfectly safe. It is very doubtful whether he would have given the advice to everyone."

Regarding Bible wines Archdeacon Farrar does not claim the unfermented wine theory, it seems, which many who have given much study to the question are firm believers in. He writes: "We must remember, too, that the wine of ancient days consisted of the pure fermented juice of the grape, and was of a very low alcoholic strength, and was invariably drunk with large infusions of water. The hygienic recommendation of St. Paul to an invalid hardly applies to the fierce and heady compounds, the burning wines and fire-waters, with small affinity to the fruit of the vine, which his recommendations are quoted to cover. Let it be admitted that our Lord's miracle at Cana—though probably it is interpreted under many misapprehensions into which I cannot here enter—proves that the moderate use of the fermented juice of the grape is not forbidden; but it is no less certain that the permission of the pure fermented juice of the grape—in a country which had no public houses, and in which drunkenness was so rare that neither Christ nor his apostles is recorded once to have seen a drunken man, and centuries before the deadly poison of alcohol (distilled spirits) was discovered—by no means necessarily sanctions the promiscuous use of such ardent spirits as brandy, gin, rum and whisky, and 'neat' wines, and heady porters, and all the compounds sold under the designation of 'drink.'"

"Even if it did, the fact remains that total abstinence, even from the most harmless form of fermented beverage, receives not only a sanction, but the emphatic eulogy of Scripture in the case of the Nazirites and the Rechabites, and of one whom Christ reckoned among the greatest of those who had been born of women."

Regarding some noted churchmen, whose example is commendable, the writer remarks: "Not only have some of the greatest prelates of the English Church given their high approval to total abstinence, and themselves practiced it, but the same is true of some of the most eminent divines of the Roman Church. England recognized the keen logical acumen, the deep theological learning, the unselfish self devotion of the late Cardinal Manning. He was not only a total abstainer, but he founded a great total abstinence league, and founded it, as he himself told me, out of pity for the overwhelming wretchedness and degradation caused by drink among the poorest Irish Roman Catholics of our most revolting slums."

"Further, total abstinence has received the unqualified sanction and blessing of the present Pope, Leo XIII., one of the most high-minded

and cultured Popes who have ever occupied the chair of St. Peter.

"The question of abstinence or non-abstinence is one that can be settled only by the individual conscience, and in connection with individual circumstances."

## The Gothenburg License System.

The current number of The Arena, of Boston, a leading American review, contains a well written article on "The Liquor Traffic Without Private Profits" from the pen of John Koren. It is an explanation and vindication of "The Gothenburg System," now in force in some parts of Sweden and Norway, and which has become quite popular among those anti-prohibitionists in Canada and the States, who are anxious to have something efficient done to check the drink traffic and yet are opposed to prohibition.

The writer is among those who aim rather at mending than ending the drink traffic, and from that standpoint argues strongly for the system of which he treats. A number of references have been made to the system in these columns, but, as the subject is so frequently discussed, some facts from The Arena paper may be of interest.

Of course the main feature that recommends it, according to the writer, is the fact that, "The element of private profit-making is divorced from the sale of intoxicants." He goes on to remark that, "When the terrible temptation to make money out of other people's vices is removed, competition must cease and every restrictive provision of the law can easily be carried out." He further remarks that "It is a measure of reform and not of destruction" to the drink traffic, and argues that while saloons cannot be permanently legislated out of existence, they can be reformed and substitutes offered to meet the social cravings of many.

The explanation given of the peculiar features of the company system inaugurated first in Sweden and since introduced in some parts of Norway are as follows: "A partial relief came in the shape of the law of 1855 which provided for a strict control of the manufacture of spirits and gave every community the right to prohibit all non-licensed sale of liquor within its own precincts. But fraught with far greater possibilities was a small clause, incorporated in the new law, which simply stated that when a company was formed for the purpose of carrying on the retail sale of spirituous liquors in a city, the authorities should be empowered to grant such a company a monopoly of the licenses otherwise issued to private individuals."

Such companies have the exclusive right to sell spirits but have no monopoly of beer-selling in Sweden, the latter is also included in Norway, however. They are not allowed to retain a profit of over 6 per cent on all their liquor sales; the balance being handed over to the municipality and other public purposes. On that account there is no pecuniary interest in making large sales. Those appointed by these companies as sellers are paid fixed salaries, and have, therefore, no interest of personal profit, though they are allowed to make profits on such refreshments and non-alcoholic drinks as they may sell.

The number of licensed places is also largely reduced, averaging as low as 1 to 2,658 of the population in Gothenburg and to 1 in 2,526 in the country districts. The hours of sales are also quite limited—more so than in Ontario—and the regulations are very strict in selling to minors or to persons known to be addicted to drink. But one glass will be sold at a time, and generally not less than three hours apart. No seats are provided in the bar-rooms or such attractions and no lounging permitted.

When the law went into operation spirit making and spirit drinking were practically unrestricted in Sweden. There were, at that time, no less than 33,342 stills in operation, or 1 to about every 100 inhabitants. The people, as a natural consequence, were among the most drunken of any in the world. Of course the reduction in places of selling and making, and in the other restrictions, has been productive of good results. Statistics show that there is not one half as much spirits consumed per capita as in former times and not near as much drunkenness, though the latter crime is still larger, proportionately to the population in Sweden than in Canada. On the other hand the quantities of beer consumed have increased and are still increasing.

In Sweden, in 1874, the consumption of distilled spirits in Sweden was 1.4 quarts per inhabitant, while last year it was reduced to 6.8 quarts.

There is also a local option system in force in connection with the law, and by virtue of it many localities are now without any retail spirit shops at all. This fact has had much more to do with the large decrease in consumption than has generally been credited. The company system is not, however, general, as many places have not adopted it. It is claimed that under such a system it is easier to make local option effective, as there are not so many persons interested in fighting against it.

The writer concludes by remarking: "It is not claimed for a moment that the Norwegian or any other system for the sale of liquor offers a final solution of the drinking problem, or that it is a panacea of all the ills flowing from intemperance. But it is a distinct step

in advance, an experiment which, by its results elsewhere, has vindicated its right to be tried by us."

The weak point of the whole system is that liquors are still freely obtainable and some who get drinking at all are sure to become victims to the drink appetite and to end in drunkenness.

## More Criminal Statistics.

A large number of crimes that have their origin in drink are not officially so charged, for the simple reason that it is not what induced to crime but the nature of the crime itself that the official reports specify. A very great many cases of assault, for example, come directly from the intoxication of one or more of the parties concerned, yet they are officially reported as assaults. The same is true of the more serious cases of stabbing and rape and murder, many of which would never have occurred at all, or possibly even have been thought of, had it not been for drink.

Even after all these cases are taken out, which represent a large percentage of all, the proportion of drunks to the entire number of all indictable offenses in the Dominion is astonishingly large. A copy of the Dominion official report of criminal statistics now lies before us, and here are the figures of the proportion of cases of drunkenness to all offenses combined in the various Provinces during the past five years:

Province of Ontario, 29.8; Quebec, 30.7; Nova Scotia, 43.0; New Brunswick, 59.5; Prince Edward Island, 53.4; Manitoba, 50.0; British Columbia, 43.5; Northwest Territories, 21.5.

The total number of convictions for drunkenness in the various Provinces during 1892 is given as follows: Ontario, 3,967; Quebec, 3,832; New Brunswick, 1,291; Nova Scotia, 676; Manitoba, 633; British Columbia, 606; Prince Edward Island, 301; Northwest Territories, 109; making a grand total of 11,415. This is a much larger number than is reported for any other one crime in the whole catalogue, every case of which is preventable by an efficient and well-administered prohibition law, while, at the same time the same law would wipe out more than one-half of the average number of cases for the other crimes.

Surely the wiping out of such a prolific source of crime, and also of poverty and misery included, ought to be a paramount issue in our election of legislators, and especially among Christian and truly patriotic electors.

The number of cases of breaches of liquor laws, of various kinds, also figures pretty largely on these criminal lists. Our decided conviction is that the penalties inflicted in most of these cases of convictions are decidedly too low. The fines are generally so low in cases of unlawful liquor selling that the party convicted has often a handsome profit left out of the transaction, after paying fines and costs. So long as this is the case we may safely reckon on a large number of violations every year.

Here are a number of convictions reported in breaches of the liquor laws in 1892 in the different Provinces: Ontario, 1,069; Quebec, 304; New Brunswick, 268; British Columbia, 148; Nova Scotia, 121; Prince Edward Island, 75; Northwest Territories, 35; Manitoba, 21, making in all 2,041.

Major-Gen. Howard was one of the leading spirits in the Northern Army during the great United States rebellion and has been a prominent and honored citizen and business man ever since. He is also an active Christian and temperance worker. He gives this experience, which should be remembered by many: "I am never discouraged at a small audience. I remember when I was living at Washington, I was living about two miles from the city. One Sunday night there came on a heavy storm. It was in winter, and I was very much afraid that somebody would stay away from the church that night so I took up my cross and went. When I got there I found only the pastor, one member of my Bible class, a man of about 45 years of age, and the sexton. This member of my Bible class was converted that night and so was the sexton. So I am never discouraged. A great meeting like this can reach the world. I do not mean the New York World, although it would reach a great many people if it even reached that."

The Arena, of Boston, is now among the foremost of the leading American magazines. Each issue contains 144 well-printed pages. The articles are all prepared specially for the magazine by the ablest writers, and they are almost invariably written on the current political, sociological and economic questions of the day. Every number will repay careful reading, which is a good deal more than can be said for a large majority of the magazines and reviews.

The April number has, among other things, papers on "The Drink Problem in Norway and Sweden," to which we refer elsewhere; "The Catholic Church and Higher Criticisms," "Municipal Reform," "The Farmer and Land" and a large number of others equally interesting. The Arena Publishing Company, Boston: \$5 per year, 50 cents per copy.

A Pain in the Back.—Can be removed by using Prof. Smith's Three Keys. Only 25 cents per bottle at all drug stores.

## A STRANGE EXPERIENCE.

## An Interview With a Well-Known Brant County Lady.

Suffered for Two Years With Sick Headache, Dizziness and Dyspepsia—How She Found Relief—What Well-Known Chemists Say.

(From the Brantford Expositor.)

Mrs. S. W. Avery lives on Pleasant Ridge, about four miles out of the city of Brantford, the place being her nearest postoffice and where all her trading is done. Mr. and Mrs. Avery have always lived in that neighborhood, and he is the owner of two splendid farms, the one where he lives consisting of 160 acres and the other lying near Brantford, comprising 100 acres. They are highly respected residents of the place in which they reside, and every person for miles around knows them. Having heard that Mrs. Avery had been cured of chronic dyspepsia and indigestion by the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, a reporter called there recently and asked if she was willing to make public the facts concerning the cure. Mrs. Avery replied that she had benefited by the use of Pink Pills, and was perfectly willing to give her experience for the benefit of those who might be similarly suffering. "For the past two years," said Mrs. Avery, "I had been greatly troubled with a very sick headache, dizziness and a cough which I believe were the symptoms of dyspepsia and indigestion, and I could find nothing to relieve me although I tried several different medicines. I could not even find anything which would relieve my cough, which at times would be very severe. Early last winter I read in the Expositor of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and as the symptoms mentioned were somewhat similar to mine I was thus induced to try them. I procured a supply from Messrs. McGregor & Merrill, druggists of Brantford. Before I had used two boxes of the Pink Pills I felt so much better and relieved from my distressing symptoms that I thought it would be best to continue taking them through the winter, and accordingly got another supply and used them with the result that I have been totally relieved. I have not once since had the severe headache which formerly made my life miserable and my cough has entirely disappeared. I strongly recommend Pink Pills to anyone who suffers similar to what I did, from dizziness, headaches, indigestion, etc., and I believe they will derive great benefit from their use."

Mrs. Avery's statement was corroborated by her husband, who was present during the interview, and who said that without a shadow of a doubt, Pink Pills had accomplished more for his wife than any other medicine which she had taken.

Messrs. McGregor & Merrill were interviewed, and in reply to a query as to the sale of the pills, Mr. McGregor said: "We have sold in the neighborhood of 5,000 boxes during the past twelve months, and there is no remedy we handle gives better satisfaction to our customers than Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I have every confidence that Pink Pills are the best on the market and something the people can depend upon."

Mr. Merrill, the other member of this well-known firm, said: "I have more pleasure in selling Pink Pills than any other medicine we handle, because it is rarely there is any disappointment in them, and the people who purchase them unanimously express themselves as well satisfied. I am well acquainted with Mrs. Avery and I know that all her statements are reliable, and Pills have made in her case, and have seen a great change for the better. Many other druggists recommend some preparations, sometimes their own, to be equally as good as Pink Pills, but we cannot conscientiously say so, knowing that as a system tonic Dr. Williams' Pink Pills stand unrivaled."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are a perfect blood purifier and nerve restorer, curing such diseases as rheumatism, neuralgia, partial paralysis, locomotor ataxia, St. Vitus' dance, nervous headache, nervous prostration and tired feeling therefrom, the after effects of la grippe, diseases depending on humors in the blood, such as scrofula, chronic erysipelas, etc. Pink Pills give a healthy glow to pale and sallow complexions and are a specific for the troubles peculiar to the female system, and in the case of men they effect a radical cure in all cases arising from mental worry, overwork, or excesses of any nature.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are sold only in boxes bearing the firm's trade mark and wrapper (pink ink). Bear in mind that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are never sold in bulk, or by the dozen or hundred, and any dealer who offers substitutes in this form is trying to defraud you. The public are also cautioned against other so-called blood purifiers and nerve tonics, put up in a similar form and intended to deceive. They are imitations whose makers hope to reap a pecuniary advantage from the wonderful reputation achieved by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills may be had of all druggists, or direct by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Brockville, Ont., or Schenectady, N. Y., at 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50. The price at which these pills are sold makes a course of treatment comparatively inexpensive as compared with other courses of treatment.

A good conscience is a continual Christmas.—[Benjamin Franklin.]

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"Rest in the Lord; wait patiently for him." In Hebrew, "Be silent to God and let him mould thee." Keep still and he will mould thee to the right shape.—[Martin Luther.]

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## The Nova Scotia Verdict.

## Some Interesting Figures From the Official Returns.

The official report has been published of the prohibition plebiscite in connection with the late Provincial elections in Nova Scotia. The figures do not differ much from those already given in these columns, but they are worth repeating here in detail for future reference and remembrance.

There are eighteen counties in Nova Scotia, including the city of Halifax with the county of that name, in which the city is located. The total vote cast for prohibition amounted to 43,726 to 11,542 against. The total majority being 31,701. The vote, we understand, was about 85 per cent of the entire vote cast for candidates for the Legislature. The vote for prohibition was a clear majority with a couple of thousand to spare, of the entire votes cast for the Legislature.

There was a majority in every county except Antigonish, which went anti by 65. The lowest majority in any of the other counties was in Richmond, which was 542 for prohibition out of a total of 1,414 votes polled.

The largest majority of any county was for Cumberland, one of the largest and most intelligent of all the counties.

There the majority was 4,084, the total vote being 5,106.

Halifax, city and county, polled the largest vote of any, the total being 7,728 and the majority 3,036. Shelburne county, one of the oldest settled in the Province, polled the smallest anti vote of any, being but 166 against 1,838 for the measure. Annapolis, in which is located the oldest settled town in the Dominion of Canada, polled the next smallest anti vote, being but 350 against 2,628 for prohibition.

The verdict, on the whole, was so sweeping and significant as to leave no room for doubt as to the well understood wishes of the people on the great prohibition question.

Mr. John Blackwell, of the Bank of Commerce, Toronto, writes: "Having suffered for over four years from dyspepsia and weak stomach, and having tried numerous remedies with but little effect, I was at last advised to give Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery a trial. I did so with a happy result, receiving great benefit from one bottle. I then tried a second and a third bottle, and now I find my appetite so much restored, and stomach strengthened, that I can partake of a hearty meal without any of the unpleasantness I formerly experienced."

## Citizen and Home Guard

## Consolidation of

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