

may be judged from the fact that it is declared to be a failure almost exclusively by those who wish it to be so, and are doing their best to make it so!

The recent decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada, and of the Privy Council in England, in regard to the validity of the Dominion License Act of 1883, commonly known as the McCarthy Act, have now cleared the way for further and more vigorous effort in the direction of prohibition. The policy of our enemies, in the absence of anything in the way of argument, has been to throw doubt upon the constitutionality of the temperance legislation of the country, for which purpose they are continually contriving to raise new issues for our courts of law. The passage of the McCarthy Act had the effect of unsettling the public mind upon the question of the validity of the Ontario License Law, and, although without any good reason, of the Scott Act itself as to its procedure clauses; and, of course, until these constitutional questions had been definitely and finally pronounced upon, there were many timid and lukewarm souls who were ready to object to any further effort to carry, or to enforce the law. That obstacle seems at last to be fairly out of the way, though how far ingenuity may go in the way of raising fresh legal difficulties it is hard to say. Beaten at the law courts and at the polling-booth—"horse, foot and artillery"—we may look for a renewal of the attack upon the Scott Act itself in the Senate, and perhaps in the House of Commons. The exact provisions of the Scott Act as to procedure against its violators become so mystified by the recent attempts to amend it, or mar it, that it would be well for the Committee on Legislation about to be appointed to set forth the actual state of the law at the present time, for the information of friends and foes alike. Whether it would be wise to ask from the present Parliament any needed changes in the Act to make it more efficient, and more easily enforceable, (is a question which must be referred to this Council to decide.

Among the encouraging signs of the times may be noted the action of the Ontario Government in announcing their intention to appoint commissioners and inspectors for Scott Act counties within their own Province. The appointment of police magistrates we trust will soon follow, for although it is clearly the duty of the Dominion Government to furnish the means of enforcing its own legislation, the interest of the people of Ontario in the carrying out of the law is too great to permit them long to look on quietly upon its systematic violation. The election of the temperance candidate to the chief magistracy of the city of Toronto, by an enormous majority, and that in the face of the combined opposition of the "Liberal Temperance Union" and the Licensed Victuallers' Association, is another sign—a handwriting on the wall—the meaning of which even the stupidest of our opponents ought to be able to make out. The illustrious and learned ex-Professor of Modern History, who led the allied forces of evil, has read history to little purpose if he has not learnt from it that the liquor traffic is the source and measure of a nation's drunkenness, and that the people are rapidly coming to the conclusion that neither "high license" nor rigorous inspection can regulate it, but that prohibition alone can save us from its desolating ravages. It is also significant that it is coming to be understood that, while no special certificate of good moral character is necessary for a man to begin business as a banker, or a merchant, or a druggist, or a physician, he who aspires to be a tavern-keeper must unite in himself all the social virtues—must, in fact, be one of "the excellent of the earth." The reason is not far to seek. The R. C. Bishop of Montreal, in a circular recently addressed to his clergy on this very point, says the tavern-keeper "must be a Christian, with enough conscience and energy to do his duty. He must himself be temperate, for were it otherwise, he would easily allow abuses in his house. He must have furnished proofs of honesty, so as to ensure the fact that he will not tolerate forbidden games or any thing against morals. He will have to prove by his past good behavior that he is determined not to sell on Sundays or on feast days, and he must be believed conscientious enough to fulfil his duty, not only through fear that the fine imposed by law will reach him, but through respect for the days consecrated to the Lord.

These are the principal qualities of which he who applies for a hotel license should give proof.

But, besides, in order that the electors and councillors may conscientiously give their votes or their signatures, such inn should be known as useful for the parish, and it is necessary that people should be convinced that the number of them is not too great in the district."

It is gratifying to know that the representations which have been made to the Government in regard to the abuse of the power of granting "permits" for the importing of intoxicating liquors into the Northwest Territory, where the traffic is prohibited, are at last receiving attention, and that new orders-in-council ve