

in the county by the Scott Act? I might answer these statements in a few words by saying our towns and villages are not destroyed, but are as prosperous as they were two years ago, and some of them much more prosperous. That the statement regarding the failure of business in the county cannot be established, but the contrary; and if business in some cases is not as good as in former years, it can be accounted for by the operation of other forces entirely aside from the Scott Act. The general depression of trade all over the Dominion will account for loss in Halton as it does for failures in all other counties. But there is no allowance made for failure of business because the crops were very short last year, except the hay crop. Everything adverse to business and calamities generally are laid at the door of the Scott Act, and if any prosperity is seen, or even a hopeful sign of better things, of course the Scott Act has had nothing to do with it.

The commercial standing of the Halton merchants is as good as it ever was, and in some cases better than at any past period. There have been as few failures in Halton during the last two years as in any county in the Province in proportion to its population. I might answer these statements in this way and rest my case upon it, but I do not choose to do so. I have abundant testimony on the question which will satisfy any reasonable mind, and which I now proceed to give.

About the middle of October, 1883, the Rev. Mr. Robinson, pastor of the Congregational Church, Georgetown, County Halton, called on fifteen of the business men, merchants, manufacturers, &c., and asked them, among other questions the following, "What effect has the Scott Act had on your business?" With but one exception they said that business was just as good as in licensed times. Georgetown is a place of more than 1,500 inhabitants, and is within a very short run, by G.T.R., of Brampton, the County Town of Peel. How easy it would be for the Georgetown people to go down to Brampton to do their trading, but very few if any go. The Brampton merchants are not aware of any difference in the amount of goods sold, because of the supposed "exodus" from Halton. One of the manufacturers of Georgetown said, the idea of the Scott Act hurting business was thoroughly exploded. Besides, Georgetown has added to its wealth during the past year in new buildings and improvements over \$20,000. But if it were true that the business of Georgetown did suffer, the merchants consider such deficiency in trade a light infliction compared to a licensed liquor traffic, with its open bar-rooms and public drinking. They are so thoroughly aroused to the great evil connected with public grogshops that they will never give consent again to their existence.

SEVENTEEN of the business men of Acton, including merchants, manufacturers, etc., have recently declared, amongst other things, that the Scott Act "Has in no way injured business in our municipality." Acton is a village of over 1,000 people, and is very near the boundary line between Wellington County and Halton, and within a short run of the City of Guelph, by G. T. Railway, where plenty of "accommodation" (?) in licensed whisky can be had, but the people of this thriving town are satisfied to trade with their own merchants. Within the last six months between thirty and forty families have moved into the village. This does not look like decaying prosperity. The only business which has been injured in Acton is the liquor business, and that has been quite ruined.

Kilbride and Cumminsville are two small villages adjoining each other in the south-eastern part of the county, about one mile and a quarter from the line dividing Wentworth county from Halton, and about two miles and a half from the village of Carlisle, in the former county. A few miles further in is the large village of Waterdown. In March of this year (1884) eleven out of thirteen of the business men mechanics, &c., of Kilbride and Cumminsville declared that if business had been affected at all by the Scott Act it had been affected favorably. These villages would be among the first to suffer by the destruction of trade, if shutting up the liquor-shops in the county, as alleged, injured the business of the county.

The merchants in Milton, the county-town, doing the largest business, declare their trade has not been injured by the adoption and enforcement of the Scott Act. The trade of some of them is in advance, and of others, largely ahead of licensed liquor times. It is true some

of the Milton merchants say their business has fallen off to a limited extent, but this can be most satisfactorily accounted for without reference at all to the Scott Act. They themselves will not say the Act being in force is the cause of such decrease in their trade. The farm produce in the county last fall, excepting hay, has been nearly, if not quite two-thirds less than in former years. With that reduction is it surprising that trade generally in the county should be less. Surely no one will blame the Scott Law as being the cause of short crops. Mr. Henry Carrique, of Palermo, one of the most intelligent opponents of the Act in Halton, said to the Police Magistrate in the Temperance House, Milton, about the first of March of this present year, in my presence, in answer to a question by Mr. Young, that the business of the county was not injured because the Scott Act was in force.

At a public temperance meeting held in the town of Oakville on the 24th of October, 1883, the following resolution, written by Isaac Warcup, Esq., one of the leading millers of that town and of the county, was unanimously passed: "Resolved, That having had eight months experience in the working of the Scott Act in the County of Halton, our conclusion is that it has done more to suppress the traffic in intoxicating liquors than any act heretofore on our statute books. Crime has been lessened, pauperism decreased, morality improved, and business more prosperous."

W. Kerns, Esq., M. P., is a merchant in Burlington, and carries on a large business in that place. Burlington is within half a mile of Wentworth county. Two railroads run through it to Hamilton city, which is only a few miles away. If the absence of licensed liquor would injure trade, the trade of this earnest Scott Act supporter would be injured, but it is not. Here is what he says to the electors of Oxford on the 12th of March, 1884: "I would advise the electors of Oxford to adopt the Scott Act. Its adoption in Halton has to a great extent prevented the sale and use of liquor. It has not injured business."

We have a similar testimony from W. McCraney, Esq., M.P., who is a lumber merchant, doing an extensive business, and employing a large number of men. He telegraphed his opinion from his place in the House of Commons on the 12th March, 1884. "The Scott Act works well in Halton. It has not injured business. Drinking has been greatly reduced. The law is well ministered and respected."

"Wm. McLeod, merchant, of Georgetown, is Warden of the County of Halton. He was at first opposed to the Act, but now testifies that it has decreased drinking, and he recommended the electors of Oxford to pass the Act.

Besides these testimonies, there is the testimony of the Reeve and Deputy-Reeve of Nassagaweya, the Deputy-Reeve of Nelson, the Sheriff, Jailer, Turnkey, Police Magistrate, Clergymen, Farmers, Justices of the Peace, the Public School Inspectors, Teachers, &c., &c., who with an almost unanimous voice declare the same things.

It may not be necessary for me to claim that the Scott Act is the cause of the improvements in Georgetown, of the increase of the population of Acton by immigration, of the increase in the business of those whose trade is better than in licensed liquor days, &c., but because the enemies of the Act say it has worked adversely in these particulars, I have given those facts as stated in this tract. The Act is in force in Halton, and ruin has not come to the county, all statements to the contrary notwithstanding. The best men in Halton recommend every County in the Province and Dominion to pass the Act. First, because it is a good law in itself and can be enforced, and secondly, because by doing so it will show the feeling of the people to be in favor of prohibitory laws for the liquor traffic; and then will come prohibition for the Dominion. Good men say, "Speed the day." And I believe it can be substantiated that we have had fewer failures in this County than in any County in the Province, in proportion to population, notwithstanding the Scott Act has been in force, and the crops very poor last season.

Selected Articles.

HIGH LICENSE IN NEBRASKA

A correspondent of the *West Virginia Freeman*, T. Marcellus Marshall, Esq., a former resident of West Virginia, in a letter dated Omaha, March 8, 1884, writes: