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Prohibition Resolutions

The committee of members of the Dominion Parliament who are favorable to the cause of prohibition and who have been charged by the Dominion Alliance with the preparation of a resolution to be laid before Parliament to gain the sanction of that body to whatever recognition may be gained from the result of the recent plebiscite, has fixed upon the following, which will be moved by Mr. Flint, seconded by Mr. Bell, (P. E. I.), on the earliest opportunity:

"Whereas, it is desirable that legislation should be enacted having in view the further restriction of the liquor traffic in Canada, and that such legislation should be uniform in all the provinces and territories of the Dominion;

Therefore, resolved that in the opinion of this House it is expedient to enact:

(1) That subject, and except as hereinafter mentioned, the sale of intoxicating liquors in every province and territory of Canada should be prohibited.

(2) That the act prohibiting such sale should not come into force in any province or territory unless and until a majority of the qualified electors therein, voting at an election, shall have voted in favor of said act.

(3) That upon such vote in favor of said act being duly certified to the governor-in-council, such act shall be brought into force in said province or territory, and shall remain in force therein for four years and thereafter until the same shall have been repealed in such province or territory. Such repeal shall not take effect therein until a majority of the qualified electors of such province or territory voting at an election shall have voted for the repeal thereof, the proceedings for such repeal to be similar in all respects to those for bringing the act into force.

(4) That in order to avoid unnecessary expense and to secure the largest possible vote, the voting provided for in the said act shall take place at a general federal election.

(5) That this act shall, in coming into force, suspend the operation of the Canada Temperance Act in any part of the province and territory where the same may be in force at the time, and such suspension shall continue so long as this act is in force in such province or territory.

(6) That while the said act is in force in any province or territory, the sale of such liquors may be permitted for medicine or sacramental purposes, or for bona fide use in any art, trade, or manufacture; such sale to be made by vendors appointed for such purpose, and to be subject to such regulations as will procure the due observance of the act.

(7) That while said act is in force in any province or territory, no brewer or distiller therein shall be permitted to sell his products except to vendors for the purposes of the said act or for export from the said province or territory to some place beyond the same where the said act is not in force, such manufacture, sale and export to be subject to stringent regulations.

(8) That while the said act is in force in any province or territory, no such liquors shall be permitted to be brought into such province or territory from any other province or territory in Canada or from abroad, except for sale for the purposes of the said act, such importation and sale to be subject to such conditions and restrictions as will ensure the due observance of the act.

(9) That due provision be made in said act for the enforcement of the same and for the proper application of all fines and penalties imposed thereby."

Their Much Speaking.

Last week Mr. John Charlton introduced in the Dominion House of Commons a resolution of which he had given notice during the long drawn-out debate upon the address. Mr. Charlton's resolution calls for a special committee to secure shorter speeches. We should suppose that a great many members of Parliament, as well as their constituents generally, must sympathize with the purpose of Mr. Charlton's resolution, whatever their opinions may be as to the possibility of securing it by the means proposed. Perhaps the Premier expressed the prevailing sense of the House in saying that, though long speeches were a growing evil in Parliament, he doubted that any remedy could be applied, except through the taste and good sense of the members. But it is rather difficult to see why the rules of debate should not regulate the time which a member of Parliament may occupy at one time, as well as the number of times he may speak upon one question. What valuable interest would

suffer if three hours were made the extreme limit of time that a speaker might occupy in one speech? It may be quite true, as is alleged in opposition to Mr. Charlton's resolution, that one man may waste more of the time of the House by a speech of one hour than another would in a speech of four or five hours, and that some members offend as much by the frequency of their remarks as others do by their long-windedness, but if it is impossible to remedy all the abuses of debate, that seems to constitute no good reason why the remedy should not be applied as far as is practicable. It is difficult to see what legitimate reason a member of Parliament can have for wishing to extend a speech beyond three hours. The adoption of such a rule could not fail to improve the quality of our Parliamentary oratory. No man is heard in heaven or earth for his prolixity of speech. It is the speaker who presents his matter in well arranged and compacted form who is really effective both in Parliament and out of Parliament. The speaker who does this will have no need to extend his remarks to such a degree as utterly to exhaust the patience and endurance of those who listen to him and to deter everyone from the task of toiling through the printed record of his verbosity.

The French Shore Question.

The report of the Commission upon the Newfoundland French Shore treaty question was presented to the British Parliament a few days ago and a London press despatch says that, in the light of the Commissioners' revelations as to the treatment the colonists have been subjected to in order to placate the French, it is strange that Newfoundland has not long ago been in revolt. The general conclusions of the Commission are stated as follows: That the French cod-fishing rights in the treaty coast are now valueless and should be extinguished by a cash payment or concessions elsewhere, and that the lobster industry is on the decline and should be settled on the same basis; that the colony should give the French free bait if they will abandon their bounties which expire in July, 1901, and which Admiral Reveillere has declared are worthless in helping naval enlistment; that no French interference with the development of the treaty coast should be any longer tolerated and the presence of a French consular agent at St. John's is urged as a reason for insisting on one at St. Pierre. The commissioners find that of late years the French have virtually abandoned the coast so completely as the fishery failed. The testimony of the coast folk is that the presence of the French is a great detriment to their industry. Under the restrictions which prevent them interfering with the French by competition the residents are prevented from occupying the best fishing grounds and are forced by the warships to leave if found there and called upon by the French to go. Their nets are cut adrift, their fishing gear destroyed and their season's operations are ruined, they and their families being doomed to destruction in order that Great Britain may escape friction with France.

New Finds of Coal and Copper.

Canada is a country of immense mineral wealth, and discoveries are frequently being made which enlarge the area of the known resources of the Dominion in this particular. The latest announced discovery of mineral wealth in Canada is from the far west. On Vancouver Island, at or near a place called Carmanah Point, an important discovery of coal is reported. Seams over a foot thick are reported to have been unearthed. Some of the coal is anthracite of a good quality, and the discovery is said to have created much excitement among the people in that part of the Island. Carmanah is about fifty miles from Victoria, and if the newly discovered deposits prove to be extensive, it will be of considerable importance to the capital city. There are also reports of a discovery of valuable copper deposits at Uclulet on another part of the island.

Finland and the Finns.

Reports as to the condition of affairs in Finland give no indication of the people becoming reconciled to the policy of Russification which, as before noted in these columns, has been introduced in that country. The best of Finland's young men, it is stated, have been emigrating to America at the rate of five hundred weekly, and already in some parishes every man of military age has set out, leaving the cultivation of the farms to the old men and the women. But a much larger exodus, it is reported, is being planned for Canada. Representatives of the intending emigrants are to come to this country in June with the purpose of securing a district for a colony. Besides resenting very strongly the wiping out of the last remains of their national life, the Finns have a special antipathy to the new military law by which they would be liable to be sent to any part of the Russian empire for five years and then be compelled to remain in their own parishes for another thirteen years in order to be ready for service as reserves. The conditions of the Finnish military law were two years' service, and only 1,900 conscripts were chosen every year. The standing army was fixed at 5,600 at the most, and above all, the soldiers were not to leave the country. The Russian law, on the other hand, means the raising of a new army corps and a standing army of at least 36,000, or double that, if the Russian physical standard is adopted, as Kroupatkin desires. The Czar has still refused to give his War Minister a free hand in this matter, but this fact suggests a small hope to the Finns, who prefer to seek a new country under the British flag. The Finns cannot be regarded as so desirable a class of immigrants as the better class of English and Scotch agriculturists would be, but they are an intelligent and liberty-loving people, and next to a good class of Anglo-Saxon immigrants, the Finns are among the most desirable.

Doings of Parliament.

In reply to a question as to what course it was intended to adopt in reference to the new regulations respecting the lobster fisheries recommended by the commissioners, Sir Louis Davies, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, replied that in so far as the new regulations withdrew any rights from the fishermen they would not be adopted this year. Speaking generally of the effect of the Privy Council's decision in the matter of Federal and Provincial jurisdiction over the fisheries, the minister said it was to give the Dominion the right to make regulations, but the provinces the right to license. These arrangements the provinces of Ontario and Quebec were carrying out as regards the inland fisheries. The case was different as regards the fisheries on the sea coast, and a decision of the courts would have to be had to determine the respective jurisdiction in regard thereto. Pending that decision, the Dominion was continuing to administer the fisheries in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia for this year by arrangement. The statement has been made by Sir Wilfrid Laurier that it is not the intention of the Government this session to ask Parliament to provide for the representation of the Yukon territory in the House of Commons. The Premier also stated, in reply to a question by Sir Charles Tupper, that he had heard nothing of a rumor that, owing to the action of the United States, the conference was not to be resumed and that so far as his information went there was nothing to justify his believing the report. Mr. Charlton's bill, raising the age of consent from 16 to 18, passed its third reading in the House after a prolonged discussion by a majority of 39. The old question as to the regularity of Lord Aberdeen's action in refusing to sanction certain appointments made by the Conservative Government after its defeat in the general election of 1896, was brought up by Sir Charles Tupper in connection with a motion for some papers bearing on the subject. Sir Charles again criticised Lord Aberdeen's action in the matter, and the Premier, in the course of his reply, said that the late Governor-General's course had the approval of the Hon. Mr. Chamberlain, Colonial Secretary. Sir Charles Tupper intimated that if that were the case he would carry the matter to the Imperial Parliament.