

# THE ADVOCATE

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## Comment.

Mr. LAURIER said at Winnipeg that Prohibition was not dead. It may not be dead, but, plebeianly to the contrary notwithstanding, it has not yet entered the realm of practical politics, and is not likely to as long as statesmen and not demagogues are at the head of federal affairs.

While Sir W. Lawson was prating in London yesterday, Henry Halls, another temperance lecturer, was being fined for having taken so much "deadly and devilish" liquor that he had to be trundled home by a policeman in a wheelbarrow. It made like a scene out of Marryat: *St. Wifred* (sternly)—"Who goes there?" *Policeman*—"Temperance lecturer drunk on a wheelbarrow." *St. Wifred* (mildly)—"Pass temperance lecturer drunk on a wheelbarrow, and all well."—*London Globe*, August 21st.

The Pullman company will yet be sorry that they allowed the trouble with their employes to reach such a pitch as a strike. They are to be proceeded against for violations of the liquor laws in permitting wines and beer to be sold in their hotel cars. The contention is made, and it seems to us with justice, that they are liable for the amount of the license in every district through which their cars pass. It is a pretty thing if in Prohibitionary States, for instance, the Pullman company could exercise a right that is denied to the residents and citizens.

The Bishop of Winchester, in a letter to the clergy of his diocese, says: "Temperance means self-control, and self-control is essential to manhood, and manhood is the only soil in which true religion can grow. But how shall temperance be fostered? Let those who covet legislation speak about it. When I think it near enough to deserve close attention, I, too, will speak about it. But legislation implies a good deal more maturing and defining of public opinion than at present exists. We can well afford to wait a little longer for external law if we can secure the aid of the fear of God and the respect of man."

FRANCIS ARMINIUS HALSTEDT, the man to the throne of John Reno, who may be, recently addressed a temperance meeting at the Munster Park

Wesleyan Chapel, in the Fullam road, London, and in the course of his address he artlessly stated that his special purpose was to plead for the extermination of the drink traffic with the West Africans, because drink, in the form of turpentine mixed with paint was ruining the people. He therefore appealed to the Munster Park Wesleyans "to see that if any liquor was sent out at all it should be of the best."

Mr. Wm. Algie, of Alton, is evidently a man of thought and perspicacity. At the Annual Convention of the Canadian Secular Society he said: "There is a large number of men in this world who advocate temperance for the other fellow. There is no right-thinking man who does not appreciate the evils of the present liquor traffic. It is more a moral question than one of legislation. I am of the opinion that if this city would throw open its art galleries, its museums, have bands playing in the parks, and give men and women, by Sunday cars and trains, every opportunity for legitimate enjoyment there would not be so much drinking."

The Knights of Pythias have resolved not to confer on liquor dealers the privilege of membership. Nothing is said of those at present within the ranks, but if they can do so without inconvenience it would seem they would only be acting with becoming dignity were they to resign. In Toronto several liquor dealers are members, and it is noteworthy that some belonged to the select coterie who started the order in this part of the country. Three were in fact charter members of Mystic Lodge, the first outside St. John, N.B., Canada. These gentlemen were the late Mr. John Shamessey and Messrs. Harry Findlay and G. W. Cooley.

An English contemporary says that no calling requires for its successful carrying on, such a wide knowledge of technical points of law as does that of an inn keeper or publican. This is a true beyond any possible doubt. Therein lies the value of THE ADVOCATE. Not only do we regard it as our mission to place the trade in the proper light before the public and to furnish all possible information appertaining to the business of the license-holder, but above all do we regard it as our duty to keep members of the trade well posted on points of law. Two dollars a year spent with us may save a subscriber twenty-five,

fifty or a hundred times as much, and that is a fact which we beg all our readers to impress upon their friends.

A WELL-MEANING individual has suggested that Prohibition be brought about by allowing every present license-holder to remain in the business until he dies, no fresh licenses being issued nor old ones renewed. He thinks that in this way there would be no confiscation and no body would be seriously hurt. The suggestion for obvious reasons is not only not practicable, but robbery of the heirs of the dead is robbery of the living. The longest livers would doubtless have a fine picnic under the scheme, but the liberty of the subject would be equally as much interfered with as by Prohibition, and drunkenness would increase rather than decrease as the number of licensed houses lessened. One scheme is as bad as the other and both are wretchedly bad and unworthy of a free people.

The British Commissioners of Lunacy in a report concerning the Colney Hatch Asylum complain that beer is not given to the workers. They regard this as a mistake, as it lessens the percentage of unemployed patients, and employment is a potent factor in recovery, and the effectual remedy for some destructive habits. "The asylum," they add, "is not a reformatory; and, claiming to be advocates of temperance, which total abstinence is not, we think the withdrawal from the temperate of their past life's beverage irritates, whereas every effort should be made to alleviate the morbid discontent of the sober patients, in proportion to whom the drunkards are few. These last, if in the incipient stage of their vice, so soon recover that they must be discharged too soon for the eradication of that vice; if they be old staggers, they come to the asylum a wreck of humanity, and their condition is too chronic for discharge, except through death. We deem it to be our duty to repeat our colleagues' objection in 1892 to what is in no sense a proceeding in the cause of true temperance, which is the avoidance of excess." Beer, it would seem, has its beneficial uses even where the insane are concerned.

At the annual meeting of the Michigan State Liquor Dealers' Association at Jackson on Aug. 28 and 29, Detroit was chosen as the next meeting place. It was reported that the insurance branch had in one year brought \$10,228.82 into the

treasury and that five death allowances had been paid of \$1,000 each, there being 1,725 members. President Carroll said there were 238,728 liquor dealers in the United States, of whom 8,805 were credited to Michigan. There are 1,798 breweries in the country. The amount of taxes paid by dealers is as follows: Liquor, \$98,000,000; beer, \$55,000,000; imported wines and liquors, \$12,000,000, making a total of \$145,000,000, which is an average per saloon keeper of \$675. The government tax of \$25 added to this, makes an average of \$700. It was resolved to support union labor organizations throughout the state and to handle none but union-made cigars. It was decided that the executive should comprise nine members, with the president and treasurer as ex-officio members. The following officers were elected: President, Seneca I. Baker, Kalamazoo; vice-president, Martin Higgins, Houghton; treasurer, C. P. Wells, Bay City, re-elected. The convention adjourned until the third Tuesday in August, 1895.

A CURIOUS problem is raised by "A Perplexed Politician" in a letter to the *London Daily Telegraph*. He says: "During the past few weeks it has been my good fortune frequently to take lunch at a very splendid London political club. Its principles may be described as Liberal—Radical—Social-Democratic. Its grill is excellent—chops and steaks done to a turn; but I have noticed with some little interest that at this mid-day meal many members drink champagne. Now, I have never had the honor to be an invited guest at any of the great Conservative clubs, but I am told that there the members drink principally port and burgundy. It occurs to me to ask whether there is any intimate association between politics and wine? Does champagne represent all that is exhilarating and energetic—advanced thought and action—rapidity and rush, while port and burgundy simply mean repose and riches? In my provincial town I have no means of solving this little problem, but as I am a young man, anxious to distinguish myself as a future member, I should be glad to know if champagne is more likely than port to lead to fame?" The only solution to this strange state of things is that the advanced in thought prefer light and heavy wines, while the more staid and conservative prefer liquors with more body to them.

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