

# The Canada Citizen

## AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

A Journal devoted to the advocacy of Prohibition, and the promotion of social progress and moral Reform.

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F. S. SPENCE. - - - MANAGER.

TORONTO FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14th, 1883.

#### OUR LIQUOR BILL.

In the last number of THE CANADA CITIZEN (see page 268) is a typographical error that represents the money annually spent on strong drink in Canada as being \$5,000,000. As can be readily seen from the calculation accompanying the statement, the figures ought to have been \$25,000,000.

The customs and excise duties from the manufacture and importation of liquor average about \$5,000,000 per annum, and it is usually estimated that the consumer pays about five times the duty.

One or two other points in reference to this subject are worthy of notice. The drink revenue for 1882 was much more than the above quoted average, the details of it being as follows:

Duty upon malt used in manufacture of malt liquors.....	\$ 347,759 86
Duty upon Spirits manufactured and entered for home consumption.....	3,552,818 00
Duty upon liquors imported.....	1,661,900 52
	\$5,562,478 38

The following are the quantities of liquors upon which this duty accrued:

Manufactured Spirits.....	3,552,818 gallons.
" Malt Liquors.....	12,036,979 "
Imported Liquors.....	1,666,173 "

Total..... 17,256,142 gallons.

This amounts to about FOUR GALLONS per head for our total population. This is a much smaller *per capita* average than that which many other nations show in their returns, but it is large enough to be startling, and it must be remembered that these

figures do not include native wines and cider, of which a great deal is manufactured and drunk in some sections of the country.

The enlarged consumption of last year was mainly in fermented liquors. Lager-beer drinking is rapidly increasing. It has been said that beer is taking the place of whisky, but this statement is entirely at variance with the facts that are shown by our blue-book returns. We find that in 1881 we drank 9,931,176 gallons of malt liquor, and 3,214,541 gallons of spirits, in 1882 we increased to the quantities already stated, so that it will be seen at once that the increased beer-drinking was accompanied by increased whisky-drink; that beer did not take the place of whisky, but led to the consumption of more whisky, and that the present state of affairs is correctly expressed—as we predicted it would be—by the old couplet:

" They drink who never drank before,  
And they who drank drink all the more."

#### GROCERS' LICENSES.

It is rarely that a public meeting is so largely attended and so enthusiastic as was the gathering at St. Andrew's Hall, in Toronto, on Tuesday night. The interest of those present, in the question discussed, was well manifested in the fact that when the proceedings closed, at a quarter to eleven o'clock, the hall was still so much crowded that many persons were compelled to stand. Another remarkable feature of the meeting was its unanimity. After the first resolution had been moved and seconded, the Mayor invited any one opposed to it to address the meeting, but there was no attempt at response; and nearly all the resolutions were carried without a dissentient voice.

We have already discussed this question in its relation to the morality and prosperity of the community; we only desire now to call attention to the plainly indicated public opinion in reference to it.

The sentiments that the ratepayers of Toronto have so strongly expressed, are, we believe, the sentiments of this Province and of the Dominion. The clause of the Dominion Licensing Act, providing for the complete separation of the sale of liquor from the sale of other merchandise, is unmistakable evidence that our legislators have recognized the fact that the people are strongly opposed to this inexcusable and evil-producing system. We earnestly urge upon all right minded ratepayers everywhere the desirability of letting prospective municipal councillors distinctly understand that the voters are determined to do their duty and exercise their rights, by supporting men who will pledge themselves to abolish this evil.

There is at present an uncertainty as to the licensing power, both the Dominion Parliament and the Provincial Legislature claiming jurisdiction in the matter. As temperance electors we do not look at this matter from a party standpoint; what we want is right law from competent authority. We do not now attempt to discuss the question of the possession of this authority, but we want to be prepared for every contingency. It is our duty to see that our cause is promoted, and that right is recognized by both claimants for the licensing prerogative. We must use every effort to improve the McCarthy Act, and we must, at the same time energetically enforce upon municipal councils their duty under the Crooks' Act, so that no matter which authority is ultimately declared to be the right one, we shall be entirely rid of the home-polluting grocers' licenses.

" A weapon that comes down as still  
As snowflakes fall upon the sod,  
But executes a freeman's will  
As lightning does the will of God;  
And from its force nor doors nor locks  
Can shield you: 'tis the ballot-box."