

The Weekly Messenger.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18.

A REPEAL MOVEMENT.

A report has been going the rounds for a few weeks that a movement is on foot in Charlotte county, New Brunswick, to repeal the Scott Act, but we have so far failed to discover that any work of organization for that purpose has been done. In late issues of a paper published in St. Stephens, the chief town of the county, however, there are many communications inserted with editorial endorsement, which are models in the way of tirade against temperance societies and people. All the familiar strains of the class that professes to believe in the elevation of the people above drunkenness without severe restrictions upon the liquor traffic are sung over again, with all the discord that self-contradiction and inconsistent logic can afford. For instance, here are two sentiments—one in favor of a strict license law and another denouncing the raising of revenue from strong drink—taken from one writer's communication:—"It is most desirable that the movement [for the repeal of the Scott Act] should be assisted and brought to a successful issue, so that this last act of political bungling may be buried with its parents in corruption, in the unhonored grave of civil administration, and that the excellent License Law passed at the last session of Parliament may be adopted." Then, farther on:—"What is the use of the bishop signing the pledge as an example, whilst the Government licenses and takes toll from the traffic as a cherished monopoly, and fails to put in force any satisfactory supervision over what is sold under the terms of the present Act?" "What is the use," so ask we, but why has this writer just advocated a system that involves taking toll in the manner described, with no satisfactory assurance of supervision of the quality of drinks to be sold? The License Law may make provision for such supervision, but is anybody simple enough to imagine that it will not be successfully evaded by the dealers? Of course, we do not for a moment admit that alcoholic drinks of any quality are not injurious to the human system. The same writer labors hard, if bald assertion may be classed as laborious, to show that the efforts of the temperance people have in the past proved valueless, while he points to the improvement noticeable in general society within recent times as evidence that the people are rising above debauchery spontaneously. This is most audacious, for does any honest man pretend to say that the improved habits of the people in every English-speaking country are not directly owing to the persistent agitation of avowed believers in total abstinence for the individual and prohibition for the nation—the very persons whom this writer and all of his side denounce as fanatical, illiberal, tyrannical and the like? We have not space just now to show up all the absurdities of this fair specimen of the anti-prohibitionists, but shall take future opportunities to expose the hollowness of the grounds assumed by such as he. One plea used by this letter-writer in favor of having liquor-selling legalized must, however, be mentioned. Its absurdity is too rich to be passed. He describes the confined positions of working people in cities and towns, the bad air they have to breathe and so on, and argues that artificial life of this sort requires the use of alcoholic stimulants by those subject to it, in order to make them feel

well when they are not well. One would suppose the true remedy to be suggested for these known evils is the removal of their causes and not the use of stimulants to enable people to endure them with comfort while their constitutions are being impaired and their lives shortened all the while. Strange, however, is it that they who do not use strong drink endure all sorts of unfavorable conditions, other things equal, better than those who do, and that total abstinence has come to be regarded as one of the first recommendations, in the industrial life of cities as we find it, for situations where skill and capacity for sustained work are essential. To go back to Charlotte county, we may say that, if the opponents of the Scott Act are right in assuming that a majority of the electors regret the passage of the law in the first place, it had better be repealed. The more the question is agitated the weaker will the traffic become morally, and the reversion to a license system, after all that has been claimed for it, will afford opportunity of acquainting the people of the delusion of trusting to it for reducing drunkenness and its accompaniments. It is to be hoped, however, that the people of Charlotte county do not require to go back to the first lessons that they, in common with all peoples who have experienced the working of license laws, have long ago learned.

BUSINESS NOTES.

Large strikes of building mechanics have occurred in New York under orders from the Building Trades Unions, ending in the demands being granted. A strike in the Woonsocket Company's mills, Rhode Island, has ended with a triumph for the weavers. Fifty thousand dollars have been given the iron strikers at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, by the Iron Workers' Convention in Philadelphia, and ten thousand dollars will be granted weekly if necessary. The great telegraph strike shows strong symptoms of collapsing, many of the operators having gone back to work. Three hundred coal miners are on strike at Departure Bay, British Columbia, making it necessary to close the pits with a loss of employment to nine hundred men.

The following is a summary of crop reports throughout the United States for the month:—Cotton does not look as well as last year, owing to drought; corn shows improvement in New England, the Middle States, the Ohio Valley and west of the Mississippi, but is light in Illinois, Missouri and Kansas, and suffers from unfavorable weather in the South; wheat is in as good condition as last year, which is higher than any previous year since 1876; oats is in an equally promising condition, and potatoes and buckwheat show a high average.

General business in the United States still suffers from midsummer dulness, and failures are in excess of the previous week and of the corresponding week in the past two years.

IT IS STATED by a treasury official that six million dollars' worth of opium has been smuggled into San Francisco during the past ten years. It has been systematically done by a ring of smugglers, with whom Government officials have been in collusion for thirty percent of the spoils. Under the increased duty it is believed smuggling of the drug will be largely promoted.

Much excitement prevails in Missouri over extensive oil and gas discoveries, and prospecting and speculation are rife over a large tract of country.

THE WEEK.

CAPTAIN RHODES, of Salamanca, New York, is said to be on his way to Niagara Falls, where he intends to swim the Whirlpool Rapids where Webb perished a few days ago. He has an armor to protect himself from injury, which he has tested by going over a dam on the Allegheny River in it. The authorities should prevent any more would-be heroes from courting death in those waters.

SOMEbody HAS DISCOVERED that the water of steeped tomato leaves sprinkled on trees and bushes will clear them of insects, and that the leaves put round the branches and trunks have the same effect.

A SEALING CAPTAIN has expressed his doubts about the chances of the steamer "Proteus" reaching Lady Franklin Bay this year, to relieve the Greeley expedition. This mariner believes it will be a remarkable year for ice in high latitudes, on account of there having been no outflow of Arctic ice during the spring or early summer months.

THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY has had its track laid to Calgary, in sight of the Rocky Mountains. Mr. Langdon, one of the building contractors, says no man ever saw a finer location for any railway than this one has through these mountains.

A DESPATCH FROM DULUTH, Minnesota, gives reports of small-pox making havoc among the Indians in Itaska county, who are without medical aid, as high as eighty-five deaths being reported in two small towns.

THE FASTEST TRIP ON RECORD has just been made between Queenstown, Ireland, and New York, by the steamship "City of Rome," the time being six days, twenty and a half hours.

MRS. ELIZABETH GLOUCESTER, reported the richest colored woman in America, died lately in Brooklyn, leaving half a million.

MRS. WILLIAM G. FARGO, widow of the late William G. Fargo, the late President of the American Express Company, lately married in Buffalo, New York, the Hon. Frances F. Fargo, no relation to her family as the name might indicate. She is sixty-one years old and the groom two years younger. The first Fargo was a millionaire and has been dead a year and a half, and the bride's relatives were opposed to the second marriage. Mr. Fargo the second has been speaker of the California State Assembly, also City Clerk of Buffalo, and is a prominent politician.

ACCOUNTS FROM THE SEAL FISHERY of Newfoundland indicate good catches. Bottle-nosed whales have been seen in large numbers by the fishermen. The weather for three months has been cold and foggy, the sun having appeared but three times in that period.

AN OTTAWA DOCTOR hurt his eye by using a new bath sponge and it is feared the sight will be permanently lost.

AFTER HAVING BEEN FORBIDDEN by resolutions of the Common Council of Syracuse, New York, to parade the streets of that city, the Salvation Army mustered one night and marched through the streets, shouting "Hallelujah" and singing hymns to popular airs. The police intercepted the enthusiasts and were about to lock up the whole force when an alderman who had opposed the prohibitive resolution gave a bail bond for the appearance of the disturbers. Accordingly the prohibition will be tested in the courts.

THE STEAMSHIP "LUDWIG" left Antwerp, Belgium, for Montreal, Canada, on July second, with twenty-three cabin passengers and a valuable cargo, and, having not since been heard of, it is feared she is lost. Emile Hone, a rising young musician, of Montreal, is in the list of passengers.

THE COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS at Tacoma, Washington Territory, has captured a sloop engaged in running Chinese across from British Columbia. Two smugglers were arrested but nine Chinese escaped. About a hundred Chinamen have been surreptitiously conveyed across the frontier in a month, and the collector says without a larger force he can do little to prevent the smuggling. The Government can best end this new difficulty by abolishing the law of exclusion that shuts out a large part of God's earth from the use of a great division of His reasonable creatures.

GENERAL CABLE, at a great reunion of old-time Confederates attended by fifty thousand people, held at Mackinley, Texas, in a speech declared that England and America can never have more than an unnatural friendship "while America and the purple-clad are linked by hooks of steel," and he hoped to live long enough to lead the ex-Confederates under the stars and stripes in a contest against England. This man of blood doubtless speaks for a very insignificant section of the great American people.

A CATTLE DROVER from Sabina complained to the police in Toronto that he had been drugged and robbed of a thousand dollars in a vile den of that city.

JOHN BARK, employed by a firm of chemists, in Philadelphia, was arrested for stealing quinine and six thousand dollars' worth of the drug was found in his house.

WILLIAM WALKER, a merchant, absconded from Dayton, Ohio, leaving thirty to forty thousand unpaid notes, many of them forgeries.

A MAN in OTTAWA was fined twenty dollars for using insulting language to a woman, and the public verdict is, "Served him right."

A BOILER of a THRESHING MILL exploded at Fort William, Ontario, instantly killing P. Caldwell and supposed fatally scalding L. Howick. Steam power has increased so much on farms as to make it necessary to have a system of strict boiler inspection extended to the rural districts.

THREE NEGROES, charged with inducing laborers to desert after supplying them to contractors, were lynched at a railway camp in Amite county, Mississippi.

COLONEL BANDOLA, commanding the Mexican forces against the hostile Indians, was killed on the second of August. He was on his way with sixty men to the relief of a place where the Apaches had surprised the inhabitants, killing four. Being a brave man he was riding some distance in front of his command with two men, when he was fired upon from ambush and mortally wounded, the two attendants being killed.

A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY among Shoshonee Indians is reported in Salt Lake City from Rule Valley. An Indian murdered his squaw by breaking her limbs and then burning her while yet alive. The murderer was seized by the tribe, his feet tied to a tree and a coil of rope placed round his neck. Two stout Indians then pulled the ends of the rope until the wretch was choked to death.