

Lying About the "Cider Clause" of the Maine Law.

The Albany Journal, in a recent editorial, said—"It (the Maine Law) has become so stringent that the farmer who makes or gives away a glass of new cider, fresh from the press, can be arrested and convicted on five different charges, with a possible combined punishment of five months' imprisonment in the county gaol and an accumulated fine of 1,350 dollars. Under the law he can be convicted for selling the cider; he can be punished for having any utensil on his premises that contains the cider, he can be indicted as a common seller of liquor, and punished, also, for keeping a tippling shop, and, fifthly, for establishing a liquor nuisance. This is the ingenious law that the Prohibitionists have established. The consequence is that the farmers throughout the State are roused against it, because they cannot make cider to sell, give away, or even to use themselves. Under this absurd law many staunch Old Prohibitionists—some of whom have been identified with the Maine Law from its birth, and have voted the Temperance ticket year after year, never drinking a drop of liquor or permitting any in their houses—have been arrested for making sweet cider and keeping it in their homes."

I have no patience in reading this, and must be excused for roughly denouncing it as a malicious, malignant, wilful lie. There is no prohibition here of the manufacture of cider. Any farmer may freely make as much of it as he wishes to do, and may give it away by the glass or the barrel, if he likes, with none to molest or make him afraid. The words "new cider" are not in the law, but the sale of "cider for tippling purposes" is forbidden, as that of beer and whiskey is, and under the same penalties, being classed rightfully as an "intoxicating drink." The Legislature of Maine is largely made up of farmers and of men largely related to them and associated with them, and no legislation offensive to them would be possible. Under the law the farmer may sell cider freely by the barrel or in any other quantity not less than five gallons, except for "tippling purposes." This particular feature of the law was enacted at the special request of our country people, and not by those of the towns, and it has the approval and support of the farmers.

There is no law in Maine against the use of cider or any other intoxicating liquor; it is the sale and keeping for sale only that is forbidden, and of cider the sale and keeping for sale of it "for tippling purposes." There is no demand by anybody for the repeal of the "cider clause." Portland, Maine. NEAL DOW. —The Voice.

THE AWFUL EVIL OF RUM.

The Liquor Traffic Denounced by a Prominent Journal—Drink-sellers and Abettors to the Ruin of Immortal Souls.

The Catholic Temperance Advocate, the ably edited organ of the Catholic Temperance workers of America, is strong in its denunciation of the whole liquor system. In a recent issue, an editorial denounces the traffic, and those who carry it on, in the following scathing terms:—"Of all the agencies at present operating in the accursed work of the physical and moral destruction of the human race, there are none that are so deadly in their effects as that accursed traffic, whose deadly fumes can be traced even beyond the graves of the victims whose lives have been sacrificed at its unholy shrine. The testimony of the most eminent medical authorities in the world's history is not wanting to prove that the use of alcoholic stimulants even in the most moderate form, is ultimately injurious to the human system. The testimony of all medical men, the every day experience of the world, is the most convincing proof of the horrible destruction which marks the path of the rum-seller. The fact that all solvent insurance companies refuse to take risks on the lives of those whom they know to be addicted to the habit of habitual drinking, even though the practice has not assumed an immoderate form, is of itself a most convincing proof that the use of alcoholic stimulants tends to shorten the natural period of man's existence. Their judgment is not hastily formed, neither is it unsupported by every day statistics. The world's history is most sadly prolific in the most convincing proofs, that in all visitations of epidemics, the victims of the drinking habit are the most susceptible to their deadly attacks."

This is the traffic which pleads that it be sanctioned and licensed at the present time under the law. No man, whose reason has not been blinded by the fumes of the poison which damns men's souls, will pretend to assert the proposition that the victim of drink and the man whose system is free from the ravages of the insidious poison, stand an equal chance in a conflict with a deadly epidemic. As well might it be asserted that a novice would stand an equal chance with a trained athlete in the roped arena. Rum in its mildest form and most moderate use is destructive of the physical energies of man. But what must be said of it when looked at from a moral standpoint? No man can even approximately give an idea of the terrible destruction which marks the path of the rum fiend among the souls of its victims. None, but the all-seeing eye of an outraged God, could picture the ruin to immortal souls which is charged upon the book of life against those who have been abettors in that ruin, and with which they will be charged in that last awful day, when the wrong-doer will call upon the mountains to hide him from the wrath to come.

The Canada Temperance Act.

RESULTS OF THE VOTING SO FAR:

Table with columns: PLACE, VOTES POLLED (For, Ag'nat), MAJORITIES (For, Ag'nat), DATE OF ELECTION. Lists various Canadian locations and their voting results for the Temperance Act.

N.B.—In the preceding table a place that has voted more than once has the different votes indicated by the figures (1), (2), (3) after the name of place. Figures printed in italics are for first or second votes in places in which a later vote has been taken than that so printed. Names in heavy faced type are of cities, others of counties.

SUMMARY.

Nova Scotia has eighteen counties and one city, of which thirteen counties have adopted the Act. New Brunswick has fourteen counties and two cities, of which ten counties and two cities have adopted the Act. Manitoba has five counties and one city, of which two counties have adopted the Act. Prince Edward Island has three counties and one city, all of which have adopted the Act. Ontario has thirty-eight counties and union of counties and eleven cities, of which twenty-five counties and two cities have adopted the Act: one of these has repealed it. Quebec has fifty-six counties and four cities, five counties of which have adopted the Act. British Columbia has five parliamentary constituencies, none of which have adopted the Act. In all, up to the present time, 81 cities and counties have voted upon the Scott Act, and 63 have adopted it. Nine counties and cities voted twice and 5 three times, making an aggregate of 95 contests, out of which we have been victorious in 73. The aggregate votes cast in all the contests, have been:— For the Scott Act..... 166645 Against "..... 116256 Net Scott Act majority..... 50389 If we omit all voting but the last, in those places which have voted more than once we get the following as the latest vote:— For the Scott Act..... 147132 Against "..... 106385

It is more than eight years since the Scott Act was first voted upon and adopted in different localities, and ONLY ONE COUNTY HAS YET REPEALED it, although many votings have taken place on the question of repeal.

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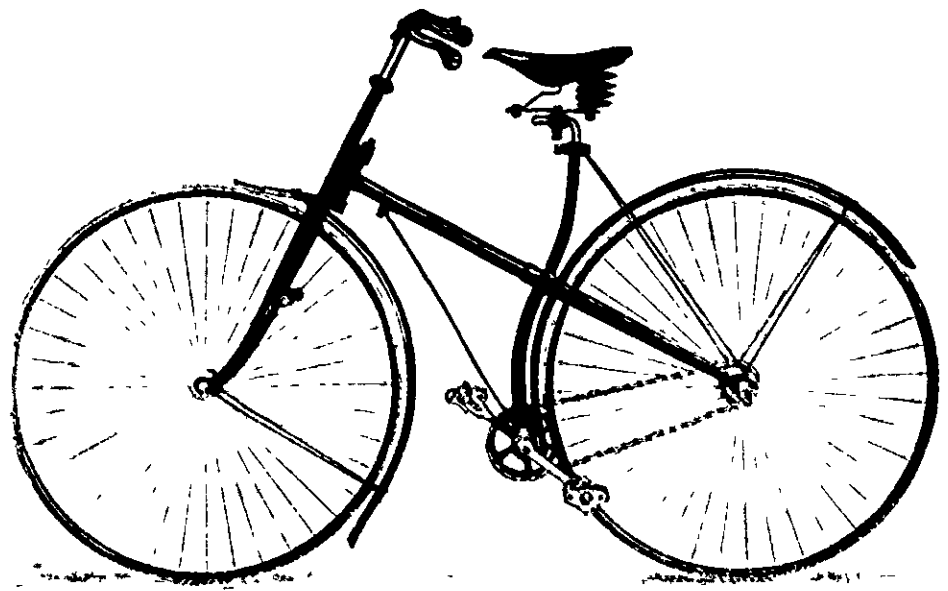
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