

Mayor Stork, who accorded the freedom of Prince Rupert to its founder. The address itself was a beautiful example of the pyrographic art. It was on a full sized mooseskin, ten by six feet in size, tanned by the Indians of the north. It is not an exaggeration to say that the Premier will keep this as one of the most cherished souvenirs of his tour. Then two of the Indian chiefs came up and with a pure English accent which surprised all present, read an address, the wording of which was skilfully carved on a large canoe paddle.

Next came the representatives of the French-Canadian Society, which has some two hundred members. Besides presenting an address to Sir Wilfrid and a gift to Lady Laurier, they had erected a large arch across Centre St., on which were the words in flaming colours: "Vive Laurier; vive la marine Canadienne." The address in part was as follows:

A TEMPERANCE PARADISE

Newfoundland the Soberest Country in the World

By P. T. McGRATH

THE Newfoundland Legislature, at its last session, has taken another step towards making the Island a Temperance Paradise, by an amendment to the existing liquor laws, which allows saloons to do business only between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. on week days; closes them absolutely on Sundays; forbids the sale of any liquor on credit to tipplers; prohibits the sending of liquor C.O.D. into "local option" districts; and provides that in future no licenses shall be granted to any saloon which has more than one entrance or more than a single room for the sale or consumption of intoxicants.

That Newfoundland deserves the reputation of being the most sober country in the world can hardly be gainsaid. Outside of St. John's, the capital, with 30,000 people, and the adjacent districts with 20,000 more, there is not a settlement in the Island wherein intoxicating liquors are legally sold. The whole population is settled round the Island's coast of 6,000 miles, within sight of the sea, whose finny denizens supply their livelihood, and of the 1546 hamlets, great and small, which exist along this ragged shore, only these within a radius of 50 miles of St. John's yet possess liquor stores.

This is due mainly to their proximity and intercourse with St. John's, which, being the chief seaport, is the centre of the most of the drinking done in the Island, being the resort of all the foreign shipping that comes to the Colony in the ordinary course of its commerce; of British and French warships, harbouring there each summer, and every one of Newfoundland's fleet of 1,400 fishing smacks, is found there twice annually, in the spring when outfitting for the fisheries, and again in the fall, when returning with the season's catch. Hence it is not surprising that St. John's should boast 60 saloons, or that hamlets near it should regard prohibition with disdain.

Nor Any Drop To Drink.

But the rest of the Island is virtually prohibition territory, and one can sail past hundreds of miles of seaboard without being able to purchase a drink. The coastal and in-bay mail steamers are not permitted to sell intoxicants, and only on the express trains is the vending of such allowed and then to no passengers but those travelling more than fifty miles. Newfoundland, as long ago as 1872, passed a permissive, or local option act enabling the people of any settlement, by a majority vote, to suppress the sale of liquors among them, and during the past 40 years the whole of the Island, save St. John's and the adjacent places, has come, voluntarily, under the operation of that measure. Of course, an individual may purchase liquor elsewhere for his own consumption, and the government licenses reputable persons in each of the leading hamlets to keep liquor in "bond stores," whence supplies can only be obtained for medical purposes, upon the orders of a registered physician. There may be, too, at some places, illicit selling, or "sheebening" as it is locally known, from an Irish term used in conjunction with "potheen" in the days when the hillsides of Erin abounded with private "stills."

Speaking broadly, Newfoundland, except St. John's and the adjacent settlements, is prohibition, and in this colony, if nowhere else, prohibition certainly does prohibit. The temperance laws are enforced with exemplary strictness, and the penalties are severe enough to deter any but the most reck-

"Right Hon. Sir,—We are happy, as French-Canadians of Prince Rupert to join the municipal body to welcome you amongst us. It is with pleasure that we take this occasion of your visit to express to you in our mother tongue our most sincere sentiments of devotion and sympathy. Your brilliant career, and the success of your administration, are our pride, and as a testimony of our gratitude we offer you the assurance of our devotion to the patriotic ideals which you have always proclaimed. We avail ourselves of this circumstance to protest, in the presence of the Minister of the Crown, our loyalty to our Sovereign, George the Fifth, and when it will be our good fortune to welcome in our superb port the gallant cruisers of the Canadian navy there shall not be found wanting in our ranks, intrepid sailors, ready to fly to the defence of the Empire."

less from violating them. Thus, to sell liquor in a prohibited settlement involves a fine of \$100 for a first offence, while the convicting magistrate advertises the fact in the St. John's papers, and any dealer there who afterwards sells liquors in any quantity to such convicted person is himself liable to a fine of \$200. No liquor is sold in the clubs, no hotels are granted licenses, and it is impossible to obtain a drink one minute after closing hour or before opening time. This is no fanciful exaggeration, or an outcome of collusion between the police and the rum-sellers, but is an actual result of a whole-hearted enforcement of the liquor laws; and is the amazement and admiration of all visitors.

An Effective Police.

The police are a colonial, not a municipal force, a semi-military body, like the Royal Irish Constabulary, upon which they are modeled. They number 100 all told, half of them are in St. John's and the others stationed in ones and twos all round the Island. The fact that 100 men are sufficient for peace preservation purposes in a colony of 250,000 people is adequate proof of the law-abiding character of its people. There has been only one murder in Newfoundland in 15 years, and in the Colonial penitentiary at St. John's, which also serves as the city prison, the longest-sentenced person is for three years, his offence being the scuttling of a schooner, a heinous crime in a country where the majority of the inhabitants live by the sea, and an increase in the marine assurance rates is a national calamity. The activities of the Newfoundland constabulary are manifold and multiform and cover every form of colonial and civic work, from the detection of serious crime to the enforcement of municipal regulations, and all are marked by the same unyielding adherence to the letter of the law as characterises their dealing with the temperance ordinances.

Fifty years ago the temperance sentiment in Newfoundland was quite the reverse of what it is now. Then every prominent well-to-do fisherman brought from St. John's to his home each fall a puncheon of rum as regularly as he did a puncheon of molasses and the more affluent had two puncheons. The contents were used as liberally then as beer is now. Every man took his two or three horns (so called because horn-drinking vessels were used) regularly every day, at least. He started with his "morning" when he began his work; then took his "leavener" at 11 a.m., and his "afternoon" at 4 p.m. At these hours daily in large fishing places a girl servant made the rounds with a bucket of rum and a basket of bread, and every man helped himself to his "horn" and "grog-bit." Shiprights in their agreements stipulated for so many shillings a day and a quart of rum. Fishermen took jars of rum in their boats and not infrequently drank as much without apparent hurt to themselves. Sealmen took a gallon of rum and a pound of tobacco each, as indispensable requisites for the seal hunt, and the ship's shares contained an equally liberal store of these articles. Even a sealship owner suspected of temperance principles provided his steamers, as recently as 1899, with 20 gallons of rum, 2 cases of brandy, 2 cases of whisky, 2 cases of wine and 2 cases of champagne, and the master duplicated this stock.

Prior to the advent of steam into the seal fishery 400 to 500 sailing crafts prosecuted it, and the crews for these signed articles between Christmas and

New Year's, walking scores, if not hundreds of miles to the shipping ports to do so and holding a continuous revel for that period. They would go from harbour to harbour in gangs, seeking "berths" on the vessels, with the result that they all usually became drunk and quarrels ensued. But the "old-timers" maintain that it was the only period in the year that men became intoxicated and they attribute the comparative immunity from drunkenness, in the face of an almost universal consumption of spirituous liquors, to the purity and unadulterated character of the rum sold and so generally used in these times.

To-day in Newfoundland, the very reverse conditions prevail. In the first week of March, 1903, some 4,000 seamen went on strike in St. John's and tied up the fleet of twenty-five steamers at the wharves, yet though these men had come from all parts of the Island, were without shelter or any comforts, having to be housed for three nights in the police and fire stations, society halls and other large buildings, not a single arrest for drunkenness, disorderly conduct, theft or other breach of the law was made, nor a charge made by any resident that even a hen-roost had been robbed, though the strikers had no unions, no funds, and no food, save what the charitably disposed citizens provided for them. They gained their point and the incident closed without the least friction. Such an outcome, of course, would not have been possible in the good old days when "liquor flowed like water," but this struggle passed off without any instance of violence, though 60 saloons were doing business in St. John's.

These places, however, are not the gilded shams which American "gin-palaces" are, but are rather dismal and gloomy rooms, with opaque glass windows, no aspect of splendour or gaudiness whatever, and are mostly kept by widows, with barmaids as attendants frequently. Nor are the barmaids the attractive specimens of the female sex who are seen in English-drinking places, but spinsters of uncertain age and vinegary countenance, of one of whom it is said that when she asked a waggish toper if he would have "bitters" with his liquor, he replied: "No, Miss; just look into the glass yourself and that will make it bitter enough for me." St. John's was the only place in North America that boasted of barmaids and, sad to relate, an amendment of the temperance law enacted at the session of the Colonial Legislature four years ago, wiped them out of existence.

An Inverse Ratio.

Perhaps the best evidence, however, of the sobriety of the people of Newfoundland is afforded by the fact that forty years ago before local option was adopted, the annual imports of intoxicating liquors amounted to 210,000 gallons, whereas now they only total 160,000 gallons, although the population has increased from 170,000 to 240,000 in the same time. The consumption of rum has declined one-third and every "hard" drink shows a corresponding decrease except whisky, the fashionable "stimulant" of the present day. In ale, and beer, moreover, the Newfoundland law declares any beverage an intoxicant which contains 2 per cent. or more of the alcohol by volume, whereas other countries fix the limit at 4 or 5 per cent., so that in this Island the equivalent of the English table beer is penalised.

Nor do the figures for forty years ago accurately represent the annual consumption of liquor in those days, because then, smuggling with St. Pierre Miquelon was at its height, and along long stretches of the coast not enough duty was collected to pay the salaries of the custom officers. Virtually every fishing vessel in the Island obtained her own supplies of intoxicants there, and scores smuggled large quantities into different parts of the colony. To-day that traffic has been stamped out and smuggling has practically ceased; but competent authorities claim that fully 50 per cent. more liquor was consumed in the Island forty years ago than was imported, for even as late as ten years ago, whole schooner loads were smuggled into St. John's.

The temperance advocates, however, are not yet satisfied, and declare that within a year or two they will set on foot a movement for total prohibition of the import of intoxicants. If so, and it succeeds, Newfoundland will have an excellent opportunity to prove to the world the possibility of carrying out an effective scheme in favour of a general enforcement of a prohibition law.

Newfoundland, being an Island, situated off by itself in the ocean, there should be great difficulties in the way of evading such a law, and as there is no way to distill strong spirits here, the illicit providing of such would be impossible. The public sentiment of the colony is strongly in favour of a radical temperance law, and it may be that prohibition would carry.