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**Westmorland and the Scott Act.** The Scott Act election held in Westmorland County on Tuesday of last week resulted in the Act being sustained by a majority of 257 votes. This is a gratifying victory for the temperance cause. The majority is not, of course, so large as could be desired. It seems small indeed in comparison with the majority of 1,813 votes which the county gave for prohibition in the plebiscite election. It is smaller by twenty votes than the majority secured for the Scott Act in 1896 if, in the latter, the official count is taken, and an error in the returns from one of the polling places made the declared majority about 100 less than it should have been. But the majority by which the Scott Act was sustained in the election of last week is a substantial one, and the victory which the temperance people have won is all the more gratifying and significant because it has been won in spite of a very determined fight on the part of the liquor party. It was an object of no little importance to the liquor interests of the whole country to win the battle in Westmorland, and that they fought hard to secure that result is shown by the fact that the anti-Scott Act vote in this election was larger by some 550 votes than it had been in any of the four previous Scott Act contests. The very strong interest taken in the election by the people of the county generally is shown by the largeness of the vote polled. In the plebiscite election the vote for prohibition was 3,330 and the negative vote 1,517, making the whole number of votes cast 4,847; but in the election of last week the whole number of votes cast was 6,247,—3,252 for the Act, and 2,995 against—which is only about 600 votes less than was cast at the last general election. It is true that the votes cast in favor of the Scott Act on Tuesday were far from being a majority of the registered electorate of the county, but the election has shown that a substantial majority of the electors who usually vote at elections are opposed to a licensed liquor traffic, and such a vote should be recognized as authoritative for the prohibition of the liquor traffic either in Westmorland county or in the Dominion. The Temperance Act has now been law in Westmorland for twenty years and this is the fourth attempt to have it repealed which has failed. The Act has not always and in all places been enforced as strictly as could be desired, but it has not been by any means a dead letter, and it has doubtless operated to discourage drinking and to promote temperance sentiment. In Westmorland, as in other Scott Act counties, the enforcement of the law has been attended with difficulties, since the responsibility of enforcing it is left wholly in the hands of the people. What is needed in order to make the law really effective for the suppression of the traffic is that the Government shall appoint inspectors or prosecutors in Scott Act counties and give its full authority and influence to the enforcement of the law against the liquor business. If this were done, so that the counties which have declared for prohibition under the Scott Act should have the law enforced so far as the power of government could secure that result, we believe it would make more effectually for the temperance reform in this country than anything else that at the present is practicable. That the Government should make such provision is, it seems to us, a very reasonable demand.

**A School of Technology.** A recent visit of Premier Emmer-son and Provincial Secretary Tweedie, of New Brunswick, to Halifax was for the purpose, it is said, of consulting with Premier Murray and Attorney General Longley of Nova Scotia in reference to the establishment for the Maritime Provinces of a school of

technology, which should embrace agriculture, horticulture, mining, mechanical arts and manual training. It is also intimated that the proposition was favorably discussed by the representatives of the two Governments, and that it was decided to confer with the Government of P. E. Island with a view to having a meeting of representatives of the three Governments for the purpose of giving more definite consideration to the whole subject. This meeting it is proposed to hold either in Halifax or Fredericton about the middle of the present month. The establishment of such a school as is proposed would certainly seem to be well worth discussing. The value and desirability of a school of agriculture and horticulture is, we suppose, quite generally recognized, and as between the three provinces there are, of course, no differences of soil or climate that need be considered in the establishment of such an institution. A good school would not impose any undue burden on the provinces and the general interest would certainly be served much more efficiently and at less expense by one school centrally located and well equipped than it could be by three schools that would inevitably be of a less efficient character. In view of the large mineral resources of the country and the increasing development of its mining industries, it would seem but reasonable that the school should do something for the promotion of these interests also. Just what the scope of the proposed school should be and the relation of its work to that of other educational interests already established would have to be carefully considered, but as we have said the proposal as it now comes before the public seems well worthy of consideration.

**Ontario and Nickel Steel.** It appears that, under the leadership of Premier Ross, the Ontario Government proposes to extend still further the policy of prohibiting exportation of certain raw products of the Province. This policy has already been applied in reference to the timber industry. Pine logs from Crown lands cannot be exported but must be converted into lumber in Ontario, and spruce, cut for the purpose of pulp or paper making, is subject to a similar regulation. The Government of the province has recently taken steps to extend this policy to cover certain of its mineral products. An order in council has been passed making it a condition of all future patents for copper or nickel lands that neither the ore nor the matte can be exported from Ontario. It is expected that this may lead to important results for the Province. Its nickel deposits are the most extensive in the world—in fact they are the only very extensive deposits so far discovered—and considering the great importance of nickel steel not only for the construction of armored ships but for many other important purposes, the mining and refining of nickel and copper ore seems likely to become an industry of immense importance in Ontario. Some experiments recently made by a Mr. Clergue, who is a manager of the Sault St. Marie pulp mills, have led him to believe that in the Sudbury mines iron is to be found in connection with the nickel ore in sufficient quantity to enable the best nickel steel to be produced directly from the ore. "If this proves to be correct," says the Toronto Globe, "it would be almost impossible to exaggerate the importance of the matter." With improved processes and larger operations there is coming to be a reduction in the cost of nickel steel, which makes it available for an increasing number of purposes. If the nickel deposits of Ontario should justify the more optimistic opinions as to their extent, and especially if the metal should be found so united with iron that nickel steel can be produced directly from the ore, the use of the material will doubtless become very much more common and the Globe's anticipation of the time when "the locomotives of the continent will run on nickel steel" may be realized.

**The War in South Africa.**

One item of news from South Africa received during the week is of especial interest to the people of this country. The S. S. Sardinian arrived at Capetown on Wednesday with the Canadian contingent, who were received with enthusiastic demonstrations by their fellow colonists of the Cape. The Australian and New Zealand detachments had arrived previously, and the coming of the Canadian contingent had been awaited with great interest. The censorship exercised over despatches during the past week has been of the most rigorous character, and the suspense has been painful, especially for many in England whose relatives are known to have been with General Methuen's army in recent battles. It will be remembered that in our last issue we were able to report that two battles had been fought by General Methuen with the Boers in his march northward to the relief of Kimberley,—the first at Belmont, the second, ten miles farther north, at Gras Pan or Enslin. Both of these were severe engagements, the Boers being strongly posted and entrenched, and fighting with great stubbornness. The British succeeded by dint of hard fighting and superior discipline in driving the enemy back, but as the British were at times exposed to the murderous rifle fire of the Boers, and as the latter fought for the most part under cover and retreated before the bayonet charges of the British, it is probable that the British lost more heavily than the Boers. General Methuen's loss at Belmont was 295 and at Enslin 200. A still more sanguinary battle was fought on Tuesday at Modder River. The details of this battle have not at present writing been received and the respective positions of the two armies, the circumstances under which the battle was fought and the results of it are not well understood. The Boers appear, however, to have occupied a strong position on the north side of the Modder river and were attacked by General Methuen from the south side. It was gathered from the brief despatch of the British Commander immediately after the battle that the enemy had been defeated. It is not clear that the advantage gained by General Methuen was of a decisive character. It is certain, however, that it was a terrible battle, lasting ten hours—the British soldiers fighting from dawn till dusk without food or drink. General Methuen spoke of it as one of the severest in the annals of the British army. The British loss in killed and wounded is given as 438, of whom 73 were killed. Among the wounded was General Methuen himself, but his wound is said not to be serious. The loss to General Methuen's command in the three battles, according to the figures given, is 933 men, and it has been necessary for him to wait for reinforcements before making further advance. Modder river is 25 miles from Kimberley, but at Spysfontein, somewhere between the two places, the Boers are said to have a strongly entrenched camp, where another battle may have to be fought before Kimberley is reached. The Canadian regiment has been sent to Belmont as a part of a force to keep open General Methuen's line of communication and may not unlikely become incorporated with his command. There is almost no news from Natal. Reports of the fall of Ladysmith, which have caused great joy in Paris, during the week are regarded as pure fabrications. The opposing forces are believed to be concentrating in the neighborhood of Colenso and news of a great battle thereabout may be received any day. There are conflicting accounts as to the bridge over the Tugela river at Colenso, one despatch saying that it has been blown up by the Boers, another that an attempt to destroy it was unsuccessful. . . . The latest news now at hand confirms the expectation that there will be a battle at Spysfontein. The news, however, is of the most meagre character, giving no definite account of the battle of Modder river. It is inferred from the vague reports given that the Boers, who were strongly posted on both sides of the river, were compelled to retreat, and the British established themselves on both banks of the river. General Methuen is again able to be in the field. He is repairing the bridge over the Modder river, which the Boers had destroyed, and will, doubtless, as soon as reinforced, move forward to Spysfontein. The most serious feature of the whole situation as at present reported is the hostile attitude of the Dutch Colonists in Northern Cape Colony, large numbers of whom are said to be making common cause with the Boers.