

## The Advocate.

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## THE TEMPLAR ENRAGED.

MESSES. WALKER & SONS, of Walkerville, Ont., manufacturers of "Canadian Club" and other whiskies, have recently sent themselves and their business before the Canadian public in a manner almost if not wholly unprecedented, and calculated to challenge study and criticism. The Templar should, therefore, not be deemed intrusive, but rather commendable as discharging a sacred trust, if from its standpoint as a social and political economist it accepts the invitation and investigates the peculiar and prosperous industry(?) conducted by the now wealthy Walker & Sons.

The Templar, the organ of the "Advanced Prohibitionists," is always rapid and usually courteous. Occasionally it runs in wrath, and when so it wields the full like unto the healthy huskman on a bright morning in January; but never have we seen it so completely lose its temper—if an "it" has a temper—as in its last issue in connection with the above. Every reader of the newspapers knows, Messrs. Hiram Walker & Sons recently formally opened their new business offices at Walkerville. The offices are the finest in America, and the owners celebrated the event fittingly. We all thought the season auspicious, but it seems we were all mistaken. It appears that the event was a public calamity, tending to produce widespread ruin and untold devastation, and the Templar devotes some columns of full faced type to demonstrating the peculiar atrocity of a distilling firm having the audacity to erect business offices. From this outburst we obtain a deal of information which hitherto we were unblest with.

It would seem that Hiram Walker & Sons are "a parasite on legitimate industries" and likewise that the money they may be possessed of "has been filched," in consequence of which "wives sit in sorrow and babes starve at the breast of famishing mothers." Truly this is terrible. But it is nothing to that follows. The "nation" is guilty of "folly," "inconceivable vice and torments are conceded," the distillers are "draining the vital forces" and Canadian "Club" is "doing a" "deadly and damnable work," likewise "wounds and bruises," "this is simply awful. It is bad enough to fish, but to conceal inconceivable vice and torments is demonic and quite in keeping with the other deadly and damnable work.

Nor is this all. The new offices it is declared have been decorated through "extensive brigandage," and "the imprecations and curses of the lost which wake the echoes of the infernal regions." Very ornate indeed must be these last ornaments which the same authority alleges were donated by the "high Priests of Hell." But to proceed, the legislators are designated as "dumb dogs," the press as "hiring sherpas" and the citizens as revelling in "a carnival of sin and shame." And so on to the end of the list, with much language which we would not care to repeat, and all quite as foolish as it is vile.

We shall not moralize on this outburst. If the Templar's constituency like that of a dish it is about what we would expect of them. It is their idea of practical temperance. But to Bro. Buchanan, who at heart is not a bad fellow, we would make a suggestion. All flesh is grass and he might hire himself out for fall pasture until the cooling frosts of autumn bring him back to his senses. Otherwise his friends should keep an eye upon him.

## THE LATEST ATTACK.

MR. F. S. SPENCE, secretary of the Dominion Alliance, has, through the medium of the Toronto Star, made a deliverance upon the present attitude of the temperance people with respect to proposed parliamentary and legislative action. Mr. Spence speaks with the authority of the Dominion Alliance, and his words may be taken as indicating the decision of that body. He describes the position of the Prohibitionists as one of waiting, but they are not to remain inactive long. Both the Dominion Parliament and the Ontario Legislature are to feel the weight of their influence before the birds come back in the spring. With regard to the larger body Mr. Spence says:

We cannot do much. The Dominion until the Royal Commission's report is received. It is, you know, considered discourteous when the House asks for information, as it did on Prohibition, for any one to raise the question again. You see then how effectually the system shunted the question. I don't say that the question was intentionally shunted. It was, however, effectively done.

But the temperance people are getting tired of this. It was three years ago last June since a Royal Commission was appointed, and no report has been given yet. It can be easily be shunted at the next meeting of Parliament. The report will consist of six volumes of at least one thousand pages each. The members may raise objections and thus postpone consideration. We don't expect a favorable report. But we expect to get some valuable information on the question. We want the report made so that we may discuss it freely. We won't wait longer, though. We have been treated discourteously and should not be expected to wait longer. The question will be brought up whether the report is presented or not.

So far so good. Our latest information is that the report of the Royal Commission will be ready by the end of the year. Whether it will be distributed before Parliament meets we do not know. It is

a report to Parliament and may be first presented to that body, which is the usual custom.

Mr. Spence does not expect the report to be "favorable." No man knows better than the secretary of the Dominion Alliance why not to expect a report favorable to Prohibition. As the representative of the Alliance before that Commission he attended the meetings of that body from Halifax to Victoria, he heard the evidence and knows its weight. No man knows better the utter unworkability of a prohibitory law or the enormous evil that is to follow in its wake. And no man knows better that once the report is out, its judgment will have to be met by something better than slang-throwing the Commissioners.

The question is to be brought up whether the report is presented or not. Why, bless us! the question was brought up at the last session of Parliament, was discussed by half a dozen members to an empty house and was then relegated to the dust heap. Perhaps our friends may have a better organization next time. Regarding the Legislature Mr. Spence remarks:

We are waiting for the Supreme Court's decision on the jurisdiction question. That may not now be ready before next March. If it is decided before the close of the next session of the Provincial Legislature that the Province has jurisdiction to deal with the question we will expect Prohibition at once. If it decides that the Province has not jurisdiction, we will then press some moderate reforms. If the decision is not made in time for the next Legislature, then minor reforms may be urged.

If it is decided that the Province has jurisdiction the Alliance may "expect" Prohibition at once but whether they will get it is quite another thing. The Legislature will have something to say in the matter, and this, it must be borne in mind, is a new Assembly. It is in the reference to minor reforms that Mr. Spence strikes the key-note of the true line of action that is to be adopted. He describes these reforms thus:

They will be in the line of license reform. We will demand a more rigid enforcement of the law throughout the country. We will ask that no one be given liquor if he is less than 21 years of age. We will ask that the penalty of breach of the law be heavier and more strictly enforced. We will ask that the hours of selling liquor be materially reduced. Another reform which we will advocate is that in connection with the retaining of licenses by license holders. Now a man before he can secure a license in a place where a saloon existed must secure the signature of the majority of the voters in the subdivision. If he once secured this there is nothing further necessary. The voters cannot deprive the man of the license. We ask that voters may be given permission to take away as well as give a license.

We have again and again warned the trade that their opponents were determined to harass where they could not destroy. And now look at this propaganda. Did the indignity of man ever devise more vexatious embarrassments, senseless and malicious as they are. A hotelkeeper is to decide as to the age of his customers, additional penalties are to be

founded, additional burdens exacted, his hours of business to be curtailed and his property to be placed in jeopardy at the mere whim of his neighbors. The rights, nay, the convenience even of the public is in no way to be considered, business principles are to be outraged, the citizen who believes in the moderate use of liquor is to be set completely in the background, and all so that these men of one idea may harass and vex and beggar a legitimate trade. The assumption of these people is intolerable but their very assumption will carry them to success if effort is not met by effort. The trade must be thoroughly organized against this attack. If organized they can defeat it, unless organized they will be defeated. We wish to emphasize this to our readers.

## THE TERRITORIAL ELECTIONS.

THE elections for members of the North-West Assembly have been held and there is now in the Prohibition camp. The "fadists" made a determined effort. They brought out their men in good time, organized a roaring campaign, flooded the plains with literature and heralded far and wide their determination to "sweep the country." Indeed, nothing less than a clean sweep would satisfy them.

What is the result? They stand in a worse light than in the last Assembly. They are weaker numerically and they have made their big fight. The people of the territories had a taste of Prohibition, and they wanted no more of it. In South Regina they made a dead set at Mowatt because he had side-tracked a Prohibition resolution last year. Mowatt was elected by a good round majority. In Moosejaw, so as to secure the defeat of Speaker Ross they put up Atinable, a Chief among the Royal Templars. Ross had 126 majority. In Moosemin Neff had 156 majority, though he was opposed by one of the Royal Templars' Grand Councilors. A great shot was made they thought in inducing Rev. Leonard Gaetz to take the field in Red Deer. The gentleman is now a sadder and a wiser man. In Banff Dr. Brett was denounced but the doctor easily got over it as just the same. In West Calgary Sifton, son of Hon. J. W. Sifton, of Manitoba, a Supreme Councillor of the Templars, etc., was beaten out of his boots by Critchley.

But the fun was in Medicine Hat. Tweed is an hotel keeper and so is his opponent Fearon. Tweed played the repentant racket, promised to vote for Prohibition, was endorsed by the Templars, who turned out for him in a body, and was roundly beaten by Fearon, who refused to even consider the question of Prohibition. Finally Premier Haultain, who has been a favorite subject of Templar denunciation for the past two years, and who was daily and weekly warned to note the handwriting on the wall, was elected by acclamation. Perhaps our temperance friends may now be able to decipher certain inscriptions on the plaster!