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The : Canada : Citizen AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

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TORONTO, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15th, 1887

FARMERS!

The stronghold of the liquor traffic is in the dense centres of population. Drunkenness is rife in cities and large towns. But the expense of administering justice, the support of jails and similar institutions is borne, to a large extent, by the country at large. In rural parts of Canada, where the liquor traffic does least damage and temperance sentiment is strong, it is easy to secure the out-lawry of the liquor-traffic.

The men, who are making most money out of this nefarious business, live in the cities; there they ply their terrible calling; there they build up their palatial residences and princely fortunes; there they fatten on the misery around them, and acquire influence enough to resist agitation for further restriction of their scoundrelism. Then they have the audacity to expect the expense of the ruin they work to be borne by the rural population, which has already expressed its dissatisfaction with the liquor system and in the most practical way is endeavoring to rid the country of it. It is just here that local option is weak. The liquor question will never be solved until our farming population assert that they have no right to be burdened with heavy taxation because brewers and distillers are influential in towns and cities. The country people must, through their representatives, insist, demand and secure the enactment and enforcement of total prohibition.

WHY IS IT?

More outrages, more arson, and yet no action by the Ontario Government; no reward for the detection of the incendiaries; no indignant protest from our city daily press; no evidence of realization of the terrible state of affairs that exists in this Province; no official recognition of the perilous position in which every man now stands, who dares to oppose the infernal liquor system; no action to put down this evidently well-organized villainy. Under no other circumstances was such apathy ever known. How much power has the liquor traffic got? To what extent is it able to stay the hands of justice and muzzle the "watch dogs of civilization?" Shall we be compelled in this progressive age and this enlightened country to go back again to the methods of THE VIGILANCE COMMITTEE?

TEMPERANCE UNION.

In another column the discussion on Temperance Union is continued by Mr. A. C. Stuebe, who is, at present, Grand Councillor of the R. T. of T. in Ontario, and who is widely known as a progressive and effective prohibition worker. We are inclined to think a good many members of the different orders, know too little about the nature and working of the separate institutions and are not fully aware of their almost identical character. Mr. Stuebe's information concerning the Royal Templars will be of use to these friends.

The whole question of union is taken up and discussed carefully in a recent number of the Central Good Templar, the organ of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, the editor of which influential journal comes to the conclusion that "there

seems to be no good reason why all these societies should not come together on a common basis and platform, and stand shoulder to shoulder for mutual protection and suppression of the horrible drink traffic. We believe it can be done, we are sure it ought to be done, and we sincerely hope that steps will be taken by the leaders of the different societies looking to this much to be desired end."

NO LICENSE.

The number of cases of indecent assault upon girls of tender years appears to be on the increase, through which, in several instances, severe injury has been inflicted on the children, and the jurors would strongly recommend that in addition to imprisonment the application of the lash should in all cases be inflicted, in hopes that the law may become a terror to such evil doers.

The jurors would also suggest that a more thorough system of inspection of houses of assignation and other low resorts should be immediately enforced, with a view to their suppression as they strongly productive crime. York County Grand Jury Presentment.

A common sense way of dealing with evil—just what might be expected of common-sense men—no proposition to license these abominable wrongs. Yet men, who are supposed to be gifted with common sense, actually still advocate licensing an evil, worse than all others, inasmuch as it leads to all others.

MISREPRESENTATION.

In a recent article, we stated that in Toronto the partial enforcement of prohibition had led to a serious increase of drunkenness. We have now the figures before us taken from the police records, and they tell us a sad tale indeed of the folly of that policy. Since the beginning of 1886, the most active measures were taken of a prohibitory nature in that city, and on the 1st August this year 74 licenses were cancelled. The result predicted by prohibitionists has been reversed, as the following figures demonstrate.—Dominion Churchman.

Some of our readers will be surprised to learn, that the article from which we make the above extract actually did appear in the columns of a professedly religious paper in this city. The article further goes on to give figures for January, February, March, April, May, June, and July as well as for August and September, of this year, and showing that, in the months named, there was an increase in the number of arrests for drunkenness in Toronto, attempts to argue against prohibition, making a statement calculated to mislead some people into believing that during the period named prohibition was operative in Toronto.

The fact of the matter is, that the evil results pointed out by the Churchman are the direct and increasing result of the license system, which he, we presume supports as against the prohibition which he denounces. There is no prohibition in Toronto, in the sense in which he would mislead the public to believe. Up to the 31st day of July there were as many licensed grog-shops in Toronto as there had been the year previous. The statement that during that time active measures were taken of a prohibitory nature is a most outrageous misrepresentation.

It is true that since the 31st of July as well as before that date, there has been much drunkenness in Toronto, notwithstanding the reduction made in the number of saloons, at that date. But the causes for this increase in arrests have been so plainly stated, that no person gifted with common sense and willing to use it, imagines that the reduction in licenses had anything to do with the drunkenness referred to, except to prevent its being still greater.

Why will a journal that ought to have regard for its reputation even if it be wanting in self-respect, stoop to anything so flagrantly dishonest and contemptible? Is there an answer to be found in the Churchman's advertising columns. Turning to them we find, that our contemporary enjoys the patronage of a big brewer and that its columns, its circulation, its right of entrance to Christian homes, are sold to the infamous, body-ruining, soul-destroying liquor traffic, that the Dominion Churchman, for a money consideration, helps this infernal business in its awful work of blasting homes, blighting lives, demoralizing politics and generally retarding our young country's progress and corrupting and degrading

society. Our surprise gives place to pity and shame. Is the falsification really worse than the treacherous evil doing? Perhaps not. We can more readily forgive Peter's cowardly denial than Judas' base betrayal for filthy lucre. Perhaps it is too much to expect that any journal, supported to any extent by such an institution as the liquor traffic, should be honest in dealing with the temperance question.

PERSONAL LIBERTY.

There is probably more nonsensical talk about personal liberty, in connection with prohibition agitation, than there is about any other of the many childish arguments, with which anti-temperance people endeavor to buttress their defective position. There is not a law on the Dominion Statute-books, there is not an enactment of our Local Legislature, there is not a by-law of a Municipal Council, that is not an interference with the personal liberty of some one. The very essence of legislation is the restriction of personal liberty for the benefit of the community, and if we are not to have any laws that restrict personal liberty, then we must abolish legislation altogether and turn civilization into barbarism. In Canada, to-day, men have not the right to live where they please, to live as they please, to dress as they please, to engage in any business they please. The moment any man so conducts himself that his conduct is manifestly injurious to the welfare of those around him, law is brought into operation to prevent his doing this mischief. This is the plain, ample principle that underlies prohibition, and prohibition is the only common-sense method of dealing with the liquor traffic, if that traffic is to be treated on the recognized principles which govern society. Licensing the liquor traffic, permitting men to do their neighbors wrong, in consideration of a fee, is something so totally different from good legislation, that it is only our familiarity with it, that induces us to give it any toleration. The proposal to license anything else of a similar nature to liquor-selling, would, to-day, be met with almost unanimous opposition, and any one who advocated it would be deemed either a scoundrel or a fool.

LIQUOR IN POLITICS.

The proposal that the Dominion Government should make a senator of wealthy Brewer Calcutt, who is out of jail through the connivance at his wrongdoing, of an official of the Ontario Government, naturally leads to some consideration of the great influence which the lucrative liquor traffic exerts in politics at the present time. It is to be presumed that liquor influence is potential, mainly because of the immense amount of money the liquor traffic controls, and the fact is a terrible criticism on the character of what is called politics in Canada to-day.

Let us take for example the men appointed to the Dominion Senate and we shall find that a large preponderance of them are men who have been bitterly opposed to temperance legislation, many of them personally hard drinkers and nearly all men of so little popularity and personal influence as to be unable to secure election to the Commons. What, but subservience to liquor influence, could induce Sir John Macdonald to make such men life-legislators of a progressive country like ours? Is it not true that men in many high positions in our country have been placed in those high positions simply as a reward for financial assistance to one or other political party, and that the wealth which enabled those men to give that assistance was wealth built out of the tears and groans and heartaches of widows and orphans, and the moral and physical degradation of a large section of our community.

Simply as an illustration of the relationship of liquor favoritism to official position, we may point to

the influence of Senator McKindsey whose political career was sketched last week by the Acton Free Press. Mr. McKindsey was sheriff of Halton county, and when the Scott Act was submitted for the first time, in that county, he was one of its bitterest and most active opponents. He failed, however, the Scott Act was carried by a small majority, and it being thought, that his liquor favoritism, would make him a strong candidate, he resigned his shrievalty and was nominated for the House of Commons, in the Conservative interest. Even the Conservative electors of old Halton were too sound on the temperance question to accept this anti, under such circumstances, and Mr. McKindsey was defeated. Out of office, out of parliament, out of favor with the best class of the community, he stood a whisky advocate, relying upon whisky favor, and he did not rely in vain, but soon followed other politicians, discarded by the public, to the convenient Senate-shelf. When the first Halton repeal contest came on, the Hon Mr. McKindsey was to the fore, and labored indefatigably in the interests of whiskydom, but again in vain. The Act was sustained by a majority of more than double that by which it was at first carried. Now another repeal contest is threatened and again Senator McKindsey is heard from, and appears on the scene at Ottawa, using his influence with the Government and nearly succeeding in getting the petition which we described last week, put through with unparalleled celerity. Here then we have as clear as day light the remarkable conjunction of whisky favoritism, official position secured, and energetic work in the interests of whisky.

Can it be possible that this country is to follow in the wake of the liquor subservience that older countries so well exemplify? Must our Dominion Senate really become the laughing stock of all decent people, in its absurd position of a political hospital for worn out brewery and distillery employees?

In Great Britain we have recently seen Arthur Guinness, Henry Alboop and Arthur Bass raised to the British peerage and seated as life legislators simply because the great brewing houses, which they represent have used their enormous wealth in the interests of the dominant political party. Commenting on these startling facts, the London Echo recently said:

If any man with an extensive acquaintance with the electoral struggles of the reign of Queen Victoria were asked what was the most potent engine of political corruption, he would readily answer the liquor traffic. If he were further asked whether his answer applied solely to the retailers, he would unhesitatingly reply no. The retailers are bribers on a small scale, but, too often, the wholesale men have been the worst offenders. It has not unfrequently happened that, when the weaker party in a constituency has tried every other kind of candidate, it has put up a big local brewer, and has then discovered the way of success. It was in this way that, within a comparatively short space of time, three of the staunchest Liberal boroughs in the north of England were won. It was in this way that one Eastern Counties borough was so flooded with corruption that it was disfranchised, and that another was so debauched that it owed its continued representation solely to the forbearance of the opposite party. It was in this way that a Midland borough outdid all its neighbors by the shameless venality of its electorate. In the great Tory reaction of 1874 the country brewers seized seat after seat in the southern half of England by means which may be better imagined than described.

There is not a pin to choose between the leaders of the two political parties in paying for profuse electioneering expenditure with baronetries and peerages, though Mr. Gladstone has been the most lavish in his disposal of honors. It was, however, reserved for the late leader of the aristocratic Tory party to break down the barrier between the Peers and the "boozers."

By our provincial legislation a man, who is engaged in the retail sale of liquor is thereby disqualified for a seat in a municipal council. By our political system a man who is engaged in the wholesaling or manufacturing of intoxicating drink is thereby on the high-road to the Dominion Cabinet or