

CHIGNECTO POST AND BORDERER.

SACKVILLE, N. B., AUG. 2, 1883.

Prohibition vs. High License.

A movement very widespread in the United States and Canada is on foot to substitute high license for other restrictive legislation. The movement has this peculiarity: it is aided by the advocacy of prohibitionists. The prohibitionist creed is that the liquor traffic is an unmitigated evil, a tax upon industry, a drain upon the life-blood of the country, and the great source of human crime and misery, and so man ought to support or encourage the evil in any manner. It may be asked how can a man holding such a belief consistently turn around and advocate that it be licensed and sanctioned by law? It is a holding of principle to the expediency of the hour?

The liquor traffic is a huge institution, implanted in the Anglo-Saxon race by the drinking customs of ages, entrenched around by tremendous vested interests, and supported by all classes, especially the higher and sanctioned by even the guardians of religion. It is a many sided affair; each man views it from his own vantage ground, and in these cases light is thrown upon the many conflicting and divergent remedies proposed by men who agree in the conviction that it is an unmitigated curse and ought to be suppressed. The moralist says it ought not to be licensed, for that sanctions and perpetuates it. The legislator looks at it from another standpoint. He says: "I am bound to legislate in accordance with the well understood wishes of the people. All laws must be in accordance with popular sentiment. Temperance legislation must move with the advance of public sentiment towards prohibition. Free whiskey, high license, low license or prohibitory laws are not to be enacted on the basis of an abstract principle of right or wrong, but on the basis of popular wishes. Hence, we find many ardent prohibitionists, who in dealing practically with the question, finding they cannot gain the full measure of their aspirations, or fearing the consequences of a reactionary movement from extreme measures, gladly accept such restrictive regulations as may be sanctioned by the popular voice. Even the heights of Torres Vedras were not gained at one bound. The legislature has to deal as best it may for the benefit of the race with the evils that result from man being an imperfect creature, but it is worse than folly to attempt to ignore the existence of sin, to shut one's eyes to evil, merely from a too sensitive dread of palliating or justifying it. Until temperance is made absolutely pure and good, common sense will not neglect any means to make it relatively better, even if the means fall short of perfection as any license law will.

Thomas Henry Buckle says the legislator's business is to follow the age and not at all to attempt to lead it. He must modify his schemes not according to his notions, but according to the actual exigencies of his own time. When a comparison is made in the trade returns of the proportions of the liquor traffic, not much difference can be marked from one year to another, but, in comparisons of more extended periods of time, it cannot be denied that the drinking habits of society are in process of rapid change for the better. The temperance sentiment of the people has gone forward by great leaps and bounds.

Mr. Elder's Successors.

On Thursday, Mr. David MacLellan, M. P., of St. John, was appointed Provincial Secretary in place of Hon. Wm. Elder.

Rumor is already on the qui vive as to Mr. Elder's successor in the Assembly. The St. John Globe agents Mr. Geo. McLeod as a probable candidate, on the Government side, and speaks of his candidature with approval. The Globe, if we mistake not, has been one of the foremost of these papers that have been presenting the Crown lands as the only remaining source of revenue left the Province, except direct taxation, has urged that the lumber be conserved, and has vigorously supported the policy of raising the price of timber licenses, stampage, &c. In order that the people might benefit as much as possible from the public domain, a policy that has been strenuously opposed by Mr. Geo. McLeod, himself a large lumber operator. If the Globe wants to strengthen the Government in its policy of making the most of the Crown lands, it will not do it by electing to a position to embarrass the Government, a most powerful and ardent lumber operator and one whose interests must be to destroy a policy that is adding many thousands of increased revenue to the Province.

—One Monsieur Achard, a French legislator of fertile imagination, proposes to have a railway bridge across the Straits of Dover, and has introduced a bill into the Chambers of Deputies authorizing the taking of soundings for the piers in a straight line from Cape Gris-Nez to Folkestone. Our P. E. I. friends had better watch the progress of M. Achard's scheme. If it prove successful, they should consider the water and return him to the Dominion Parliament there to annihilate Northumberland Strait and make the little island happy.

—The New Brunswick Courts have fixed the following scale of sentences to the Penitentiary: Manslaughter, 4 years. Robbery of a musket, 10 years. Robbery of \$75, 10 years. Passing counterfeit money, for life.

Col. Snow and Maritime Union.

Work on the great Short Line through Nova Scotia has been suspended. Col. Snow, the agent of the Company, alleges that owing to unsatisfactory relations with the Government, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia he is obliged to suspend. Col. Snow's Company is signing to secure a short and direct line from Boston and Montreal through New Brunswick and Nova Scotia to Louisbourg, in order to shorten the time for transportation of mails, &c. to Europe. To do this, he desires to secure the control of the line from New Glasgow to Chatham, now owned by the Government of Nova Scotia. That Government seems backward in coming to an arrangement with him, and also desires that the newly proposed line from St. Mary's to the I. C. R. should connect with I. C. R. as far east as possible, say at Salisbury. The people of St. John on the other hand are agitating to secure the terminus as near the city as possible, say Sussex. Col. Snow not unnaturally will not expend more money for a through short line, until he is satisfied as to his connections. This new difficulty, arising entirely out of sectional jealousies, is another illustration of the need of Maritime Union. A maritime legislature would not have had much trouble in brushing aside the pressure of local interests and jealousies to promote so large an enterprise as a short cut from the borders of Maine to Louisbourg.

Hon. Mr. Phipps' alleged failure to float Nova Scotia debentures in the English money market is another practical illustration of the folly of keeping up a lot of puny governments instead of one for the United Provinces. The revenues and resources of one Province embracing Acadia would have furnished ample security for many times the amount the Government of Nova Scotia requires, and placed this whole country on an unquestioned financial position.

Dinner to the Lord Chief Justice.

The members of the St. John Law Society are taking the preliminary steps to give the Lord Chief Justice of England a dinner at St. John, and inviting the members of the Provincial Bar, residing in other localities, to attend a meeting there on Wednesday next.

This is a very proper, and, may we believe, easily be made the occasion not only of a legal demonstration in honor of the distinguished jurist who is visiting New Brunswick, but a fraternal gathering of the Bench and Bar of the Maritime Provinces. The revenues and resources of one Province embracing Acadia would have furnished ample security for many times the amount the Government of Nova Scotia requires, and placed this whole country on an unquestioned financial position.

The reception given Lord Coleridge must depend upon suitable rooms being secured, and has St. John, since her calamitous fire, a building which contains them? We know but of one hall, and that is the Province Building, in Fredericton, which supplies these. A reception or drawing room can be held in the Legislative Council Chamber, where their wives and daughters may meet the distinguished visitor and exchange international courtesies. The House of Assembly will seat from 400 to 500 to dinner; the galleries, filled with the fair daughters of the Maritime Provinces, will grace the festival with their presence. The Library Committee, and various other rooms which are all available, will give ample room for the numerous party present, and give it a provincial character. Several other matters suggest themselves, but we have not time to discuss them. We offer these suggestions to which we believe be on the order that they cannot be carried out.

War in the West.

War in the East having ceased for the moment, it has broken out in the West. Hostilities commenced on Thursday between Manitoba and Ontario. The seat of war is at Portage. This territory is in dispute, and both Provinces intend to hold it at the point of the bayonet. The telegrams are as follows:—

—Rex Portage, July 27.—There is a great deal of excitement here over a conflict of authority between the Manitoba and Ontario police. Dominion Commissioner McCabe, with two policemen, Ontario Magistrate Burden with twenty-five policemen, and Stipendiary Magistrate Breton with 15 policemen, acting on behalf of Manitoba, have been arresting each other all day, and the people are siding some with one party and some with another, to the imminent danger of the peace and of loss of life.

—Winnipeg, Man., July 27.—A delegation from Portage arrived on Mr. Norquay this morning in reference to the trouble at Portage. Blood is feared. Mr. Norquay is selling liquor freely and arresting Manitoba officials. Last night they tried to pull down the Manitoba flag to liberate Ontario officials. The lock-up was defended by Manitoba men. Mr. Norquay goes by special train to Portage to-night with twenty extra constables. The Ontario men say if more force be a big fight. The Winnipeg field battery is ready to move if wanted. Serious trouble is expected.

—Most inhuman was the treatment received by Peter Cooper, if the statement given by our River Philip correspondent be correct.

The Isthmus of Chignecto.

Period of English Settlement.—Early Census Returns.—Marsh Areas.

No. 9.

After the departure of the French in 1755, the Isthmus was almost reduced to a primeval state. The dykes were broken, buildings burnt, and the fields were without cultivators. A few English soldiers guarded the forts; and bands of Indians—allies of the French—lay in ambush ready to pounce upon the coming English settlers. Indeed, the fields had relapsed, in several places into a forest state before others took possession.

And slowly was the country resettled. Amherst, Port Lawrence, and Point de Bute ridges—known under the head of Cumberland in the census of 1762—only contained sixty persons; and Sackville one hundred. In the following year, the population of Cumberland was thirty-five families, and that of Sackville thirty. In 1767, the census of Cumberland was 235 persons; and by the second, 334. In the latter year, the population of Sackville was 349; and Moncton only contained sixty persons. Shediac and Baie Verte, where the French had settled, are not named in the census of 1767. The nationality of the population of Cumberland and Sackville, at the latter date, was 612 Americans, 19 English, 33 Irish, 7 Scotch, 5 Germans, and 7 Acadians. The nominally nine were Roman Catholics. The rest Protestants.

From 1767, to 1817, a period of fifty years, there are no census reports extant of Cumberland, nor of Sackville until 1824, a period of fifty-seven years. However, during these long blanks in the census reports, the boundaries of Cumberland were extended to its present limits; and in that time, what is known as Westmorland County, including Albert, Cumberland Point and Point de Bute, were erected into a county—Westmorland. And during the same period, in 1784, Nova Scotia was divided into a new Province—New Brunswick—erected. Hence, A. D. 1884, will be New Brunswick's first centennial; it will be celebrated!

The area of improved land on the Isthmus in 1755, was, in all probability very small; the largest area on the Cumberland ridge; this is obvious from the census report of 1763,—made eight years after the departure of the French. In that report it is stated as follows:—

	Acres	Value	Wood land
Amherst	2,000	\$10,000	\$4,000
Cumberland	2,000	\$10,000	\$4,000
Sackville	2,000	\$10,000	\$4,000
Total area	1,100	\$55,000	\$20,000

How much of the bog and lake areas were over-looked by the tides, one hundred and twenty years ago, we have no means of knowing. The area, nearly forty-six thousand acres, named in the census of 1763, exceeds the total of marsh, bog and lake areas in the districts named in the above table. The probability is, that less than one half of this large area was marsh at that time. In 1827, according to Haliburton, there were about 8,000 acres of dyked marsh at Amherst and adjacent districts, and in the Nova Scotia side of the boundary. In the census of 1861, the acres are:

	Dyked Marsh	Woods
Amherst	7,175	714
Amherst	2,021	202
Amherst	2,021	202
Total	10,217	1,118

Without an actual survey, it is impossible to give a correct statement of the area of the marshes around Cumberland Bay. In connection with the Canal, and Cape Tormentine surveys, I had occasion to measure the length of the "Great Marsh," and its breadth in three places, and also the area of the marsh on both sides of the Jurlique ridge. In connection with the survey, I am able to give a more accurate estimate of the area of the marsh valley; and by means of the canal survey, a close approximation of the area of the Amherst marsh may also be given. By making allowance for the unmeasured parts of these marshes, I estimate the areas as follows:

	Dyked marsh at Amherst and adjacent districts in Cumberland.	Do. on New Brunswick side of the Mississippi.
12,000 acres	15,000	1,300
13,500	15,000	1,300
28,500 acres		

There are some small tracts of salt marsh not included in the above. Thus, there 32,000 acres over which the tide has flowed, and is now producing large crops of hay; and nearly nine thousand more which may be converted into marsh. Of the total area, Westmorland claims about twenty-five thousand; the remaining 15,700 acres being in Cumberland. It may not be too high an estimate to say that the area of dyked marsh around Cumberland Bay is worth two millions of dollars. And on the Baie Verte side there is a tract of marsh. The earliest grant of land in Sackville, as far as can now be traced was issued A. D. 1765. Subsequently, Amherst, Sackville, and Westmorland townships, were granted, under the seal of Nova Scotia, in rights of about five hundred acres each. Each right consisted of several lots,—marsh and upland.

The population of the Isthmus, or rather those parts of it formerly occupied by the French has increased each year. The population is now spread over a much wider area than it did one hundred and twenty-eight years ago; yet, Sackville, Amherst, and the Parish of Westmorland together, only contained 9,779 souls in 1871; and 11,579 in 1881. Even in 1871, the population of the County of Cumberland was only 3,043. The French population of the Isthmus may have exceeded this number.

Unquestionably, the resources of the Isthmus, especially in an agricultural point of view, are very great. Indeed, it is a question, if an equal area can be found in the Maritime Provinces, containing so large an area of rich marsh and upland.

Ms. Editor.—This number con-

cludes, at least for the present, my articles on the Isthmus. I intended to have given the names of the early English settlers, but my list is incomplete. I might give a list of bear stories, as related to me by some of the old settlers, who began life on the Isthmus nearly a century ago, but time will not permit at present. I am, &c.,

ALEX. MONRO.

Port Elgin, July 28, 1883.

Westmorland Circuit Court.

The Court commenced its sitting on the 17th ultimo, and is still continuing to dispose of the business before it.

Nutter et al. vs. Sumner was the first case taken up. It was an action for money had and received. Defendant had chartered a vessel to which was paid by the plaintiff. Defendant had also insured the freight and received the amount from the underwriters on the vessel being lost, and this action was brought to obtain from defendant the amount of money had and received to plaintiff's use. Verdict for plaintiff, subject to leave given defendant to move the court above for a nonsuit. R. B. Smith for plaintiff; Hanington, Q. C. for defendant. The conclusion of this case was that the plaintiff, Queen vs. Sarah Smith, for murder, was disposed of. The facts of this case are so recent that they are in the recollection of every person. The prisoner occupied a house on the road between Shediac and Point de Bute, and a party of roughs disguised in liquor came to the house and demanded admission which was refused. The prisoner opened the door and discharged a revolver and the second shot killed one of the party. The prisoner was charged with murder, but if she fired at random not intending to shoot any person, but to frighten the men away from the house, it was manslaughter. The jury found the latter, and the prisoner was sentenced to four years imprisonment in the penitentiary.

W. A. Hathorne and Read was the next case on the civil docket. This was an action for false imprisonment brought against the Magistrate Read and Outhouse the prosecutor. After the trial had commenced the Judge directed the jury to put on evidence that his former partner, Mr. E. L. Wetmore, had been engaged in an application to obtain the discharge of plaintiff from imprisonment by habeas corpus, upon which he refused to go forward, but to fight the case.

Anderson vs. Fawcett, the next case, was found to be in a somewhat similar position as the last, and the Judge refused to try that. He directed the jury to find for the plaintiff, Mr. E. L. Wetmore, and to direct the jury to try to Dorchester to try both those cases. Milner for plaintiff; Hanington, Q. C. for defendant.

The Bank of Nova Scotia vs. Poirier, an action to recover the amount of a bill of exchange from the bank, was the next case. A verdict was passed for plaintiff with leave to defendant to move for a nonsuit.

Palmer vs. Lowrie is now being tried. It is an action of trespass brought to try the right of the plaintiff to a piece of land on No. 1 River, at La Cady, recently dyked by plaintiff. There was a jury of view, and it is probable that in the close of this cause the Court will be adjourned until week after next. The Supreme Court gives judgment on the 27th inst. week, and the Judge has to attend to the case, and he is intimated that to get clear of the arrears of business he would return the evening week and dispose of the remaining docket.

The strike of the telegraph operators still continues. The last move by them has been to refuse any Western Union dispatches passing through the railway offices. The railway telegraph operators still permit their duties in regulating the arrival and departure of railway trains, but this does not prevent the closing to the public of some seven or eight thousand offices throughout the United States in railway towns and villages. Both parties in the railway companies and the operators, are firm, and while they are continuing the fight, the poor public are suffering without having the means of redressing themselves. The remedy for the ills appears to be a postal telegraph; this, as in England, will place this now most essential service where the chances of a strike producing such wide-spread annoyance and loss to the public, will be reduced to a minimum, and this remedy is now extensively demanded in the United States.

—With this number, ALEXANDER MUNRO, Esq., concludes a series of very interesting articles to the Isthmus of Chignecto, in which he has contributed much information of an entirely new character. Many facts relating to the physical character of the country that he has observed and noted, will be of value in any relation to research hereafter made here. The historical knowledge he has gathered up in the progress of a life devoted in a great measure to original research and to study, makes him an authority on all that relates to early history, and makes his contributions in that line of especial value.

FIRE NATIONAL.—The fire national of the French Academy of the Maritime Provinces is to be celebrated, it is said, with great eclat. Sir Hector Langevin and other distinguished gentlemen are expected to be present at Bonaventure for the occasion on that day, the 15th inst.

Personal and Political.

—Hon. A. W. McLellan will return home this week.

—Mrs. Langtry sailed for Europe from New York last week. Mr. Gebhardt did not accompany her.

—Mr. Noel Shakespeare, M. P. for Victoria, B. C., has been lecturing on Canada in Brierly Hill, England, his native place.

—James R. Twining, of Halifax, has been appointed Marshal of the Maritime Court at Halifax, vice Joseph Bell, deceased.

—Daniel B. Phillips, the well-known Evangelist, committed suicide at St. John's, Nfld., on Thursday, by hanging himself.

—Mr. Judah P. Benjamin was offered ten thousand dollars to argue a Canadian case before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. But he declined, as he has retired from practice.

—President Arthur has decided to journey to the Yellowstone region. The party will consist of the President, Secretary Lincoln, Surgeon Rollins, of New York; Gov. Crosby, of Montana; Senator Vest, and John T. Davidson, of Horton, Montana, has a Chester White pig which weighed thirty pounds, last week, when only seven and a half weeks old, and it increased thirty-six pounds in weight in twenty-five days.

—Rev. Henry Ward Beecher has explicitly declared his belief in evolution, which he does not consider inconsistent with a faith in the Christian doctrines, or necessitating a mental conformity to the agnosticism of Spencer, Huxley, and Tyndall. He declares his disbelief of the story of the fall of Adam and the inheritance of guilt.

—At the funeral of the Hon. Dr. Elder, on Friday afternoon, his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the province, the members of the Government, bench, bar, press, military profession, Mayors of both cities, and members of their corporations were drawn together to do honor to the memory of the departed, and the procession which followed his remains was a very large one.

—A great crowd lined the streets along the route of the procession. The following gentlemen were the pallbearers:—Hon. Judge Fraser, Hon. Senator Dever, Mr. Gilbert Murdoch, Hon. Isaac Burpee, Mr. Thos. McLeod, and Mr. James L. Dunn. Nearly all places of business were closed between three and four o'clock.

To Rum-sellers and Drinkers.

Sir: As the Atlantic cholera has recently broken out in Egypt and in other parts of the East, and is rapidly coming West, the Editor of the "Chignecto Post" publishes in a recent work by an eminent American jurist, will be read with interest by the above class of persons.

"In the great fever which raged in London in 1789—the era of the gin mania—the cholera was the first and greatest victim. Dr. Short observes: 'The like was the fate of tipplers, drunkards, and punch-drinkers—scarcely any other died of this terrible fever. The cholera, too, singles out the drinker with fatal precision, where it leaves the sober generally unaffected, and well known was the fact, that the authorities, at Philadelphia, closed the grog-shops as a sanction to the temperance cause. In Albany, the saloons were seized, one in sixty of the general population perished. The following facts are published in a recent work by an eminent American jurist, will be read with interest by the above class of persons.

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