

THE HOTEL WORLD

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC'S MONTHLY ORGAN.

A Comical Journalistic Enterprise—An Anonymous Champion of the Rum Business—Billingsgate Denunciation of Temperance Men and Ministers—Re-hashing of Stale and Long-Ago Exploded Fallacies.

We have received the first number of The Hotel World, hailing from "The Hotel World Office," Bradford, but a careful examination of the neat little sheet fails to give us any idea as to who the anonymous publishers may be...

One of the huge stupidities of The Hotel World is that it absolutely fails to understand that a hotel is not necessarily a gin-mill, and that the business of providing comfortable food and lodging is really an honorable and respectable occupation...

"That there is at present great need for a live and able paper in the interest of the trade, few we think will deny. Surely it is time some effort was made to vindicate the character and reputation of those engaged in the business..."

In this little paragraph the cat gets out of the bag, and the professed "Travellers' Guide" is seen to be an attempt of the whisky business to "vindicate the character" of those engaged in it...

We are pleased to have somebody come out openly on behalf of whisky, even though that somebody be afraid to let the public know who he is. Canadians are a fair-play-loving people and desirous of hearing both sides of every question...

Our readers would hardly thank us for taking much time in replying to the many silly things which have been gathered into The Hotel World's columns. We are at a loss to know what to anticipate in its second issue...

Apologising to our many friends for trespassing so far upon their patience, we reproduce below the leading article of this new undertaking, promising however for the sake of our own reputation that it is a true copy of the original, verbatim et literatim.

PROHIBITION.

To every careful observer it must be clearly demonstrated that the Scott Act does not prohibit, but on the contrary it increases the evil of drunkenness, and makes people hypocrites. Stringent and atrocious as its restrictions are, it is clearly a fraud and humbug...

religious ceremonies into the Holy Communion. Some prohibitionists may ask us to prove that Christ made and used intoxicating wine for drink purposes. That we cannot do, nor do we think anyone can prove it wasn't. If Christ be the Son of God he must have been possessed of omniscience...

Therefore, we say prohibitionists must prove that the wine Christ made was not intoxicating before their argument amounts to anything. When this is proven the controversy, so far as we are concerned, will be closed.

Prohibition is no new thing. It has been tried in this country and the States for a long time, and so far has been a failure everywhere. Some 70 counties of municipalities in Canada have tried it, but in spite of the severest penalties the result has always been the same...

Whilst doing no good, prohibitionists are injuring the cause they pretend to serve. People have been driven to the whisky bottle in the closet, or for "medicine" to the drug store. They have indeed proved themselves the body-guard of King Alcohol.

Be Christians and not Turks. Be reasonable men and not fanatics who run wild on a one-sided idea. Don't make this beautiful country a slave pen, and its people miserable subjects, hypocrites, guarded and led on by a horde of sanctimonious preachers and agitators...

It is the same class who rob the pale faced, ill clad sewing girl and widow of their fair proportion of the wealth they create, the same set that burned the witches, tormented and tortured the Quakers, betrayed and exterminated the Indians. It is the same self-glorified hypocrites that take from \$25 to \$300 a night to preach and lecture in the cause of humanity.

These temperance pretensions are mere shams; it is but lust after notoriety and power, and an eye to the almighty dollar out of "temperance," whose only business from the moment they mount the rostrum is to vilify and calumniate their betters.

THE FIERY TRAIL.

ARSON AND DYNAMITE AGAIN.

On Tuesday morning, shortly after five o'clock, the office of the Renfrew Mercury, published at Renfrew, in Renfrew county, was entirely destroyed by fire.

Most of our friends are familiar to the name of W. B. Smallfield, the energetic Scott Act secretary of Renfrew county, who has done so much for the enforcement of law in that district. He was one of the editors and proprietors of the journal against which whisky spite has now done its worst.

Mr. Smallfield has lately been publishing another paper, an ably-conducted little monthly called the County Temperance Advocate. He was also a special constable sworn in to assist in enforcing the law, and he has been for some time the special target of whisky traffic malice.

The building in which the Renfrew Mercury and Temperance Advocate were printed was totally destroyed with all that it contained. The loss on plant is about \$3,000, of which only \$750 is covered by insurance.

Readers of our paper are familiar with the name of Mr. I. Evans, license inspector for East Kent, who has been making the law in his district a terror to evil-doers. He too has suffered from the heartless brutality of the liquor fiends.

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TORONTO, FRIDAY, JANUARY 27th, 1888.

THE SERPENT'S TRAIL.

FROM every part of the wide area covered by Christian civilization, come to our ears the wails and groans of countless sufferers, crushed under the deadly Juggernaut car of the demagogue in intoxicating drink.

What must the loving and merciful Father think of those professed followers who sustain, by their political influence, the awful system that produces such fearful fruits, and makes the festival commemorative of His most marvellous manifestation of love, a time of the most disgraceful riot and sin?

The trail of the serpent! How it covers all our land! How many homes it curses! How many lives it blights! This awful demon-monster of incorporate malevolence, the accursed and cursing traffic in strong drink—how strange that we never realize its full enormity!

The professed Christians of this Christian community—the members of the Church of God—those who revere the name of Christ and profess to be followers of the meek and lowly Jesus—they are responsible for this ruin and damnation of the souls and bodies of their fellow-men.

Without the consent of the members of the Christian Church the liquor traffic could not exist a single day. If God's people unitedly, earnestly, determinedly said, "This evil shall be abolished," it would die to-morrow, and no government would dare to foster or protect it.

God help us all to strive to clear our skirts from the responsibility of the bloodshed of which we, as a community, to day are guilty.

A COMMENDABLE PROPOSAL.

EVERY true philanthropist, every one actuated by any sense of nobleness and desire for fair play, will be pleased that the Ontario Government proposes during its present session to introduce legislation looking towards prohibition of the excessive toll which is now exacted of children and young girls in retail stores...

DYNAMITE AND ARSON.

THE liquor traffic has again been wreaking its diabolical vengeance upon some of the earnest men, who, in the interests of humanity have been working for its suppression. From Renfrew and Chatham comes information of arson and dynamiting perpetrated in the interests of the illicit rum-business, evidently with the object of terrorizing those who are endeavoring to have the law enforced.

Only a few days have gone by since the Methodist church at Kemptville was destroyed by fire. Not many weeks have elapsed since malicious incendiarianism and other cowardly violence was used against some of our best friends and most ardent workers. It would seem as if in some parts of this Province a man's favor for the carrying out of law, and effort to conscientiously work out his convictions, are sufficient reasons why his property should be destroyed and his life endangered.

One of the worst features in connection with these outrages is that so few of the villains who take part in them are brought to justice. There is no use in endeavoring to evade the fact that this is largely because the public mind is not fully possessed of a correct view of the character of the abominable liquor-traffic, and the public conscience is not quickened as it ought to be in relation to this awful evil.

Can it be that the great difficulty is that the temperance electorate is not yet sufficiently organized, that the rum-power is more dreaded by the politicians than is the power opposed to the rum-traffic? Whatever may be the cause the facts remain: scoundrelism of every kind, arson, dynamiting, maiming of cattle, assaulting of temperance-men, all this goes on and there is no outcry, the public press has little to say by way of indignant comment, and the civil power fails to ferret out and punish the offenders. Why?

THE SIMCOE POLICE MAGISTRATE.

It was announced about a week ago that the Ontario Government had revoked the commission of Mr. J. T. Partridge, Police Magistrate of the county of Simcoe, on the ground that he had been too energetic in his efforts to secure the prosecution of parties charged with violation of the Scott Act.

We understand that the finding of the commission, was that Mr. Partridge's zeal in securing Scott Act convictions, and his evident desire to have such convictions made, disqualified him from acting as an impartial judge in such cases. We have not a full report of the evidence submitted to the investigating committee.

It is worth while, however, considering whether or not such zeal in the interests of the law really disqualifies a man from acting judicially, when investigating cases of violation of that law. In the evidence so far made public, there is not a hint to the effect that any conviction had ever been improperly made, that anyone had been punished through Mr. Partridge's efforts, who did not deserve to be

punished, or that there was in any case a miscarriage of justice.

Police Magistrates have been appointed in Scott Act counties to secure the better enforcement of law. Magistrates are usually appointed for a similar purpose. If the magistrate appointed to see law fairly carried out, knows or suspects persistent, determined violation of the law he is sworn to support, is it not his duty to do what he can to have the illegal course of conduct stopped? If Mr. Partridge has done more than this, if he has been in any sense a party to inducing men, through detectives or otherwise, to violate the law, then the punishment meted out to him was deserved.

The full evidence ought to be published, so that the public will be in a position to understand what at present seems a strange action, on the part of a government which is believed to be thoroughly in sympathy with law enforcement, and willing to stand by men who are willing to do their duty.

IS IT MURDER?

ELSEWHERE is reported, in this paper the recent fatal result of drunkenness in the town of Woodstock, where the Scott Act is in operation, where no liquor should be sold, where drunkenness is the result of violation of the law. There is a particular view of this case to which we would ask the careful attention of our readers.

Some time ago, in the course of a trial in this city, the learned judge who was presiding, laid down the following as a rule to be followed by a jury in deciding the question of guilt in a case in which the crime of murder was charged. If a man wilfully violates the law of the land and in his illegal act causes the death of another, he is, in the eye of the law, a murderer.

If this doctrine is sound, then somebody in Woodstock is a murderer. Of course there is a sense in which any man who sells intoxicating liquor to another should be held in some measure responsible for the evils that may result from the sale and the drinking of the liquor. We are not, however, speaking now of law-permitted crime in which an individual may be merely guilty but legally unpunishable.

If this is the case, if actual murder has been committed, through the determination of any person or persons to defy the law, should not the proper authorities at once put into motion the machinery of the law for the arrest and punishment of the murderer?

Further, if any government officers are evading the intent of the law and permitting, by a persistent fining system (which really means high license) the crime that has actually been murdered, as already explained, then, does not the charge of murder lie also against such derelict officers of the law?

HALTON.

It is announced in the Empire that Saturday's Gazette will contain notice of polling on the Scott Act in Halton, which will be about the first day of March. Our friends in the little banner county have not got any spare time but no doubt they will use all they have to good advantage, and the Scott Act will be sustained. We have full confidence in the Christian men and women of Halton. They will do their duty.