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 EDITORIAL.
 

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Now that the plebiscite has proved unmistakably that the large majority of the Canadian people are averse to any legislation interfering with the liberty of the subject, as a prohibition law would do, it is due to the inhabitants of the Province of Quebec to acknowledge the stand which they have taken in giving a majority approaching one hundred thousand against it.

To begin with, a prohibition act, though it became the law of the land, could never be thoroughly enforced.

We are supposed to be using every possible means to attract immigration to Canada, and yet it is proposed to enact a law which nine-tenths of the population of the old world would regard as grievously obnoxious, and intending emigrants would seek other lands where crankism and intolerable oppression did not prevail. There are, no doubt, many conscientious people who entertain the Utopian idea of turning the human race into teetotallers, and that by the strong arm of the law; but there are a large number of persons advocating prohibition from the housetops who are actuated by motives of self-interest. They desire to be regarded as shining lights among the sects to which they belong, and under the cloak of religious zeal advance their worldly interests; probably the loudest singers in church or chapel, and when opportunity offers, the most tedious prayer utterers, though glibly perverting the true meaning of texts in the bible to suit their false arguments, they forget that the prayer of the self-confessed publican, "God be merciful to me, a sinner," was more acceptable to the Great Architect of the universe than the rhodomontade of the self-righteous pharisee.

The distorted, contorted and wholly unsupportable argument used by prohibitionists as to the meaning of the word wine as

met with in the bible, in support of the doctrine of prohibition, is mere clap-trap. The unfermented juice of the grape is not wine, drink it *ad libitum*, it may make you sick but will not intoxicate you. Grape juice does not become wine until it has undergone the process of fermentation. It was not on grape juice that Lot got drunk, it was on wine. We are not told to put grape juice into old bottles lest they burst, but to "put new wine into new bottles." The bottles in use in those days were made of skin, not glass, but new wine breaks many a glass bottle. Every text bearing any relation to this subject has a plain straightforward meaning, and to endeavor to distort that meaning would prepare the ground for similar distortion on other points, at which the skeptic would rejoice and infidelity receive an undesirable impulse.

Wine is one of God's gifts to his people. Some there are who turn it into a curse. Then enact a stringent law for the protection of such weak-minded individuals who are unable to control themselves, and it will receive a cordial support. That alcohol, in its varied forms, judiciously used, is one of the most valuable drugs for the relief of suffering humanity not one educated physician in five thousand would deny, though they themselves may not take any spirituous liquor, they know full well that to deny it to their patients in certain cases would be handing them over to that grim reaper which the daily papers take such delight in portraying in their varied advertisements.

Prohibition among the Anglo Saxon race is an unattainable fad. If the earnest workers in the cause of temperance would devote their energies to promoting the accepted meaning of this much perverted word, they would command the support of the community at large, and much good might be accomplished in this direction. It would be well for them to remember that we are told "to be temperate in all things." A glutton-