

The : Canada : Citizen AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

A Journal Devoted to the Promotion of Social Progress and Moral Reform

Subscription, \$1 a year, strictly in advance.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY BY THE CITIZEN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

President: Hon. A. VIDAL, Pres. Dominion Alliance Vice-President: ALD. R. J. FLEMING.

F. S. SPENCE, Man. Director and Editor.

OFFICE, 8 KING STREET E. TORONTO.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26th, 1887.

WENTWORTH.

We are very much pleased to learn that our friends in Wentworth County are seriously considering the desirability of having the Scott Act submitted to a vote. On April 22nd, 1881, the Scott Act was voted upon in Wentworth and defeated by a majority of 598--1611 votes being polled in its favor. The Act had just previously suffered a serious defeat in the City of Hamilton and had not gone into operation in any part of Ontario. People were afraid of it, and temperance workers did not know so much as they do now of its character and results. Since the time named temperance sentiment has become very much strengthened; the electorate has been enlarged and it is believed the increment is of a remarkably intelligent and progressive character. The people understand and appreciate the Scott Act and there is little doubt that a campaign would result in the adoption of the law. If work, however, is undertaken it must be carried on vigorously. We cannot afford to spend time and means just at present in contests into which we do not put enough time and energy to insure success. Let our Wentworth friends rally to the fight and by placing their county on the right side of the liquor question, link the Scott Act territory on the south of Lake Ontario with that which is free from the liquor traffic on the north.

HALTON.

The petition for a vote on the question of repealing the Scott Act in this county is now at Ottawa.

It is said that this remarkable document has appended to it 1786 names, of which the antis claim only 1636 to be genuine qualified voters, thus admitting that even in this small number there are 150 bogus signatures.

There are some curious things about this petition, and some odd facts relating to its circulation. Of the men who canvassed with it thirteen are hotel keepers or bar tenders. Of those who signed it 25 are or have been in the liquor business, several of them being even now fugitives from justice. Nineteen of the signatories have been fined for violation of the law, some of these have been in jail. Of the thirteen liquor sellers who canvassed for votes, nine have been fined for breaking the law.

Just think of Christian citizens, having a law breaker come to them and say, "Gentlemen, the Temperance Act is a failure, I have sold whisky though it has been in force, and if you want proof that I have sold it, I may say that I have been punished for so doing." Some of these Christian citizens say, "Yes, the Act is a failure," and forthwith put down their names. Along with the nineteen men who declare the Temperance Act to be a failure because they have been punished for violating it, we find a minister of the gospel willing to be found in this failure-crying company, so willing indeed that he has signed the petition without having the right to do so. To the credit of Halton be it said that the only clergyman who signed the whisky-favouring document has no vote. And lastly (whether leastly or not we will leave our readers to judge) among this illustrious

failure-crying company pops up Mr. Shughnessy, of Oakville, of medicine certificate notoriety, who was so anxious to cry failure, that he did not wait to learn to write his name but signed the petition by making his mark. Of the 1786 signing, 83 did it in this primitive fashion. Surely the Scott Act is a failure.

TEMPERANCE UNION.

In another column is a letter on Temperance Union, from a gentleman who has for a very long time been an energetic and effective temperance worker, one who knows Good Templary, and the temperance cause in general, through and through; and who is qualified to speak authoritatively in reference to plans and methods. We call attention to our friend's communication simply to emphasize two of the arguments which he presents with unusual force.

These are (1) our duty to the prohibition cause, as friends of that cause, to concentrate in its support all that we can of time, energy, head, heart, and hand; and (2) The great financial advantage that the temperance movement would gain by a wise economy of spending money as little as as possible on internal details and as much as possible on mission work and campaign effort. We want prohibition as soon as possible. A union of temperance organizations would hasten the desired end. Is it not our imperative duty as Christian temperance workers to do all in our power to secure the union that would hasten the result for which we labor and pray?

Since the above was written the communication herewith also published from Mr. A. G. Ellis was received. It has the right ring about it. If the proposal for union is generally taken hold of in the spirit of the communications we have received on the question there is very little doubt that it will be carried speedily into beneficial effect.

FINES FOR THIRD OFFENCES AGAINST THE SCOTT ACT.

A correspondent who evidently is not posted on "the ways that are dark and tricks that are vain" in which some officials indulge, writes us a letter from which we make the following extract:

"Will you kindly let me know if the Inspector or P. M. or both together can make the third offence a first offence. It has been done here to-day and the temperance people are indignant at it, and say 'that if that is the way the thing is going on we had better let it drop, if money is the only object in case of a repeal vote, to show that it is self sustaining and give to officers a fat office'."

In reply to our friend we have simply to say he is right. It is technically in the power of an inspector to prosecute as for a first offence when a third has been committed. We have frequently pointed out this outrageous perversion of law and justice, in the interests of liquor selling, by which the Scott Act is practically made a licensing system. Almost any week our readers may find in the columns of the CANADA CITIZEN a list of offenders charged for first and second offences notwithstanding the fact that they have been repeatedly previously convicted. In very few instances is the law really enforced according to its intent and so as to make it effective.

Our correspondent is, however, mistaken in his supposition that this fining is done in order to put money in the pockets of the "officers," although some of them plead the revenue to the county treasury as an excuse for their misconduct. The fact of the matter is just this. The law, for reasons which we have frequently explained, allows third offences to be prosecuted as firsts. It was expected that this privilege should be only used in certain exceptional cases for the better carrying out of the intention of the law. The loophole thus made has however been used to let off whisky sellers without their suffering the penalty which they have incurred and deserve.

The license inspector who is a party to such transactions, is thereby an encourager of wrong doing; an aider and abettor of the law-breaking he is paid to suppress, and ought at once to be

discharged from the office he disgraces. The only present remedy available in the case is persistent indignant protests against this miscarriage of law, and continued appeal to the Ontario Government to dismiss every official so utterly unfit for the position he occupies.

LAWLESSNESS.

Has the Ontario Government no directives at its disposal? Will the demand for Provincial Police not be acceded to? Why are not some steps taken to put down the rowdiness that in some places is rampant, and to ferret out and punish the fellows who are elsewhere committing such shocking crimes against the persons and property of law-abiding citizens?

A number of journals in different parts of the Province are earnestly pressing the demand so often made in THE CANADA CITIZEN, that the Ontario Government should at once appoint a force of provincial police sufficient to suppress the outrageous rowdiness that is now rampant in so many localities. The Renfrew Mercury does not at all overstate the case when it says:

The firing at and assaults upon constables in the execution of their duty, and other methods of intimidation, such as threatening them with loss of business, the dynamiting of the premises of police magistrates and private citizens, or the burning of their properties, have been so frequent of late years, that the old proud boast that Canada was a country in which life and property, under the protection of law, were safe, in comparison with the lawlessness which prevailed in correspondingly newly-settled districts in the United States, can no longer be truthfully made. Hardly a day passes now but cases of deliberate violation of the law are reported from some part of the Province of Ontario.

Paris is a town well known to many of our readers, very pleasantly situated, with a population of about 4,500. It boasts school houses, churches, temperance societies, and different agencies for the promotion of social and moral reform. It is in fact a fairly representative Ontario town. Yet, in the town of Paris, a few scoundrels interested in the perpetuation of the infernal drink system, terrorize the respectable portion of the community to such an extent that it is not an exaggeration to say that the town is fairly under whiskey rule. On the evening of Tuesday 1st two men arrived at Paris. They were not known to the inhabitants of the town, and, so far as can be at present ascertained, they were business men looking after the purchase of certain property. The rumor went through the town that they were liquor detectives, and at once the leader of the whiskey gang raised a mob to assault them. It seems there were not constables in the town available to protect the supposed spies, and finally the rescue of the town, after plucking the mob and announcing to them that law must be observed, was obliged to take the visitors to the lock-up for protection. They remained there over the night, were put on board an early train, and so got off with their lives.

Now this state of things is simply intolerable. The liquor faction in Paris seems not only to have a mob of rowdies at its control, but in some way to be able to either influence or intimidate officials. License Inspector Pike told a Review reporter some time ago that there had not yet been a dollar of fines collected in the town of Paris. He instanced one case in which the town constable had been instructed to collect a Scott Act fine more than two months ago and the collection is not yet made. Said Mr. Pike: "What with false swearing, slow law processes, lawyers' dodges to get their clients out of scrapes and all other obstacles in the way, it is mighty hard for an officer like me to show any results for his work."

Now, when to the ordinary difficulties of Scott Act enforcement we add official subservience to their influence, and then recognize that the whiskey power has actually at its disposal a gang of the vilest characters ready to mob decent citizens, dynamite houses, burn barns, shoot constables—in short do anything that it is thought desirable

to do in the way of outrage and intimidation, it is surely time for Government to interfere.

In a great many localities the county constables are utterly inadequate to cope with the existing lawlessness, and unless people are willing to quietly sit down and allow this unrestrained tyranny of scoundrelism, one of two courses must be adopted, either the Ontario Government must provide special police empowered to enforce order, or private citizens will be compelled to take the matter into their own hands. Such an extreme course as the latter would be regrettable. We earnestly hope that before its necessity is absolutely demonstrated, that necessity will be obviated, but already men are getting indignant and alarmed. In a recent issue the journal already named makes the following suggestive statement:

It will be well for law-dicers to remember that took place in the early history of San Francisco. By the terrorism exerted over the authorities who had access to the popular vote, the lawless element in that newly organized and miscellaneous society had, for some time, every thing their own way, including the murder of those who interfered with or offended them. The natural result followed the progress of the rising city was checked, for people did not care to go to a place, or, if already there, to stop with their families where, through rampant lawlessness was not worth living. Then the United States Government, which included the wealthiest, the most educated, the most humane, but at the same time the most determined men in the city, was established. The public safety was the first, the great consideration, and the means resorted to, that fact and that the ordinary law, as administered was ineffective, did not do state acts what was necessary to be done. They summarily hanged the worst of the ruffians they could lay their hands on, and they did not spare their respectable, influential, or accomplished, either. Like causes produce like effects. If one law can be met at night by bullying and intimidation, other laws will soon be equally disregarded, and though not immediately, yet surely, in the end, the whole social order of the community will be depreciated, the value of real estate, both village and farm. Then some resolute men will be found, who, with too much invested in the neighborhood, will be willing to let it be sacrificed, will fight the matter out. When it comes to that point, the neutrals, who were afraid to offend their law-breaking customers will discover that their own interests are dependent upon the enforcement of law, and will turn on their former patrons and loudly demand their own punishment.

We should be sorry to be considered alarmists, but nothing will prevent us speaking out when it is necessary, we should do so, and there is at present serious cause for alarm. There ought to be protests such as the Government will hear and heed. It is strange that the daily press of this city while reporting these outrages should signally fail to recognize the gravity of the situation and demand the suppression of the lawlessness which disgraces a country that hitherto has had a high reputation for the maintenance of order and observance of law.

AN ADVANCE STEP.

The annual meeting of the United Kingdom Alliance, for the suppression of the liquor traffic, which was held recently at Manchester, will always be looked upon as one of the most important in the history of the great organization named. A report of its proceedings is unavoidably crowded out of this week's CANADA CITIZEN, but will appear in our next issue. At present we desire to call attention to one important fact.

Our co-workers on the other side of the ocean have reached precisely the same conclusion as was arrived at by the Dominion Alliance at Ottawa in April last. For many years Sir Wilfrid Lawson has pressed on the attention of the Imperial Parliament a resolution endorsing the principle of Local Option. This resolution has been repeatedly carried, but there has been no further action taken in reference to it. Temperance workers have felt that it was not only desirable, but necessary, that their views should be placed before the country in the tangible form of a proposed Act of Parliament, and accordingly, at the Council of the Alliance, after a thorough discussion, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

That this Council regrets that the exigencies of Parliament destroyed the opportunity of taking the opinion of the House in favor of entrusting the localities of the whole United Kingdom with the power of the Direct Vote. Mr. Wigan's Bill and Mr. Johnston's Bill, being confined respectively to Scotland and to Ulster; and this Council requests the Executive to communicate with some member of Parliament with a view to the introduction of a Bill which will afford protection to the remainder and whole of the United Kingdom.

It will be seen from this that our British friends are fairly committed to the policy of bringing before the House of Commons a formal measure embodying their views and proposals.

This ought to be done in Canada as well. Mr. Jamieson's resolution defeated in the last House of Commons, named some general lines upon which such a bill might be framed. A draft of a suggested measure was published in the CANADA CITIZEN of Sept. 2nd, and has been discussed not only in Canadian journals but by our American friends, and to no small extent in the British press. There are doubtless defects in that bill. It may be too thorough-going in its provisions for some of our friends, and not stringent enough for others. It was intended to be simply suggestive. What we desire, and what we still press, is, that we should have a Prohibition Bill—a formal statement of what we want; that this bill should be before the public, should be thoroughly discussed and recognized as the embodiment of our views, and that our friends in Parliament should press for leave to introduce this bill.

Such a definite line of policy would, we believe, meet with general approval and be more effective than any further mere resolutions.

Correspondence.

"Union is Strength."

Editor Canada Citizen.

Sir, It afforded me considerable pleasure to read in your paper of 14th inst. an article advocating the union of the three great temperance organizations at present working on this continent, viz., the Royal Templars of Temperance, the Independent Order of Good Templars (to which I have the honor to belong), and the Sons of Temperance.

Such a union, I am convinced, would be of great and lasting benefit to the noble cause of temperance, and would most decidedly be of great assistance to our gaining the object of our ambition, viz., "Prohibition for the State."

There is an old saying, and a very true one, "Union is strength," and we have all proved such to be the case, in a variety of ways.

Especially have we Good Templars cause to rejoice just now, over the union of the two sections of our Order, evidence of which can be seen in the interest taken in and enthusiasm displayed at all our meetings lately, and from which a vast amount of good must of necessity ensue.

Having had a good deal of experience in the organization and working of Good Templary in Ireland, both before and since the union was agreed to, I can safely say, without fear of contradiction that a fresh and glorious impetus has been given to the work in that country, since the two Grand Lodges decided to let bygones be bygones, and join hearts and hands in a fresh and determined effort to banish from the land that accursed body and soul-destroying demon—strong drink!

Now, why could not the same be done in Canada? Having the same object in view, and working in very much the same way to attain that object, viz., the annihilation of the liquor traffic—not the "regulation" of it as some people imagine—we don't want to "regulate it at all"—why can we not all join together in an united and determined effort to put an end to the lawlessness, misery and starvation of so many thousands of our fellow creatures, by removing beyond their reach the temptation which so many of them are unable to resist—drink!

Few men living went deeper into drinking habits, or suffered more, mentally and physically, from its effects, than the writer of these lines, and yet the I.O.G.T. means Almighty God used to bring me into complete freedom from the accursed thing, and a very large amount of good might be done in this way if the members of the various Orders made it a personal and individual matter to advance their cause on every opportunity.

There appears to me to be very little difficulty in the way of a grand union of the three organizations named—if delegates from each would meet in conference and talk the matter over in a business like manner; and should there be any expenses incurred, I am sure that all members who have the cause really at heart, would not hesitate to subscribe a dollar each, or even two dollars, in an effort to bring about such a very desirable consummation! I for one am ready to plank down my subscription for the purpose, at any moment.

Of course there will be many to find fault, but we know from experience that a large number of people have a quick perception in finding fault than in finding anything else! The good points are the very last they ever manage to perceive.

We could, however, well afford to endure their criticisms if the proposed union was carried into effect, for the prohibitionists would constitute such a formidable and powerful army that, if properly organized and officered, no government would dare to trifle with it, and in a remarkably short time "prohibition" would be the order of the day throughout the Dominion.