

THE WORKING OF PROHIBITION.

How it Cripples the Rum Power.

OVER and over again we have pressed upon our readers the important fact that one of the great advantages of Prohibition, even where not absolutely and perfectly enforced, is, that it destroys bar room drinking and kills off the treating system. This is the experience of a score of counties in the Province of Ontario to day. The attractive, open, seductive bar temptation is a thing of the past. The violation of the law which takes place and is so frequently detected and punished, is carried on secretly, disagreeably, and not at all in a fashion likely to tempt straightforward, honorable, high-minded young men. Old smokers still manage to get their liquor on the sly, but the power of the traffic for evil is crippled and its disreputable and degrading character is made clear. This is the experience of other countries as well as ours. Mr. Locke, the able editor of the Toledo Blade, who made a personal tour of the State of Maine to find out what Prohibition really accomplished, published an article giving the result of his investigations, from which we clip the following extracts bearing directly on the subject under discussion:—

IS PROHIBITION A REMEDY?

"But does Prohibition prohibit, and is Prohibition the cure for the evil?" "The proof of the pudding is in the eating. I assure that it does, to a sufficient extent to justify the action of the States that have made the experiment, and to encourage those who hope to extend it over all the States. I myself made a tour of Maine, with a view to determining the fact for myself. I explored Portland, the largest city in the State, first. There is liquor sold in Portland, and plenty of it, and yet Prohibition has been pronounced, unequivocal success in that city. Prior to the enactment of the Law law, some thirty years ago, there were three hundred grog-shops in the city, its population being about 30,000. It was as drunk a city as any in the country, and its rate of poverty, crime and misery was in exact proportion to the number and extent of its liquor-shops. In 1833, when I visited the city, to determine this question for myself, there were four places only where the law was defied, and liquor sold openly. There were some twenty other places where it was sold secretly, but there were only four open bars, and these four could not be said to be open bars. They were in the sub-cellars under the four principal hotels, and so intricate were the ways to them that a guide was necessary. And when you found them, they were sorry places. A room twelve foot long by six in width, a cold, dismal, desolate room, lighted by one gas-light and absolutely without furniture. There was not even a chair to sit upon, only a small bar, behind which were a few bottles of liquors, with the necessary glasses to drink from. Nobody ever penetrated those horrible places except the confirmed drinkers, who must have their poison, and who dare not trust themselves to keep it in their rooms.

"So difficult was it to find, and so dismal and discouraging was it when found, that a Boston man with me remarked, 'Well, if this isn't Prohibition, it comes very close to it. If I had to take all this trouble to get a drink in Boston, and had no more pleasant place than this to drink in, I don't think I should ever drink.'

THE STRENGTH OF PROHIBITION.

"This is the strength of Prohibition. In Portland there are no delightful places fitted up with expensive furniture, no cushions filled with brilliant liquors, no bars of mahogany with silver railings, no great mirrors on the walls, no luxurious seats upon the floor—nothing of the sort. Drunkenness there has no mantle of luxury thrown over it, and the mask of sociality has been ruthlessly torn from it. If you want to get drunk in Portland, you go where the material is, for that purpose, and that only. You must go and find it—it is not trying to find you.

KANSAS AND IOWA.

"The experience of Kansas and Iowa has been identical with that of Maine. The prohibitory law is evaded in every possible way. The liquor interest did not at once give up the field, nor has it yet. The saloon was driven out, but its place was taken by secret dives, and by all sorts of devices, some of them very ingenious, to defeat the operation of the law. But the object of Prohibition was attained. The gaudy saloon was driven off the street, the sale of liquor was made illegal and disreputable, and the penalties for violation were made so severe that the seller dare not vend except to those whose confirmed appetites make it entirely safe. The boys are saved. No dealer would dare to sell to a boy, much less to go out and hunt for him. And this is exactly what was aimed at by the makers of the law. The confirmed drunkard will have it anyhow. The thieves, gamblers and prostitutes will have it, and perhaps in a certain sad sense it makes but little difference how soon liquor wipes them out. They are ruined, and few of them will escape. But the hunt for boys was at an end. The ghastly mills into whose hoppers were turned boys and girls by the thousands, grinding out daily a doleful grief of prostitutes, thieves, gamblers and paupers, were stopped forever. The law can be and is being evaded to the extent of finishing up the stock on hand, but the supply of new material is cut off. The open saloon is gone, and the coming generation is safe. When the seller dare not sell to boys, the liquor business has a very short life. This prohibition has done for Kansas and Iowa, as well as for Maine.

The Canada Temperance Act.

RESULTS OF THE VOTING SO FAR:

Table with columns: PLACE, VOTES POLLED (For, Against), MAJORITIES (For, Against), DATE OF ELECTION. Lists various locations like Fredericton, N.B., York, N.B., etc., with their respective voting results.

N.B.—In the preceding table a place that has voted more than once has the different votes indicated by the figures (1), (2), (3) after the name of place. Figures printed in italics are for first or second votes in places in which a later vote has been taken than that so printed. Names in heavy faced type are of cities, others of counties.

SUMMARY.

Nova Scotia has eighteen counties and one city, of which thirteen counties have adopted the Act. New Brunswick has fourteen counties and two cities, of which ten counties and two cities have adopted the Act. Manitoba has five counties and one city, of which two counties have adopted the Act. Prince Edward Island has three counties and one city, all of which have adopted the Act. Ontario has thirty-eight counties and union of counties and eleven cities, of which twenty-five counties and two cities have adopted the Act. Quebec has fifty-six counties and four cities, five counties of which have adopted the Act. British Columbia has five parliamentary constituencies, none of which have adopted the Act. In all, up to the present time, 81 cities and counties have voted upon the Scott Act, and 63 have adopted it. Nine counties and cities voted twice and 3 three times, making an aggregate of 93 contests, out of which we have been victorious in 72. The aggregate votes cast in all the contests have been:— For the Scott Act..... 162328 Against "..... 112508 Net Scott Act majority..... 49820 If we omit all voting but the last, in those places which have voted more than once we get the following as the latest vote:— For the Scott Act..... 147326 Against "..... 102508 44568 It is more than eight years since the Scott Act was first voted upon and adopted in different localities, and NO COUNTY OR CITY HAS YET REPEALED IT, although many votings have taken place on the question of repeal.

Preserve this Paper. You will need this table for reference.

The Day Dawns.

Lone the night has been, and dreary; Stars of hope but dimly shone; Eyes, with vigils long, were weary Watching for the coming dawn. But the gloom has now been broken, For the word of light is spoken, And the morning star gives token, Of the dawn.

In the night were husbands drunken, Bawling, staggering in the street; Wives with pallid cheeks and sunken, Waiting, feared their coming feet; But the morning cheers their sadness, For the cup of death and madness Yields to one of social gladness, Clear and sweet.

In the night were mothers sighing With an aching heart and head; In the night were children crying, Hopeless, cold and wanting bread; But their cries have reached to heaven, And their fetters shall be riven— Tears shall cease, and songs be given Them instead—

In the night wore those who feasted At the cost of woes untold, Lived upon the lives they blasted— Parasites of basest mould But a fairer day is breaking— God the walls of sin is shaking— Wrong is losing, right is taking, Firmer hold.

In the night were mortals calling Who had lost their pathway there, Shrieks were heard from spirits falling Down the steep of dark despair; But to them came aid availing From thence who heard their wailing, And who offered strong, prevailing, Fervent prayer.

In the night was heard the death-bell, With its iron tongue of pain, Tolling out the doleful death-knell Of the souls that run had slain! But the joy-bells now are ringing, And the hosts above are singing, For the hand of God is bringing In his reign— —S. N. McAdoo.

It Pays—Well!

THE Georgetown Herald states forcibly the financial benefit of the Scott Act to the community in the following terms:— "We find it often urged against the Scott Act that a great loss has been sustained from not receiving the license money paid under the Crooks Act. It is well known that the Act came into force in Halton on 1st May, 1882, and, therefore, this year was part under the Scott Act and part under the Crooks Act. It will be fair then to drop this year and make calculation on the four full years immediately succeeding its introduction. The following will make the matter clear:—

Table with columns: LICENSE MONEY REC'D, PAID TO POOR. Lists years 1878-1885 with corresponding values.

In 1883, 1884, 1885, and 1886 of course there was no license money received, but there were paid out for charity the following sums:—

Table with columns: Name, Penalty, No. of Offence. Lists names like Robert Ellwood, Ann Rowles, etc., with their penalties and offences.

Total..... \$502 86 Thus we see that during the four Crooks Act years \$1,293 60 were received for license and \$2,085 59 paid for charity, or it required \$791.99 more to support the township poor than the total received from the township's tavern keepers. And while it cost the township \$2,085 59 for charity in the four license years, it only cost \$502 86 for the same purpose in the four Scott Act years. Of course some one will object here that while \$502 86 were paid out nothing was paid in. But during the four Crooks Act years \$791.99 more were paid out than were paid in; and thus it will readily be seen (subtracting \$502 86 from \$791.99) that we have a handsome balance in favor of prohibition of \$289 13. These facts are worthy of consideration at the hands of the intelligent electors of the township. Not only is it plain that Esqueving has been almost entirely freed from paupers, but financially the Temperance Act has proved a good paying investment.

An Earnest Appeal.

FELLOW electors, you do not, you cannot, believe that "dram-selling" is either right or necessary. If you voted to license the traffic, would you not throw your convictions of right to the winds and stand self-confessed as influenced by appetite or paltry gain, saying, that dearer to you than right, is the gratification of your appetite or the pocketing of a few cents that the traffic flings to you as your share of the thousands of profit made from its unholy operation. Remember that whoever votes against the Scott Act because he wants the revenue from license, actually takes for his vote that license fee as a bribe. Are you prepared to share the awful responsibilities of the liquor traffic by participating in its unholy gains. "It is not lawful to put it into the treasury, it is the price of blood."

Lovers of your fellowmen, will you turn a deaf ear to the appeals of the suffering victims of the traffic, enslaved men struggling to be free, and innocent, suffering, women and children who pray day and night for the curse to cease. Will you tell them, "We take care of ourselves; we are not your keepers." Can asked: "Am I my brother's keeper?" but Cain was a murderer. You would not repeat his question.

Christians, be not stand impassively by, while this struggle between good and evil is going on. Remember "He who was mightier than the mightiest" has said: "He that is not with me is against me," and to regard his cause, the cause of his suffering children, with indifference, is only less damning than to actively oppose it." "Curse ye Mevaz," said the angel of the Lord. "Curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof, because they came not to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty."

Electors, for your own sakes—for while this evil is in the land no one is safe, for the sake of the children who play about your knee and who are dear to you as life, for the sake of the weak and erring brother whose keeper in a sense you are, for the sake of your country—"this good land and large," that the Lord has given you to possess, and that is being drained of her men and substance by this terrible traffic, for the sake of your religion, whose progress is hindered by this giant vice; above all for the sake of your crucified Lord and Saviour, who died to save those who could not save themselves, vote against the infamous proposal to legalize this "sum of all villainies"—the drink traffic.—Rev. A. MacGillivray.

MIDDLESEX AGAIN.

Three Weeks' Work—Eleven Hundred Dollars in Fines.

THE Scott Act is a practical working success in Middlesex, Ont. Why? Simply because the officers of the law are honestly, manfully, straightforwardly doing their duty. Police Magistrate Noble is fair, square and fearless. Inspector Williams, of the East Riding, is an example of what an inspector ought to be, and he deserves the strongest commendation from all law-abiding citizens for his quiet, honorable but determined and prompt discharge of a duty that is at best a thankless and disagreeable task. His colleagues, Inspector Robertson in the west and Inspector Schoff in the north, are also good solid men, who will not cringe to liquor terrorism nor yield to liquor influence.

The result of all this is evidenced in the facts that (1) The law is well observed and very little liquor sold; (2) Men who endeavor to dodge the law are continually being detected and punished; (3) The enforced law commands itself to public approval, so that the prohibition cause and prohibition sentiment are stronger than ever in Middlesex and are gaining every day. We feel confident that a repeal contest would result in a bigger Scott Act victory than that by which the law was adopted.

Enforcement is all that the Scott Act needs to kill off every repeat agitation, and if every county in Ontario had such officers as Middlesex has, any talk about going back to the license system would be simply laughed at as the hopeless longing of thirty bummers.

A fact worth noticing is that Middlesex whisky boys have before them a wholesome terror of jail, and very rarely does one of them risk the committing of a third offence. The offenders are generally new, and now are growing few. All this will be made clear by the following list of cases tried between Feb. 1st and 18th inst.:—

Table with columns: Name, Penalty, No. of Offence. Lists names like Robert Ellwood, Ann Rowles, M. Bixel, etc., with their penalties and offences.

Since writing the above a letter comes to hand setting forth what we have already stated so forcibly that we cannot do better than make an extract from it, though it is partly repetition:—

DEAR SIR,—On the 7th February, at Strathroy, Inspector Robertson had three cases—Oscar Bixel, Alex. McPherson, and Wm. Hooley. The first was tried and found guilty, the other two pleaded guilty; all first offences. On the 18th, at Glencoe, he had six cases; all plead guilty, and all paid, or rather down. They were—Alex. McTae, Archibald McKellar, and Peter McAlpine, second offences; and Frank Freeman, Wm. Rockett and Donald McIntyre, first offences; making \$600 inside ten days. This is nine cases of convictions, no dismissal in the time. McKellar and Rockett are grocers. Temperance people here are changing their ideas very much, and getting more encouraged as to the future success of the Scott Act, in case of a repeal vote being brought on next year. There is a great change in their sentiments since this time last year.