

The liquor traffic is potential, largely because of its money strength, its gold is freely poured out to secure for it a grip upon our governing bodies—boards of school trustees, village, town, township, town and city councils, local legislatures, and the Dominion Government. It is thoroughly organized, has millions of money at stake, it expects to see legislators quail before it in fear, or bow in humble obedience to its haughty mandates. It has able agitators at extravagant salaries, it sends to Ottawa the most skilled lobbyists, who spend money freely, and it has, to crown all, its representatives in the Cabinet Council itself. Well equipped, well financed, vigorous, active, this mighty power, faces the comparatively unorganized and moneyless moral sentiment of the community.

Under these circumstances, what could be expected as the result of the conflict? What has resulted from the earnest efforts of those engaged in it? The well equipped, well officered, well organized, well financed armies of selfishness and tyranny have been worsted at nearly every turn, and daily they see the power for which they have fought slipping from their grasp.

Since the year 1878 the liquor traffic has come into collision with Temperance sentiment on precisely one hundred Scott Act battle fields, and on seventy-five of these, it has been worsted. Even in Toronto, its metropolitan stronghold it has been taught that its aggressiveness must be curbed, and it is cramped within limits that are surprising when we consider all that has been done and spent to break these limits.

Still the liquor traffic, just now seems to be holding its own, notwithstanding that public sentiment is three to one against it. It seems to not have lost hope, it evidently expects to gain the ground from which it has been driven. It goes on spending money and laying plans for spending more. It builds distilleries, and breweries, and erects palatial drink shops, quietly making itself ready for a future that it hopes to call its own.

Why is the liquor traffic hopeful? It is hopeful because it is rich; and it believes that by its wealth it can out-worry the patience and exhaust the finances of those who are fighting it. We must not grow weary. We must have courage, patience, energy. We must be more liberal. Had we the means to do work, that the liquor traffic has, it would take but a little while to practically end the conflict.

Remember we are not finding fault with our temperance friends. We recognize what they have done. We have beaten the liquor traffic in seventy-five Scott Act fights, to which our friends have probably contributed not less than \$100,000, but what is that compared to the money the liquor traffic spends. The annual revenue of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance is far short of \$2,000; about a third of what the liquor men paid one of their agitators in a single campaign; about one-fifth of what they spent in the County of Halton alone. And this \$2,000 comes from a very few, who voluntarily proffer it to support a cause that is dear to them.

We do not say that temperance people are not liberal. They are. They are mainly the people who are contributing to every other form of philanthropic effort. They have recognized the need of financially supporting these other institutions. Look at a few donations that have been made within the past year. One gentleman bequeaths for Christian education \$800,000—practically the whole of his accumulations during a long and successful life. Another donates \$40,000 for a hospital. A third—in addition to numerous other good works—erects a building (costing nearly \$10,000) entirely at his own expense, for religious purposes. A fourth—a man of modest means—bequeaths \$10,000 to one of our churches, and a similar amount for other purposes, of a similar kind. All these men donate and bequeath these handsome sums because they are Christian men; and to our personal knowledge they are all the men who take an

interest in the temperance cause.

Consider another set of facts. Not a single mortal—millionaire or less wealthy—ever, in the history of the temperance movement in Canada, bequeathed or donated as much as \$5,000 to carry on the agitation. There is no record, even, of a gift of more than \$1,000 from one man at one time to aid this cause. And there is on record no case in the Province of Ontario of any man giving even \$1,000 at one time for aggressive agitation in connection with our cause.

From these facts, of the comparatively great victory which our cause has won, and the comparatively small resources on which we have been dependent, there are some lessons to be learned. They are the lessons of Faith, Hope, and Charity. Faith in our cause, Hope for its success, Liberty in its support. We shall win, but the victory will come all the speedier if a few of our earnest, warm friends recognize the necessity of the case and come up nobly to our help. We have an immense constituency, we have polled for the Scott Act nearly 200,000 votes, fully 10,000 more than our opponents have been able to muster. Let this constituency show practically its interest in the cause it supports. Let us have in every Province of the Dominion a generous rally to the help of the Alliance, or whatever movement leads the van of temperance progress. If this were done, we could drive the legalized liquor traffic out of Canada in less than two years.

GOLDWIN SMITH REJOICING.

The recent repeal of the Scott Act in several counties at once, greatly gladdens the heart of the Philosopher of the Liberal Temperance Union. He rejoices that, at last, modest men like himself—who don't like to come out boldly on platforms and in the press in defence of the liquor traffic—can stay at home and philosophize over the evils of coercive legislation and the benefits of temperance *per se*, and read and write essays on the composition of the wine that Christ used in Cana.

Mr. Smith, in a letter published the other day in the *Toronto Mail*, takes the temperance agitators under his kindly care, and gives them some very sage advice, free of charge. The advice sounds familiar. We think we have heard it from the bad, bold liquor men themselves; but as it comes from a Philosopher it behooves us to listen attentively. His letter may be freely translated thus:—

"Gentlemen temperance agitators, lend me your ears. I come to bury the Scott Act, not to praise it. The evil that it did lives after it; the good has been interred with its bones. So let it be, my hearties. And now I'm with you; I'm a temperance agitator myself. I'm the same as you are—working in the same good cause—but a little more Liberal, that's all the difference. Now, let's see—the Scott Act's dead. That means the death of all coercive legislation. Legislation is a bad thing, anyway. It breeds perjury, deceit, and all uncharitableness. You'll have to change your tactics, gentlemen. Now, I'm a philosopher, and can advise you well. My advice is this: stop legislating, keep on agitating—on moral suasion lines, you know. Put in a good word for the Cana wine when you can. Don't oppress the liquor-sellers. They are as good citizens as you are, and their business is legalized. Just talk to them kindly. Talk all you please, gentlemen, talk as loud as you like; talk as often as you like. Pray, too, if you want to—I'm a Churchman myself, and certainly cannot object to your praying. But don't, in any case, ask for legislation. You'll get all you want if you'll only wait. Educate the people so that they don't need prohibition, and then you'll get it, perhaps—that is, if I, with my Liberal Temperance Union, don't prevent you."

The Professor, Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, and a few others, seem to be laboring under the delusion that they are giving temperance people a new idea when they tell them to turn their attention to "moral suasion." Such an assumption shows that these men are ignorant or unobservant of the temperance movement since it started. They do not seem to be aware of the fact that for at least fifty years an agitation—more or less vigorous—has been constantly carried on in this Dominion, with a view of educating the people to oppose the liquor traffic. Hundreds of orators have spoken; thousands of meetings have been held; millions of pages of literature have been distributed. The result of all this seed-sowing has been—as might have been expected—a harvest. The harvest is a goodly one: the idea of temperance, even of total abstinence, is popular; there is everywhere, even among the apologists and defenders of the liquor-

sellers, a profound abhorrence of drunk- enness; business men, who themselves drink, will not employ drunken account- ants or office hands; many railway com- panies and large corporations strictly en- join total abstinence, on pain of dismis- sal, even whisky newspapers break out frequently with shocking articles under such captions as "The Whisky-Head Must Go"—in south, it's popular to be on the temperance side, now-a-days, on account of the marvelous progress the sentiment has made.

But when Professor Smith tells us that the sentiment, so created, should not be crystallized into Acts of Parlia- ment, as an expression and index of the people's sense of right, as a protest against wrong, and as a deterrent to evil-doers, he shows how a man may become eminent as a student of history who has failed to grasp one of its fon- damental lessons.

SCRUTINEER

On Favoring Criminality.

One very peculiar absurdity of the plea often presented in favor of Scott Act repeal seems oddly overlooked by many in other respects sensible people. The established fact of palpable trans- gression and the more openly reit- erated, utter disregard of law, is even put as reason for the removal of the law instead of the submission of the transgressor. The outrageous theory is thus advanced that when any of Her Majesty's subjects manifest a dis- position not to be subject to consti- tuted authority, "the powers that be" should mildly accept the situation and modify legislation accordingly. In fact, according to this theory, crimin- als need only become intensely enough criminal, openly enough re- gardless of law and avowedly enough opposed to its operation, to win over their law-abiding fellow citizens to favor their nihilistic proclivities.

Very similar is the widely-propaga- ted fallacy that some distinction should be made in enforcement or non-en- forcement of some particular existing enactment,—as if a law being dis- tasteful to criminals in its operation—should therefore be less faithfully enforced. Surely it cannot be rea- sonably expected that any effective law will accomplish the end for which it is framed, except in as far as it authorita- tively interferes with the so prohibited line of conduct to which some of the community may be strongly disposed.

Favoritism is utterly misplaced, when extended to accepting the avowed dislike of transgression, as constitu- ting any good reason why law should not be unswervingly maintained. The aversion to obedience is ever pre-sup- posed—in fact, such is presumed, as constituting a special need, and de- mand for such legislation, and so is really a strong reason in its favor.

If any selection or choice is to be made, that law which is most distaste- ful to law-breakers, may be fairly re- garded as having at least one very good recommendation, and if any distinction is to be admitted that crim- inality placed the farthest from favor which manifests the most persistent insubordination.

That criminals may be only expected to indulge inveterate hatred to any obstruction or effectual check to their injurious practices, may be regarded as quite natural. But, how strange—that law-abiding persons should be found so far in sympathy with lawlessness, as not only to condone, but even to favor such modifications of law as will facilitate injurious practices to suit the depraved desires of transgressors. If any form or measure of criminality is to claim favor, then most decidedly some sounder ground of such favor than law-breakers hostility should be forthcoming, and this consideration should be rightly transferred for effective service to the other side.

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S. SHEE.

PUBLIC OPINION.

ON THE ANTI SCOTT ACT VICTORIES.

What Our Leading Journals Say The Way the Party Papers Look at It—The Views of Tories, Critics and Independents—Many Theories and Deductions.

But they all point to Prohibition.

(THIRD INSTALLMENT.)

Toronto World.

The people voted for the Scott Act in the first instance on what it promised to do, they repealed it for its failure to do what was promised. They took it on its promises, they repealed it on its failures.

Newmarket Era.

There must be something radically wrong in the Act itself, or in the way it has been enforced, to have produced such an unexpected reaction. * * * Possibly this may not indicate a lessening of temperance sentiment, but rather that the Act does not meet the expectation of the temperance community.

St. George Journal.

The Temperance question must be separated from politics if it is ever to occupy the position which is justly due it. By electing consistent temperance men to Parliament is the only means of achieving this end; men who will rise above party ties and vote consistently when the question comes before Parliament.

Barrick Gazette.

Temperance men and women have no occasion for despondency. They know that the Act was imperfect, and the needed relief only partial. But now that it has gone off to be directed to securing a more radical measure, even that of the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of all intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes throughout the Dominion.

Kingston Freeman.

The Scott Act is killed! Who killed it? "I," says Glengarry, and "I," sing in chorus Dundas, Stormont, Renfrew, Huron, Bruce, Simcoe, Dufferin and Norfolk. The Scott Act was the hugest burlesque on temperance ever palmed off on an earnest people. The people of Ontario are death on the whisky curse, they took to the Scott Act to rid the land of that infamy, but the Act having proved a gross failure, they have risen up in indignation to declare that it must go.

Aylmer Express.

It could be said with considerable truthfulness that had the Dominion Government given the measure the support it was their duty to give it the result might have been to some extent different. However, they did not do so, but could now partially amend for the abuse of power vested in them by rescinding the measure entirely and wiping it off the statute book. * * * In fact it is their duty to do so. Public sentiment upon a complete prohibitory measure should then be tested and, if found favorable towards such legislation, a prohibition bill carried through.

Renfrew Mercury.

In our opinion, both the Governments—and the politicians representing respec- tively the two great political parties—are all alike equally to blame. Their attitude towards the Temperance Act has been in- fluenced by the fear of losing votes; not by an honest endeavor to lessen the evils which they profess to believe are attend- ant upon the liquor traffic. * * * The Scott Act has been defeated, because it suited politicians to let so troublesome a matter alone and because a large number of Justices of the Peace were intimi- dated by seeing the property of Scott Act supporters and officials dynamited or destroyed by incendiaries, and conse- quently refused to act.

Christian Guardian.

The chief cause of the defeat we hold to be the discouragement of the Tem- perance people, because of the difficulty of efficiently enforcing the Act in its present shape. * * * It may be, also, that the disposition to regard prohibitory legislation as the only remedy worth striving for, and the too sanguine ex- pectation of total Prohibition in the near future, may have led some to virtually give up the Scott Act, and to fail to use faith- fully the old methods of enlightening and forming public opinion. If this is so, it is a serious mistake that should not be repeated in the future. The best way to win a better position in future is to use faithfully all the facilities and means which our present position affords.

Fredericton Temperance Journal.

We must admit that a failure to en- force the existing temperance legislation, produces discontent and discouragement. In our large centres this failure is more or less apparent. The opposition to the prohibition of the rum traffic exists, not only in the traffic itself, but also among the respectable tipplers, many of whom are to be found among our prominent church members, and professing christi- ans. It is this fact, together with the apathy of the Church, which renders the enforcement of the Scott Act, a very ardu- ous task. * * * It is a duty incumbent upon us, that the light and knowledge which we have received upon this question should be imparted to those of our fellow citizens, who have not been blessed with a Temperance education. There are many among our opponents, who are there from ignorance as well as because of their appetite, who are open to conviction, and who can be educated to accept prohibition, and assist in its en- forcement. Let us suggest, that one of the best instrumentalities for the accom- plishment of this most desirable result, would be the liberal distribution of Tem- perance literature. The people who are not prepared for a prohibitory law, as well as those who are, should be supplied with facts and arguments bearing upon the question, and the horrors of the evil of intemperance, kept so constantly be- fore their minds, that a firm and deep-

seated hatred to the traffic in all its forms, would result therefrom. It is painfully apparent, that the importance of using this method of educating public opinion up to the acceptance of the truths which we advocate, has been too much ignored by the active workers in the reform.

Toronto Empire.

If the Temperance organizations, in view of the collapse of the Scott Act, will unite in adopting a high license system, with most stringent provisions for the regulation of the traffic, including tests for adulteration, they will probably find themselves supported by the great majority of people outside of the organizations. To this end they should direct their energies, for here is something practicable and not difficult of accomplishment.

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