

We cannot look upon the late meeting as so unsuccessful as some would allege. On the contrary we are convinced that it was as successful as any could reasonably have anticipated. There seems to be little ground for objecting to the spirit in which it was organized and carried through. Its memorials were becomingly worded. There was no abuse, and as little bluster. It is satisfactory, too, we think, alike from the temperance and general standpoint, that an organization has been formed to give authoritative voice hereafter to the opinions of the Licensed Victuallers. This is better than back-stair influence and irresponsible utterances.—*Globe*.

The proposal of the deputation was that the last straw of a forlorn hope might be placed within their grasp—that, since nothing could be done to stem the tide of success that is sweeping over the country with the Scott Act, they might obtain from the Government that which they are pleased to call by the name of "compensation." Sir John told them that he didn't have any thing to do with the Scott Act, and that it must be left to Parliament. He finally wound up by stating that if prohibition as a general measure were introduced, he, if called upon for a personal opinion, if he gave it at all, would, with some other *ifs*, give it in favor of compensation. The big excursion is over, and Sir John, the Government, and the liquor men are just where they were before. Sir John wouldn't promise that the Government would do anything to destroy or weaken the Scott Act, and now it turns out that when the Scott Act passed in Parliament in 1878, Sir John was one of those who recorded his vote in favor of it. Therefore, we may expect Mr. Kyle, the liquor merchant, who succeeds King Dodds as the leader of the liquor interests, to commence his opposition to the Government.—*Carleton Place Herald*.

Whether the faculties of Sir John Macdonald are failing or not, is a question which the politicians may well be left to decide. His well known sense of humor is certainly as lively as ever. When the great deputation had read their memorials, and their lawyer had delivered his address, the veteran Premier politely assumed them that he had no doubt the memorials would be laid before Parliament so that members would have an opportunity of reading them at their leisure, and also of weighing the arguments of the legal luminary, who had spoken in favor of compensation. There was not a sentence in the memorials, nor an argument used by the lawyer, that is not familiar to every intelligent boy in Ontario. The points brought before the Government have been discussed in every school house, in every county, in which the Act has been submitted. The idea of Dominion legislators sitting down to study them at his time of day is a good joke. The Victuallers may not have seen it, but it was a good joke all the same. Had the Premier assured the deputation that he had no doubt the representatives of the people were about to begin a quiet study of the multiplication table, perhaps the deputation would have been surprised. What he did tell them was quite as funny. But then everybody knows the Premier always did enjoy a joke.—*Canada Presbyterian*.

Just how the deputation were to be satisfied with the non-committal character of Sir John's reply is just of those things which no man can find out. The general opinion is that Sir John dare not outrage public opinion, which has been so overwhelmingly expressed in favor of the maintenance of the Scott Act, and which was particularly marked by the floods of petitions, which were presented on the very day the deputation interviewed Sir John. In fact ever since the House opened no day has passed in which scores of petitions have not been presented praying that the Act may be maintained and strengthened in its prohibitory character, and with this object in view some amendments are to be introduced during the present session.—*Dundas True Banner*.

What strikes us as not a little singular is that any class of men can have the hardihood to state what this delegation has done with reference to the influence of the Scott Act upon the liquor trade, in the face of their spoken and written utterances in direct contradiction to what they now say. We have been told over and over again, that the adoption of the Scott Act will not diminish and has not diminished the consumption of intoxicants. Statistics have been paraded at public meetings, and columns of them have appeared in the daily papers to prove these statements, and now we are informed that merchants, bankers, and loan companies are suffering losses because the liquor trade is paralyzed in counties where the Scott Act has been adopted. Which shall we believe? the statements made then or now? The fact is, the "Anti's" are concluding that it is useless to attempt any longer to induce people who are not to be imposed upon by chaff to swallow whatever statistics they may choose to cook up for them, and we believe they are now stating their honest conviction, and that they know that, while the Act is not a perfect measure, it will, nevertheless so far suppress the trade that it will be neither safe nor profitable to prosecute it. And, moreover, they are coming under another healthy conviction, and that is that the temperance people don't intend to play at the enforcement of the Act, but are resolved to employ all lawful means to secure its observance. What they are after now, therefore, is either to secure such legislation as will make it practically impossible to pass the Act, or if passed, to be followed by such charges for compensation as will dishearten its supporters.—*Christian Guardian*.

It was a complete fizzle. Ontario was flooded with posters and circulars, special trains ran from all directions, and yet a miserable 250 greeted Sir John at the Opera House. Wm. Kyle said a few weeks ago, that a monster demonstration would crowd the corridors at Ottawa and force the Government to their terms. They did not exactly "crowd the corridors" for two reasons:—First, because their number would not seriously crowd a set of bar-rooms; secondly, they were not allowed to reach the corridors: they enjoy the unenviable notoriety of being the first and only deputation to the Government who were not granted rooms in the Parliament buildings. But then, no doubt, Wm. Kyle's threats had so unnerved the Premier that he could only think of O'Donovan Rossa and the London explosions. The handful assembled at the Opera House, waited manfully, if impatiently, through the cold until Sir John Macdonald

and four of his Cabinet arrived. Then they poured out their vials of threatening, and lamentation, and supplication upon his head and waited to see him shrivel up and beg for mercy. Here another cog slipped in the arrangement. Sir John was not frightened or affected to the slightest extent. He was absolutely cool in the presence of so august an assemblage. Wm. Kyle's brass-mounted sarcasm failed to disconcert him. He calmly told the shivering delegation that they would have to go to Parliament with their request, and possessed the heroism to assure them (Wm. Kyle being present) that he had voted for the Scott Act. We repeat, it was a miserable fiasco, but Wm. Kyle and some others remained at Ottawa, and it would be just as well to watch their operations. Parliament will doubtless move in some direction this session, and let the temperance people take care that it is in the right one. This open effort has failed, but others more hidden will be made.—*Canadian Patriot*.

It will take more than enthusiasm and wind to induce the Government to go against the wishes of the people. As Sir John rightly said the Government are the servants of Parliament and Parliament the servants of the people. It is not at all probable that the servants will go contrary to the wishes of those who give them their positions. Out of over seventy contests only eleven have said the Scott Act is no good, while about sixty have declared by a majority of about 40,000 that it is good. Does any one reasonably expect that Parliament will go contrary to the expressed wishes of those who engage them as their representatives. A representative is supposed to represent his constituents, and if his constituents say the Scott Act is to the best interests of the country, he is in duty bound to abide by their decision.—*Albinston Fair Play*.

Selected Articles.

PROHIBITION.

BY J. W. LOWBER.

The liquor traffic is a public nuisance. No one should question the right of duty of the State to remove such nuisances. I challenge any one to find a greater public evil in the land than intemperance. War is an evil. In the great rebellion more than six hundred thousand men fell; but the war has ended, and its evil consequences are fast passing away. Not so with the whiskey war against humanity. Every year several hundred thousand perish; but new ones are being continually added to the list. This war on the lives and souls of men does not cease. They that feed this fire of death must be responsible for the flame. From top to bottom the traffic is temptation and seduction incarnate. It does more evil in this beautiful land of liberty than everything else combined. Let us then by prohibition check the advance of the monster.

Some are opposed to Prohibition because the liquor traffic affords a revenue for the Government. There never was a greater hypocrisy in this world. The abolition of the whiskey traffic would result in the increased prosperity of the country in various ways. It would save much of the cost of taking care of paupers, of punishing crime; and it would add much to the labour interest of the country by the reclamation of drunkards, and the prevention of others becoming drunkards. Says one, the Government cannot stand without the revenue from whiskey. If it cannot, there is something wrong with the Government. As well as I love my country, I would prefer seeing the whole superstructure fall than have it stand upon such a rotten foundation. Do not talk about revenue from the demon which robs the legal and medical professions, and even the ministry, of some of their brightest ornaments. I now have in my mind some of the greatest poets and the greatest statesmen that fell victims to the accursed traffic.

Prohibition does not interfere with individual rights. It prescribes no bill of fare for the people, it has no sumptuary measures for the regulation of mankind, it gives no directions to physicians with regard to the dietetic treatment of their patients. We simply ask for wholesome laws for the protection of mankind. May the time soon come when honest men with honest laws will strike the stern rum-seller dumb. And right, not might, will win the cause. May we have laws that will lock the public chest, and seal it with a magic seal, so that every effort to interfere with the interest of society will be unavailing.

The object of law is the protection of society, and when civil government does not do this, it is a failure. When we take into consideration the baneful effects of the liquor traffic, it is not unreasonable to ask for a law, which will squelch the cause of the effects we all deplore. The drunkard is a tax and a nuisance to sober men; he and his family have to be supported by them. We demand a prohibitory law, which will say that no man shall sell another that which will deprive his mind of reason and his heart of feeling.—*Louisville Worker*.