

cause for the railway companies to demand compensation? The British Parliament admitted the fact of its having chartered railway companies to compete against turnpike roads, gave the Turnpike Trusts a ground of compensation, and an appropriation was made to cover the loss occasioned by this competition. The case of the railways here would be much stronger if the canal tolls were abolished. Why should the State interfere between two classes of forwarders for the purpose of enabling one of them to carry on, at the expense of the taxpayer, a destructive competition against the other?

THE majority in the House of Commons against the Senate Amendments of the Scott Act, narrow as it was, was produced, as there is the strongest reason for believing, by intimidating members through their constituents. But at all events a large majority of one House of the Legislature and nearly half the other are against the Act as it stands. Next Session, if the opponents of this legislation and of social terrorism will only be firm, an amendment may be carried. An effective stand has at length been made by friends of free temperance unconnected with the liquor interest. It was not to be expected that a movement which had gained so much headway would be arrested all at once, but a turn in the tide of opinion is visible, a rally has been made, and Perth has been wrested from the Coercionists. Three months ago some who are well qualified to judge believed that the Scott Act would be carried in Toronto: everybody now feels sure that it will be defeated. In the States Prohibition is unquestionably losing ground. There is therefore no reason for desponding, and it would be a great mistake as well as a great public misfortune if the respectable heads of the liquor interest were to throw up the game in despair, and hand the business over, as they would, to the unregulated and disreputable tribe which is the curse of prohibited districts in the United States.

WHEN the Senate's amendments to the Scott Act were before the House Mr. Small moved to except wine and beer from its inhibitions in counties in which the measure may hereafter be put into force. The good faith with which this reasonable proposal, made in the true interests of temperance, was met is an instructive commentary on the sincerity of the men who made up the majority in favour of coercion. "When the bells rang for the division on Mr. Small's motion," the *World's* reporter telegraphs, "at least half a dozen men got up from the tables in the bar-room of the House, where they were drinking the condemned liquor, went up stairs, and coolly voted against the beer and light wine clause." He adds that "at least twenty others voted that way and against their convictions and against their practices." What chance is there that a law which the members by whose votes it is carried intend to bind others but not themselves, will be carried out? These men have no intention of putting a curb upon themselves; but if they can have their wine as usual, after the Scott Act has been put into force, the great body of the electors will be driven to the resource of contraband whiskey which, as experience proves, is in such cases of the most deleterious description. As a political lever both parties seem to think they have something to hope or to fear from prohibition. But political partisans may live to learn that it is one thing to carry the Scott Act in a county when no election is going on, and another thing to carry parliamentary elections by the Scott Act influence. The Scott Act is strong when it has only a listless indifference to overcome; its weakness may be proved when political partisans are thinking only of electing their candidates. In this way the political manoeuvrers in the House may find that they have stultified themselves in vain.

WE receive, as a matter of course, angry letters telling us that THE WEEK is conducted in the interest of the liquor-dealers. It is conducted, we hope, and always will be conducted in the interest of any class of citizens who are unfairly hounded down and threatened with injustice. Justice, said that high example of the Christian character, Lord Chancellor Selborne, in the Bradlaugh case, is a part of Christianity. The weak and discredited, not the powerful and popular, are always selected as the victims of iniquity. And has the community no interest in resistance to confiscation? The real partisans of the liquor interest, in the worst sense of that term, are they who wish to inaugurate here the state of things which prevails in Maine and Vermont. That such a journal as THE WEEK is patronized by the taverns nobody can pretend to believe: nobody can pretend to doubt that the dictates of commercial interest would lead us to the other side.

ANY one who has followed the opinion of British Columbia on the question of Chinese immigration will have no difficulty in recognizing a compromise in the resolutions on the subject which the Ottawa Government

asks Parliament to adopt. The weight of the evidence obtained in the United States by the Canadian Commission, which enquired into the effects of Chinese immigration on the Republic, was altogether in favour of the utility of Chinese labourers. But the Commissioners, at the head of whom was Mr. Chapleau, admitted that this immigration might require to be subjected to exceptional control. British Columbia, where the nearest landing port was reached by the immigrants got more than its share of the celestials; and so strong did the prejudice against them become that a demand for their exclusion found voice in the Local Legislature. A request that the Dominion authorities would carry into effect the wishes of the Province would have been in order; but instead of taking this legitimate course, the Local Legislature assumed to exercise legislative authority over a question to which its powers did not extend. The exercise of the veto, vested in the Government at Ottawa, was followed by a re-enactment of the vetoed bill. These resolutions are evidently intended to provide a means of compromise. In imposing a tax of fifty dollars on each Chinese immigrant they strike a heavy blow which would of itself go far towards killing Chinese immigration. The captains of the vessels in which these immigrants come are to be held personally responsible for the payment of the money. Another restriction is that no vessel is to bring more than one immigrant to each fifty tons of registered tonnage. Between the tax and the tonnage restriction Chinese immigration will probably receive its death-blow. To a labourer in China, fifty dollars is a little fortune; and it would not be safe for a trafficker in this labour to advance the money for him. This exclusion means that, in deference to the wishes of the smallest of the Provinces, the whole country is to be denied the benefits of Chinese labour, for which in domestic service there is a real want, though other immigrants for whom there is no demand have been courted and bribed by assisted passages to come. We can understand the objection of British Columbia to Chinese immigration. The disproportion of Chinese to the white population was embarrassing; but with the opening of the Pacific Railway the means of relieving any congestion at that point would have been at hand and would not have failed to be utilized for the benefit of the rest of Canada. In passing these resolutions Parliament will be acting as if the interests of a fractional part of the community were paramount to those of the whole. There is a political leaven in the resolutions which alone could make them acceptable to the political parties who have an eye on the labour-vote. Many who feel or fear the competition of Chinese labour join British Columbia in the shout for the exclusion of the Chinese. To please these people, and to set a trap to catch their votes, the two political parties in Parliament are willing to impose on the country the sacrifice of a deprivation of the facilities and the benefits which Chinese labour would confer.

It is not easy to understand how Lord Salisbury can think himself entitled, as he does, not only to special forbearance but to aid at the hands of those whom he has turned out of office. Had his victory been gained in a fair and regular way, by his own forces, or even by a natural and honest junction with those of another political section, there might have been some ground for his appeal, at least so far as regarded the concluding business of the Session. But his victory has not been so general. After a course of opposition unparalleled in virulence, especially towards the head of the Government, and after doing his utmost not only to oppose Liberal legislation, which he was entirely justified in doing, but to embarrass the Executive, both in its struggle with rebellion at home and in its efforts to preserve peace abroad, he has at last succeeded in overthrowing the Government by a coalition with men who are the hereditary foemen of his party as well as the declared enemies of his country, and whom he and his colleagues, if they could, would send to the gallows. It is useless for him to say that he did not himself make the coalition; those who are in his confidence made it for him, and he has, without a word of protest, reaped the gain of their machinations. There is nothing to which he can point as redeeming in any way the character of the intrigue which has raised him to power. He has not even propounded any policy, in antagonism to that of the Liberals, for which he can imagine the country to have manifested a preference. He blustered against Russia to make the negotiations miscarry; but he has already eaten his words, and declared that "it is ridiculous to apprehend any danger of a war with her on account of the accession to office of statesmen who have just declared that in the court of morality she is either a bankrupt or a swindler, and that in either case the mode of dealing with her must be the same." Instead of opposing himself frankly to the Socialism of Mr. Chamberlain, he has rather made a feeble attempt to cap it by vague promises of sanitary and dwelling-house reform, which, like similar promises made by his late chief, will end with the object which gave them birth. The journal which may be taken specially to speak his