

Comment.

Pix not your faith to politicians, but look out for your own heartstones.

Every hotelkeeper should remember that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

It is the custom in Canada to laugh at "vested interests," but there are such things, and English law is very circum-spect in its dealings with them.

If Canadians are willing to be always brewers of wood and drawers of water for other people then they will insist upon having Prohibition.

As both political parties appear determined to take Prohibition for a cry, our friends would do well to quietly look out for the candidate who is the most liberal.

When you find a Prohibitionist on the stump make him come down to facts and figures. Generalities glitter, but they are unreliable. Facts and figures can always be depended upon.

Compton, Que., has been under Prohibition jurisdiction for twenty years. The people have borne in patience many burdens, but at last they have turned. They have decided to adopt the license system.

An old saying says: "If you hit my pocket you hit my whole existence." Those who favor Prohibition have not stopped to consider that. But they will when the squeeze comes. In the meantime let us try the squeeze.

It is dollars to coppers that if all the men who are arraigned for drunkenness at the police courts throughout the land were to tell the truth as to where they got the greater part of their load it would be found it was in illicit dives.

It is a singular fact, but as true as it is singular, that in countries where civilization is the furthest advanced there are the most idols. Let us adopt the arguments of our opponents and advocate the abolition of civilization.

In England, refreshment house keepers (restaurant keepers), are compelled to observe the same closing hours as publicans. Recently at Halifax, in Yorkshire two keepers of restaurants were fined for being open half an hour after the regulation hours.

SCRIBERS are requested to keep THE ADVOCATE where it can be most seen. It contains many facts that will enlighten the people. Up to the present they have almost entirely heard the one side, the dry papers not daring to deal with the question on its merits.

CORVARD, an Italian nobleman, lived in excessive luxury until he was forty, and went in for all kinds of indulgence. At that age he tapered off and at ninety retained all his faculties, writing a notice on diet. Up to the last he drank

what he calls "only" fourteen ounces of wine a day!

It has come to our knowledge that certain people are going about decrying THE ADVOCATE. If those for whom this paper is working take any stock in calumniators, blackmailers and dishonesty, they will pay heed to such people, but if they wish to serve themselves they will disregard the calumniators and support those who support them.

The number of shop licenses in Hamilton have been reduced from thirty-four to twenty. A strong fight was made in the council to bring the number down to fifteen, but without success. The next result of this "temperance" move in the Ambitious City will be that the same amount of liquor as formerly will be sold while fourteen taxpayers will be deprived of their means of livelihood.

Once a Prohibition doctor was attending two patients in the one house, both of whom were down with the same complaint. The nurse asked if one of them wouldn't be better for a little stimulant, and said that a bottle of brandy stood in an empty room adjoining. "No, certainly not," said the doctor; but he sent her away on an errand and going into the room indicated filled up a five parts empty medicine bottle with the brandy. That man is a church leader and ever to the front at teetotal gatherings, but is he honest?

In Iowa, the State University is situated at Iowa City, which is a nice little college town. Under the prohibiting law of the state, the moral status of the town has degenerated to such an extent, that the legislative visiting committee have become completely disgusted. There are so many open saloons that the condition of affairs, there being nothing in the shape of regulation, has become intolerable. The committee have recommended that a commission composed of three ex-governors, Larrabee, Boies and Carpenter be appointed to go to Iowa City, make a thorough investigation and report to the next general assembly. Under a proper license law such a state of affairs could not exist.

MANITOBA has decided to do without the assistance of whiskey informers. They have been found not only unreliable but to be blackmailers and perjurers. Up to the present the informers have received half the fine imposed; from this time they will receive nothing and their trade as liars and spies will have gone. In Toronto the magistrate will not accept the unsupported evidence of informers. The question now is, what is to be done? The answer is, enforce the law. But if Prohibition should ever come about, whiskey informers would not only become a plague in the land, but each municipality would have to employ a double staff of policemen and detectives and that with a largely diminished revenue.

THAT tired feeling to which the late Lydie E. Pinkham referred at intervals, prevails over us on reading the doings of

certain good—and otherwise—people in Ottawa. Two whiskey informers sent down there by the license department have been prowling about the place and by the means known to people of their class have secured sundry convictions against hotel-keepers for infraction of the closing law. The other evening the ladies of the W.C.T.U. and the Temperance Union held a meeting, at which this pair of worthies were invited guests. The informers were asked to address the meeting, and in general were made the lions of the hour. Fancy some of the leading ladies in Ottawa exalting as the salt of the earth men of their class and reputation.

A REPORT published by the Collective Investigation Committee of the British Medical Association, shows that of thirty-eight centenarians three took no animal food, four took very little, twenty a little, ten a moderate amount, and only one acknowledged that he was very fond of meat. Of forty-nine centenarians, three only had been total abstainers all their lives, twelve for part of their long earthly careers, and thirty-four drunk as they wanted to. This we have forty-six who either drank all their life long, or at some period thereof, against three who totally abstained. As regards meat we have thirty-eight who ate thereof to three vegetarians. The only deduction that can be drawn from such statistics is that if liquor-drinking is bad so is meat-eating. Now, how many Prohibitionists abstain from eating meat, and yet between it and alcoholic beverage it is a case of "hoss and hoss."

PROBABLY the majority of Prohibitionists are what we call Liberals or Reformers. These people clamor both for free trade and the total suppression of the liquor trade. Where on earth do they think the revenue is to come from? In the United States it is proposed to reform the tariff in a very conservative fashion and yet resort has to be had to direct taxation. The same thing must result in Canada. But what kind of direct taxation would be necessary with both Free Trade and Prohibition? Not only would all in receipt of incomes have to be taxed, but each and every farmer throughout the land would have on the average to turn into the public exchequer something like \$30. Not only would such a state of affairs plunge the country into immediate bankruptcy, but it would mean the enforced exile of a quarter of a million people and a sure decrease of 20 per cent. in property and possibly more.

THAT any considerable reduction of the revenue, which must follow from Prohibition, will lead to direct taxation in the worst possible form is a certainty. A simple reform of the tariff in the United States has proven that; but supposing that country went into Prohibition what would result? A revenue has to be raised somehow and if direct taxation in the States is so objectionable as the Brewers' Journal indicates in the following paragraph, what would it be in Canada? Says the

Journal: "The proposed income tax is the subject of special and vigorous protest on the part of commercial and industrial organizations all over the country. To business men and corporations the idea of such a tax, implying as it does the employment of a staff of spies and informers, is repugnant, and every business organization should use its influence to insure the defeat of that amendment to the Tariff bill. No private mercantile affairs would be safe from publicity if the inquisitorial methods inseparable from such an impost as the proposed income tax should become part of the functions of our Federal Government."

B. writing from Niagara Falls, Ont., says: "A meeting of the license holders and those interested in the business, in the counties of Welland and Monck, was held in Welland on Wednesday, March 7th. About fifty were present, and the best of feeling prevailed throughout the meeting. Mr. J. S. Hamilton, of Brantford, happened to be in Welland on that date, and very kindly assisted in organizing. He opened the meeting by addressing the members as to the great importance of organizing, as the time has come when we must stand shoulder to shoulder to defend ourselves against the element seeking our ruin. The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Mr. Crommiller, Pt. Colborne; Vice-President, C. Yocum, Dunnville; Secretary, J. J. Bamfield, Niagara Falls; Treasurer, T. F. Brown, Welland; Executive Com. Pres., Vice-Pres., Sec. Tross, and Mr. Fred Spain, Fort Erie. The Executive Committee were appointed as delegates, to attend the convention, to be held in Toronto, April 4th." THE ADVOCATE thanks "B." for sending this notice, and commends his example to others who attend organizing or any other meetings of interest to the trade.

FACTS from tradesmen show that Toronto is doing very nicely, thank you, in spite of the cry of depression; but consequent upon the use couple of bare-faced evening journals have made of the situation that always prevails in the winter, when building and other trades are necessarily slack, and discharged farm laborers flock into town, all the outside papers are lecturing the city on how it should conduct its affairs. This state of things would be amusing were it not that general misrepresentation invariably has some effect. However we can afford to agree with the Newmarket Era when at the close of a long editorial of the kind that we refer to, it says: "The lesson (the alleged distress) ought to be a lasting one—especially to those who are doing moderately well in rural districts and country towns. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. Better to deny themselves of the enjoyment of booming times in the city than to pass through its seasons of depression, by continuing a residence where the ordinary home comforts at least are assured even though luxuries have to be denied." A man's pinions have to be pretty strong nowadays when he undertakes to compete in the flying race with citizens of the world at large.