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A Prohibitory Law in P. E. Island. The legislature of P. E. Island before prorogation passed the prohibitory liquor law, to which reference was made in these columns last week. It is therefore, in this matter, in advance of Manitoba, in whose Legislature prohibitory legislation is, at present writing, under consideration, and will doubtless be enacted during the present session. In the P. E. Island Act, it is provided that the law shall come in force on June 5th, 1901. The Manitoba Act if it becomes law, will come into force on the first day of the same month, so that, as it appears, a prohibitory law will be operative in Manitoba four days earlier than in the Island Province. The P. E. Island Act received the unanimous endorsement of the Legislature. Both Government and Opposition therefore stand committed to the principle of the law, and the Premier is reported as having declared in the strongest terms his intention to give it full force and effect. The friends of temperance in the Province appear to be well satisfied with the work of the Legislature in the matter, though it would appear that the measure is capable of being strengthened at some points. The Provinces, as it is well understood, have not the power to prohibit the manufacture or the wholesale trade outside the Province. But if a law which prohibits the traffic within the Province shall be effectively administered, it will be an immense boon to the Province adopting such legislation. Whether it shall be effectively administered or not will depend directly upon the Government and its officers appointed to enforce the law, and indirectly, but no less essentially, upon the determination of the people to see the law enforced. The position of the Island Province should be favorable to the enforcement of the law, and it is evident that public sentiment in the Province is strongly in favor of prohibition. The result of the step now taken will be watched with keen interest elsewhere, for if P. E. Island succeeds in enforcing prohibition under the Act now adopted, the result will certainly be to encourage the other Maritime Provinces to follow its example.

Welsh Immigrants. Canada can hardly have more desirable immigrants than those which reach her shores from Wales. The Welsh people are as a rule hardy, industrious, God-fearing, loyal, liberty-loving, and strongly in sympathy with British institutions. It is therefore gratifying to learn that the number of immigrants from Wales is increasing. The North Wales Observer, as quoted by a Toronto paper, says:

"The movement from Wales to Canada is particularly brisk, and during last month large parties from the Counties of Brecknock, Carmarthen, Monmouth, Glamorgan and Pembroke sailed for Canada, and a large number are also arranging to leave at an early date. When it is borne in mind that up to about three years ago the immigrants from Wales to Canada did not exceed a dozen a year, and all these hailing from the town of Cardiff, and that since that time every county in the principality has contributed its quota, it must be significant of an increasing appreciation of the Dominion as a field for emigration to such classes as were represented, viz., tenant farmers, miners, and young men and others going in for a farm life. No doubt people go to where circumstances are most congenial, and in Canada there is a strong predisposition in favor of the Welsh."

China. The disturbances in China to which reference was made in these columns last week appear to be growing more serious and naturally are causing much anxiety in Great Britain, which by reason of the large number of British residents in China and its immense trade with that country has very much at stake. These

disturbances are understood to be a part of a conservative reaction against the progressive policy favored by the Chinese Emperor who, a few months ago, was virtually deposed by his Aunt, the Empress dowager, who now holds the reins of government with a firmer hand and with the purpose of maintaining the ancient order of things. The Empress is represented—and probably with entire truth—as being utterly opposed to western innovations and strongly desirous of delivering the country from foreign influences, and certainly in view of foreign aggression in China, past, present and prospective, such an attitude on the part of the Empress is hardly surprising. Since the secret society known as the Boxers, the members of which are now causing so much trouble in the province of Chi-Li, represent also the ultra-conservative spirit of China, it is hardly possible but that the Empress should sympathize with their aims, if not with their methods, and we are therefore prepared for the statement that the proclamations recently issued by the Chinese Government concerning the Boxers does not indicate an intention to punish their crimes against foreigners in any very rigorous fashion. In fact the attitude assumed by the Government toward the Boxers would seem to be less likely to repress than to encourage them in their work of terrorizing foreign residents and native Christians and destroying their property. The representatives of foreign powers in China have considered it necessary to act together promptly and vigorously to protect the lives and property of the foreign population in the country from the hands of the outlaws. Between Tien Tsin and Peking, a distance of 73 miles, the railway has been much broken up by the Boxers, and an attempt is being made to repair it under the protection of a force of foreign marines. It is reported that on Tuesday last a small force of British came in contact with a large body of the Boxers who were engaged in destroying the railway track, and that some 40 of the latter were killed or wounded. Tien-Tsin is a town on the Pei-Ho river about 20 miles from Taku on the Gulf of Pe-Chi-Li. At the latter point a joint force of about 2,000 men have been landed composed of 915 British; 250 Germans; 300 Russians; 128 French; 104 Americans; 52 Japanese; 40 Italians, and 25 Austrians. These are understood to have gone forward to Peking, but if the reports have not exaggerated the seriousness of the disturbances, it is very doubtful if this force will be sufficient to deal with the situation. Russia has a large body of troops within easy reach, at Port Arthur, which she is doubtless quite ready to use for the pacification of China, but such a move on the part of Russia would be agreed to by the other European powers only on the ground of necessity, to prevent a murderous outbreak of the Chinese against the foreign residents, and it is quite possible that the landing of any considerable body of troops in China by Russia would involve her in war with Japan by whom Russian aggression in the east is most jealously watched.

Praise for the Canadian Red Cross Society.

The Canadian soldiers in South Africa have received much and well deserved praise for their gallant conduct on the battlefield. We have all felt a pride in this, and it is not less gratifying to see that the work done by Canadians in the hospital, under the auspices of the Red Cross Society, has received commendation both from Lord Roberts and Lord Methuen. General Methuen reporting to the Commander-in-chief, makes mention of the fine and unostentatious work performed by the Canadian Red Cross Society at Kimberly, under the guidance of Lieut.-Colonel Ryerson, M. D., at a time when the number of sick and wounded both British and Boers, sent in after the battle of Paardeburg, was so great as to tax beyond its capacity the medical equipments of the town. "The Kimberly people," General Methuen says, "found halls and schools and as many beds as they could, but 300 trestle beds and extra blankets appeared, so far as I could make out, from the skies. Only yesterday I found out that Colonel Ryerson had seen our wants, had got men to make the beds and had bought the blankets and hospital requirements, and placed these things in the hospital with-

out saying a word to anyone here. This at any rate is money spent in a practical manner, by an agent, a medical man, who ascertains the place where aid is required, and who uses his own judgment as to what is required." Lord Roberts says: "Had it not been for the exertions of the Mayor of Kimberly in providing accommodation, the kindness of the sisters of the Nazareth Home, and the Roman Catholic community, and the energy and zeal of Lieut.-Colonel Ryerson, M. D., and the Canadian Red Cross Society, the condition of the sick and wounded would have been very different from what I found it on my visit there last month."

In South Africa.

If the head of the Boer power in the Orange State and the Transvaal has been broken, it is evident that there is yet a very considerable amount of vitality in its tail. This was demonstrated by the attack (of which note was made in these columns last week) of the Boer Commandant, De Wett, upon a British regiment at Roodeval—a point on the railway 35 miles north of Kroonstad—in which the whole British force of 600 or 700 was either killed, wounded, or captured, with the exception of half a dozen men, and the railway for 20 miles to the southward was broken up, thus effectually interrupting Lord Roberts' communication with Capetown and his base of supplies. This was on June 7th, and about the same time Lord Roberts found it necessary to attack the Boer General, Botha, who had gathered a large force in a strong position 15 miles southeast of Pretoria. The whole situation was a threatening one, and with a man of less ability and resource in supreme command of the British interests, the result might have been disastrous. But the genius of Lord Roberts has proved equal to the emergency. Generals Methuen and Kitchener were promptly ordered with all speed to deal with the situation created by De Wett's raid, which they did successfully, defeating him completely, capturing his laager and scattering his troops in all directions. Railway communication is being speedily restored, and will no doubt be made secure for the future. Lord Roberts' forces in the Transvaal under his personal direction and the subordinate leadership of Generals Ian Hamilton, French, and Pole-Carew, have had some stiff fighting with the Boers under Botha, and have succeeded in forcing them back from the strong positions which they held. General Buller has forced a way through the difficult country between Natal and the Transvaal. Laing's Nek has been occupied and the Wakkerstroom town and district have made submission to General Lyttleton. General Buller's advance will be delayed for a short time by the necessity of repairing the damage done to the tunnel at Laing's Nek by the Boers, and bringing forward supplies. It is considered not improbable that General Buller's forces, or at least a part of them, may advance into the north-eastern part of Orange Colony to cooperate with Generals Methuen, Rundle, and Brabant in overcoming the Boers who have shown so much activity in that region of late. The Canadian Mounted Rifles seem to have taken a quite prominent part in the fighting with General Botha, and to have performed important service in forcing him to evacuate the strong position which he held at Yeater's Nek to the eastward of Pretoria. General Hunter is reported to be making good progress in his march from the western Transvaal frontier toward Johannesburg. He has received from Commandant Cronje, a son of the General of that name now in captivity, the surrender of Klerksdorp, a town of 6000 inhabitants, 118 miles west of Johannesburg. Potchefstroom, another quite large town on the line of march further east, has also been occupied by General Hunter, and he is expected to reach Johannesburg on Tuesday of this week. Rustenburg was occupied by General Baden-Powell on Friday, and a column from Pretoria will cooperate with him in restoring telegraph communication between the two places. There are political difficulties in Cape Colony, arising out of race feeling and sympathy with the Boers of the Orange Colony and the Transvaal. Premier Schreiner has resigned, and it was said that Sir Gordon Sprigge would probably find the difficulties in the way of forming a ministry insuperable, but the latest despatches at hand indicate that the deadlock has been relieved and that Sir Gordon will be able to proceed.