

THE ADVOCATE

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Comment.

NEW YORK and Brooklyn license holders are doing their best to suppress plans that sell whiskey for five cents and beer for three cents. They rightly say that the stuff sold at those prices kills on sight and injures not so much their business as their cause.

CANADA'S receipts fell off half a million or so last month, and the croakers are yelling in dismal cries. But Canada is not singular. In the United States during the last nine months there has been a continual decrease in the revenue until in one department alone—the inland, or, as it is called over there, the internal—there was a deficit as compared with the corresponding time in the previous year of \$12,465,144. This deficit was made up as follows: On opium, \$8,893,578; on tobacco, \$3,196,089; on fermented liquors, \$531,089; on miscellaneous, \$14,779.

THE present state of things in South Carolina appears to be very much of a *genou-plese*. The cities and large towns are issuing licenses for the sale of wine and beer, and fixing such fees *thorow* as they choose. According to a recent decision of the Supreme Court spirituous liquors could not be lawfully sold without new legislation. And as the judges did not include malt or vinous liquors, licenses are granted for the sale of wine and beer. Of course there is no assurance that this action on the part of the local officials will stand, and a final settlement must wait until the next legislature meets at the close of the year.

Messrs. SAMUEL WHITBREAD and H. E. HOARE, members of the Imperial Parliament, propose to resign their seats as a protest against Sir Wm. Harcourt's increase of the tax on beer. To us this seems very like running away from the fight. If the tax is not warranted, a far more effective way than resignation is to vote against it. By resigning, Messrs. Whitbread and Hoare show that they regarded themselves as mere voting machines, because just as soon as they found they could not register the decrees of the government they resigned. If every member is to run away when he

finds he cannot play follow-the-leader, party independence becomes an impossibility.

IDA GROVE, Iowa, is a town of little moment in an ordinary way, but it has sprung into some notoriety from the fact that the municipality proposes to go into the saloon business. The town council is to fix the price at which liquor shall be sold, and monthly reports are to be made to it of the business. Twenty-five hundred big dollars are to be put into the affair, and 8 per cent interest is to be paid yearly to the stockholders. After all expenses are paid, including the \$6000 mullet tax, 75 per cent of the net profits are to go to the town and 25 per cent to the school district. The town council and school board are to boss the barkeepers and all other persons employed. What do our Prohibition friends think of a plan that holds that what is right in the municipality in the individual is a sin?

THE greatest difficulty brewers and distillers have, and especially the latter, is to secure for the customer the kind of goods he asks for. The time has gone by when the purchaser merely called for whiskey or beer. Now he asks for a particular brew or brand, and is undoubtedly entitled to get it. In England the big brewers and distillers prosecute license holders who sell other than their goods for theirs. No such course has ever been taken in Canada that we know of, but there is more than a probability that some day a dispenser who is in the habit of filling variously labelled bottles from the same cask will be pulled up with a round turn. We do not think the practice is common, but in one or two instances distillers have complained to us that inferior brands have been supplied even to themselves for their specialties, and it is possible that concerted action will be taken at some future date to check this practice.

THE *Kentucky State News* says: "There have been many crimes committed in the name of whisky, and the saloon has been condemned both from the pulpit, the bar and the bench. How does the record stand? Has it ever been charged that the train robber was drunk when he planned his scheme to stop a train and blow it up? Is the bank clerk drunk who embezzles from time to time, covering up his stealings by his deft manner of bookkeeping, where thousands and mil-

lions have been stolen? Does the highway robber get his inspiration from the bar of a saloon when he halts the stage and rifles the treasure box? Do drunken men systematically plan murders and follow their plans up with courage and cunning? Do men and women who are outraged by the wicked and wily schemes of others, and commit murder or suicide, operate through the influence of saloons? The records will show that it is the cool calculating villains, who never frequent saloons, that perform the most reckless and daring deeds of crime, and entail more misery on the innocent than all the saloons in the land." Our contemporary might have gone further and have declared that a confirmed criminal was never a confirmed drunkard. The worst men are not given to excess in drink. Clear heads are required to commit great crimes, yes, and small crimes, too, successfully. Your temperance man that is addicted to evil is the most dangerous element society possesses.

MISS DOWNS read a paper a few days ago at the anniversary meeting of the Women's Total Abstinence Union in which she, doubtless unconsciously, gave the whole case for the legal "suppression of the drink traffic" away. "Treating of grocers' licenses which 'have been fraught with such evil consequences to the womanhood of England,'" she said that the testimony on which her party rely in denouncing these licenses is "in every respect trustworthy," but unfortunately it cannot be published. She says that to do so would be to betray confidences and reveal skeletons in cupboard. This is tantamount to confessing that there is a large amount of secret drinking among women, and this naturally leads to the inference that where a tendency to this exists, means will be found to gratify it. Destroy the off-licenses, and it will be perfectly easy to get liquor to drink in secret. Close all the licensed houses, and the liquor would be obtained from wholesale traders. Abolish these, and the illicit trader would take their place. The chain of secrecy is without a flaw. It is with the drunkards, and not the drink sellers, that the would-be reformers ought to deal. The temperate man or woman drinks no more in a street which contains fifty public-houses than in a street that contains one. The intemperate drinker will get just as drunk in one as he will in fifty. The "temptation"

argument is all both, and the sooner the Prohibitionists recognize that the evil lies in the drunkard and not in the drink the sooner they will commend themselves to sensible folk. *Licensing World.*

WE are requested to publish the following resolutions which were passed at a special meeting of the Licensed Victuallers' Association of Montreal as an answer to disgraceful aspersions on the conduct of Judge Dugas, made by the *Montreal Witness* and the Dominion Alliance:

Whereas, Mr. Carson, the secretary of the Dominion Alliance, is reported in the *Montreal Witness* to have stated to a reporter of that paper that the License Commissioners' decision in the case of Lowry, an applicant for a license for the Exchange Hotel, was the most barefaced piece of injustice that has ever been perpetrated by any Board of License Commissioners of which he had any knowledge;

And whereas, the Dominion Alliance has seen fit to request the Government to remove His Honor Judge Dugas from the Board of License Commissioners of Montreal, apparently for the sole reason that his decisions in recent license cases were adverse to the Dominion Alliance, although in harmony with the law, and conceived in by Judges Demoyers and De Montigny;

And whereas, the St. Lawrence Council, Loyal Templars of Temperance, passed a resolution declaring that the conduct of the commissioners, and more especially of one of the commissioners, in dismissing the opposition to the license, was "so flagrantly opposed to justice" that they endorsed the demand of the Dominion Alliance;

And whereas, the *Witness*, and the speakers at certain meetings held in Point St. Charles and elsewhere, have voiced this request, and, while raising a specious cry for British justice, have shown their idea of justice to be that a judge should strain and pervert the law to fit their own presentment of the case;

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the English-speaking Licensed Victuallers of Montreal, in meeting assembled, deem it fit and proper to assure His Honor Judge Dugas, that when we come before him as such License Commissioners, we seek no favour, but only claim justice, and we have felt, and shall always feel, perfect confidence in the impartiality of his decisions, whether the same be in favor of, or adverse to any member of our trade; and we hereby place on record our opinion, that irresponsible railings against judicial decisions by unsuccessful litigants are inimical to the best interests of justice, repugnant to the feelings of law-abiding citizens, and are rendered the more reprehensible by the fact that judges, by reason of their official position, are unable effectively to publicly rebut them.

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