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The Responsibility of the Voter.

A man said to me not long ago, "I haven't voted once in twelve years." I replied, "I wouldn't advertise myself as a political dead beat" He said "What" I repeated, "I wouldn't advertise myself as a political dead-beat." "What do you mean" "Well," I said, "you were born a freeman" "Yes" "Your person, your family and your property have been protected Well, what have you given the government for all this service to you? It is your duty to investigate in all public questions and give the government the benefit of your public opinion on those questions How is that opinion given? By your ballot. What is a man's ballot? An honest, conscientious opinion of men and measures It is a duty of every honest man to investigate every question of government and give the government the benefit of his investigation No man can shirk that responsibility and call himself either honest, loyal or law abiding. Gentlemen, who pay your debts and call yourselves honest, a failure through negligence, to vote, is a swindle upon the government swindling it out of service rightly due it' Such failures are turning the government over into the hands of the rascal and bummer. Such negligent men are a set of political paltroons, absorbing the benefits of the government and giving nothing in return "Eternal vigilance," it has been said, "is the price of liberty.' That is eternal vigilance on the part of those who have the power over their own liberties – *John B. Finch.*

Prohibition.

The car-stove was prohibited by law. Railroad men thought they could not get along without it, but under the spur of necessity, experiments have been made until it is found that they can heat the cars much more economically without stoves. Some people think they cannot get along without liquor, but a good dose of prohibition would educate them wonderfully, proving to them that they can be more healthy and happy without a drop of spirits *New York Witness*

Does the Scott Act Diminish Drinking.

Let the question be dealt with on the basis of hard facts Let us learn what government returns can teach us in regard to the matter The latest published statistics are those of the blue books laid before Parliament at last session, and they show that the amount of liquor consumed per head of the population in Canada for the last four years was as follows.

Year.	Gall
1883.	4,107
1884...	4,039
1885	3,874
1886	3,659

This shows that as the Scott Act becomes law, and as its enforcement improves, the consumption of liquor steadily decreases

In this connection we recommend a perusal of the following extract from a little pamphlet recently prepared by Mayor Howland of Toronto.

"Canada has for years had local option acts on her statute books, and these have acted repressively in keeping down the consumption of liquor, until now, that we have 68 counties under Scott Act, and much other territory under parish prohibition, we consume less liquor than any other nation in the world; not one-third as much as the United States, and only a little over one-tenth as much as Great Britain. In Canada we drink less than 3½ gallons per head of wine, beer and spirits, while in the United States of America they drink nearly 15 gallons per head, and in Great Britain over 31 gallons.

Further, the quantity drunk is in the inverse ratio of the measure of the adoption of local option in the various provinces The last Government returns which are for the year ending June 30th, 1886 show that British Columbia rum ridden, consumes 71 gallons per head, Ontario, which had only one county under the Scott Act before last year, consumed 4½ gallons, Quebec, largely under parish prohibition, had a record of only 3½ gallons Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, the latter under statutory prohibition, 2½ gallons, in New Brunswick with the Scott Act working in ten out of eighteen counties and cities, the consumption went down to 1½ gallons, Nova Scotia with still more Scott Act, drank only 1½ gallons, and Prince Edward Island, in the whole of which the Scott Act is in force has a per capita consumption of very little over ½ of a gallon Remove the Scott Act from our statute books and in two years our consumption of liquor would approximate that of our neighbors in the United States of America

ENFORCEMENT IMPROVING.

Table of Work done by Ontario Government Inspectors from May 1st, 1886, to July 30th, 1887

	Informations	Convictions
1st Quarter	463	269
2nd "	562	272
3rd "	373	248
4th "	810	605
5th "	918	692
Total	3,126	2,086

Reasons Why the Scott Act Should Not be Repealed.

It has only been a few months in operation. Until lately it was unenforced, for want of a police magistrate to try cases. It would be very unwise to repeal it just when it is beginning to do good

2 The Crooks Act was tested for many years before it was cast aside as a complete failure; we should also allow a sufficient length of time to test the Scott Act fairly It has not yet had sufficient time

3 We should never go backward in legislation. The Crooks Act was a failure, as the liquor sellers broke it wherever and whenever it stood in their way. If we change from the Scott Act at all we should go forward to entire prohibition, and not back to a law which licences the evil instead of putting an end to it

4 By voting for license we accept the responsibility of the liquor traffic, with all its awful results By voting for the Scott Act we leave the responsibility where it rightly belongs on the consciences of those who break the law

5 Repeal of the Scott Act would be putting a premium on law breaking If the repeal is successful it will teach the worst elements of society that the sure way of getting a law repealed is to break it enough, and society will reward them for their loyalty and patriotism in so doing by repealing it On the contrary, God teaches us that the more we break a divine law the more will we suffer for so doing

6 A law should only be repealed when its thorough enforcement works injury to society Here it is proposed to repeal the Scott Act not because its enforcement is working injury, but avowedly because it is not thoroughly enforced, and because it is not doing as much good as a license law would do On the same ground the command "Thou shalt not steal," should be repealed in the "Thieves' Quarter,' London, because it is not properly enforced there, and because the thieves are unanimous in declaring that the good old plan

"That he may take who has the power,
And he may keep who can,"

is far superior

7. The assertion, however, that the Scott Act is not doing as much good as the license law would do is simply a fabrication of the enemy. Everyone familiar with the liquor traffic, in Scott Act counties and in license counties, knows that the Scott Act has diminished the sale of drink and its attendant evils, even in places where the enforcement is far from what it ought to be Since police magistrates have been appointed and earnest protests have been made against the inefficiency of inspectors, enforcement has taken an effective form A great many convictions are made and an enormous amount of fines collected In the county of Bruce, for example, during the past few months the Scott Act is proving itself one of the most effective laws on the statute books. Fines to the amount of $3,000 having been imposed Other counties even surpass this record Middlesex county is now imposing fines at a rate that would mean at least $10,000 a year. Men, who persist in violating the law have been sent to jail. Where enforced by good officers the Scott Act is a magnificent success. This is why the liquor men want to have it repealed

8. We Canadians are a practical, common sense people and do not make political changes suddenly or for the mere sake of change. To repeal a law which has only been a few months in operation and which has done a marvellous amount of good in that short time, would be contrary to the common sense which usually governs Canadians and contrary to British fair play.

9. The best elements of society are on the side of the Scott Act and against the liquor traffic. Let us keep in good company whatever we do.

10. Let us stick to the Scott Act, imperfect as it is, until we get entire prohibition If we hold on to it we shall have entire prohibition soon; if we go back to the evil system of license we may delay the day of freedom for a generation

John Ferguson, Guelph

HIGH LICENSE.

Not Afraid of It

John Danner, of Canton, Ohio, shows the failure of high license in a recent letter to the *Voice*, from which we clip the following extract "Our annual county fair is now in session, and the officers informed me this day, that they were offered $2,000 for the privilege of selling lager beer on the grounds. This offer was made for one stand only If one large dealer in lager beer can pay $2,000 for a five day privilege of selling, what would he care for a "high license" of $1,000 a year"

How it Works in Omaha

The anticipation that high license was going to diminish intemperance and its attendant evils seems to have sadly failed of realization in Nebraska A correspondent from Omaha recently wrote to the Nebraska *Review* "The biggest day ever had in the police court was Sept 6 On that day there were 100 cases, of which twenty four were plain drunks, while sixteen were for vagrancy, fifteen were for fighting, and most of the others were for offences growing out of drinking During the month of August the inmates of the houses of ill-repute paid $1,250 to the court for fines. Speaking of the big day, officer Wheaton, who has been on the force five years, said, 'I never saw anything like it' Those of our readers who desire to understand exactly how this thing comes about are respectfully referred to The Canada Citizen of Oct. 21st

THE PROHIBITION PARTY

Its Progress in New York

The *New York World* has been discussing the Prohibition Party and comes to the conclusion that the said party at any rate holds the balance of power Attention is called to the fact that the prohibition vote, which has been largely drawn from the Republican party, is much greater than the Democratic majority of the state From this it is argued that the organization of the Prohibition Party has given New York to the Democrats, and as our readers well know, this meant, three years ago, giving the Democrats the Presidency At the average rate of Prohibition progress for the last three years, the Prohibitionists might confidently expect this year to poll 42,000 votes, but it is well known that the progress is at an accelerating rate and the Prohibitionists stand well to deposit 50,000 ballots at the next election. The *World's* table showing the facts stated is as follow —

Year	Dem. over Rep	Pro. vote
1883	16,219	18,816
1884	1,047	25,000
1885	11,131	30,867
1886	7,797	36,437

"FAITH HOPE AND CHARITY."

Pushing on the Work.

Tennessee Grand Lodge I.O.G.T has held its twentieth annual session. The Grand Secretary's report showed that during the year just closed, 45 new lodges had been instituted and 2,281 persons made members of the order. In his report Grand Chief Templar Kelley said.– "Another year's experience as Grand Chief Templar has still more impressively convinced me of the great need of Good Templar work in Tennessee, and a perfect system in our Lodge and convention work. We should leave this session determined to put new lodges in every school house, church and hall in Tennessee Let all remember that they who get the most good out of this life are those who impart most good to others."

Kentucky Grand Lodge

Kentucky Grand Lodge has held its twenty-third annual session, at which was reported a year of remarkable progress, the Grand Secretary's report showing a net gain of 1,500 members. The financial position of the organization is also greatly improved and very encouraging The following are the officers for the coming year. – Grand Chief Templar, Col. T. B Demaree, of College Hill; Grand Counsellor, J. J. Rust, of Danville; Grand Vice-Templar, Mrs. S. F. H. Tarrant, of Crab Orchard, Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs S Isabel Ward, of Henderson; Superintendent Juvenile Temples, Mrs. Lila Moore, of Owensboro. Grand Chaplain, Rev. W. H. Keller, of Florence, Marshal, F T Heyser, of Leitchfield, Deputy Marshal, Mrs. J. A. Murray, of Glasgow, Grand Guard, J. M. Patterson, of Sorgho, Sentinel, C. S Layson, of Zion; Assistant Secretary, Thos E Ward, of Henderson

The Order Booming in Ohio.

Ohio Grand Lodge I.O.G.T. has held its thirty fourth annual session, at which was reported a net increase of 581 in the membership and a 50 per cent. reduction in the Grand Lodge indebtedness The Juvenile Templar Branch had also an increase of 500 members. The whole session was characterized by earnestness and enthusiasm The officers elected were as follows G.C.T., Harry B. White, Toledo; G.C., G. W. Hagan, Clyde, G.V.T., Mrs. R. J. Jones, Columbus; G.S., Chas. Williams, Findlay; G.T., W. R. Lotspeich, London; G.S.J.T., E. B. Lewis, New Holland; G.M., R. J. Rivers, Leesville; G.D.M., Mrs. Charles Hauer, Columbus; G. Chap., Mrs. E. A. Brush, Elyria; G. Sen., John A McFeiters; G G., T. E. Wyant, West Lodi.

Personal Liberty

I have read a great deal about "personal liberty,' and I began to think if such men as Senator Coke, Congressman Mills and Jefferson Davis said we must have "personal liberty,' why, it was all right, and I *must* have it, for I have but one dear boy and I want the liberty of raising him to be an honest, *Christian man*, as pure in word and thought and action as his sister How I wish these advocates of personal liberty could have stood by my side last Friday and witnessed the sad scene which I pray never to see again, the jailor coming out of the court house with a young man, not yet twenty one, who had just received a sentence to the penitentiary for thirteen years, for one month ago, in a drunken frenzy, taking the life of a young man a few years his senior Down the street the widowed mother came, weeping as one bereft of reason As I sadly turned away, I thought, so young, and thirteen years of prison life' where is *his* "personal liberty' Then my eyes turned to our cemetery, where lay a bright young man, murdered in his youth. Where is his "personal liberty' It that is personal liberty, I don't want it *Mrs D A Clayton*

Built of Wrecks.

Some time since an account appeared in the newspapers of a house near the sea-coast in California, built entirely of the fragments of wrecked vessels The whole edifice is a combination of bulwarks, of locker and cabins It is boarded with planks ripped off from the vessel's side by the savage violence of wind and breaker The ceilings are decorated with the linings of sumptuous steamer cabins The kitchen is the gallery of a wrecked merchantman. But in one of our inland towns there is a beautiful house The grounds around whisper of paradise Lawns, trees, flowers of many a choice variety beautify the scene The edifice itself is built after the richest style of modern domestic architecture The doors are massive walnut, with hinges of silver. There are winding stairs with ample landing places fenced with heavy balustrade. There are frescoed ceilings, and carpets that yield like down to the pressure of the foot There are means of illumination that turn night into day The proprietor lies upon a bed of ivory, and stretches himself upon his couch, eats the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stalls, drinks wine in bowls, and anoints himself with the chief ointments. And this house is built of wrecks. Every board and every brick, every stone and every timber, every piece of furniture and every appliance of comfort, the carpets on the floor, the frescoes on the ceiling, are each in whole or in part the fragments of a wreck—a wreck not of a ship, but of a house, a life, a soul. The owner of this mansion is the owner also and keeper of a drinking saloon.

In another street not far away there is a house that was once the embodiment of thrift, neatness and domestic joy The house has become a wreck Old hats and clothes now occupy many a place once filled with window panes Without all looks desolation, and within all is misery and destitution. The woman is wearing her life away to support the children, while the father is a lounger about that drinking saloon All that was beautiful in that home has gone into the gorgeous mansion of the saloon keeper The wreck of this home has been built into that palace

Have not the sighs, sobs, and groans of women, broken hearted as we is broken hearted, the cursings, the blasphemies, and cries of despair of ruined men gone into the very walls of that mansion' And in the dark, lonesome nights, when the winds are sighing around it, may not these come out again and pour themselves into the ear of the sleeper on the couch' Sooner or later, all these moans and groans and these sobs and cries will descend in one awful chorus upon the ears of the builder of that house No, I should not like to live in a house built of wrecks of homes and souls. – *Dr H P Breed in the Episcopal Recorder*

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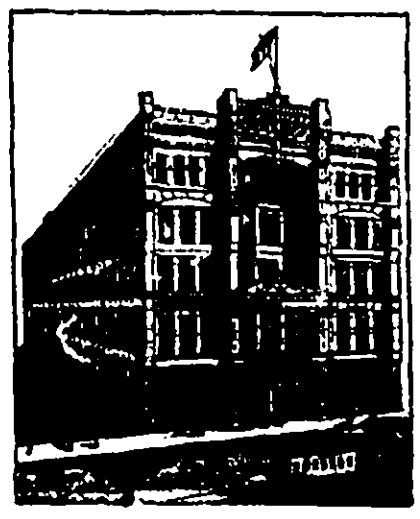

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