

LIQUOR DEALERS IN SESS- SION.

As we go to press the great convention of liquor dealers of Ontario is in session in Toronto. Several hundred representatives from all parts of the Province are present, and a thorough organization is being perfected. A full report will be given in our next issue.

J. S. HUGHES, formerly of Indianapolis, Ind., but now of Chicago, who was twice nominated to head the Prohibition ticket in Indiana, running first for Secretary of State and afterward for Governor, says he has left that party, which he denounces a huge fraud. He says the vote this year will show a decline of 25 per cent., which will not give over 10,000 Prohibition votes in all Indiana next fall.

The organ of the Patrons of Industry says Pan-tronism and Prohibition must go hand-in-hand. One of those hands will be very sore before the other lets go. In the meantime we commend to the notice of our contemporary and to every Patron, first, the article on our statistical page of March 22, headed "The Farmer" and, secondly, the editorial in our number of March 29, headed "Look before Leaping."

A STROGO deputation of Ontario wine manufacturers waited upon the Dominion Government a few days ago, and presented a numerously signed petition against the ratification of the French treaty. Their claims were ably set forth and they made out a strong case as between their own products and the French wines. The Premier would make no promise, but asked for further statistical information. The impression is gaining ground that the treaty is to be accepted.

Their following point raised by a legal gentleman is worthy of consideration: "The powers apparently claimed on behalf of the Provincial Government would practically amount to a power of levying import duties. If the Provincial Government can restrict the importation of a particular article, and can at the same time give licenses for the sale of that article, it can, in effect, levy an import duty if it pleases, which would be a clear violation of the principles of the constitution."

The whiskey detectives are having it all their own way in South Carolina. A dispatch from Charleston says, "They are going into private houses indiscriminately, insulting the residents and bullying every body." This is the kind of thing we would be subject to in Canada, if an attempt were made to enforce Prohibition. In fact it is the kind of thing past records of the so-called morality department indicate that some people of Toronto have previously been subject to, thus proving that we have ample justification for what we say would happen under certain circumstances.

The Lewiston, Me., Journal, a paper on the side of the Maine Prohibition law,

has the following instructive statement upon a new agitation among the clergymen of Portland to stop rum selling in that city: "They will preach sermons on the subject and send the rallying cry from their pulpits. Then they will set on foot a sort of people's enforcement league and will lead off valiantly in a crusade against rum. Liquor is now sold openly all over Portland, and therefore the campaigners will not lack for employment." And this is all that Neal Dow's seventy years of service has afforded us—"liquor is sold openly all over Portland," and a prohibition journal is forced to admit it.

In noticing the birthday anniversary of Gen. Neal Dow a contemporary says that since the Maine liquor law was enacted 43 years ago, a generation has grown up in the State without ever having seen "a licensed grog shop." Possibly the statement is true and for the good of their souls we sincerely trust that every member of that generation has not seen an "unlicensed grog shop." We both fear and know, however, that the truth is vain. We know also that there are more men in the State of Maine that have broken the law, comparatively speaking, than in any state of the union. They have not been prosecuted because the State is governed on a false basis; because the money from the natural state of affairs is not forthcoming to provide the necessary law officers, and because as the *Toronto Globe* quotes from Junius: "The subject who is truly loyal to the Chief Magistrate will neither advise nor submit to arbitrary measures."

THE REV. DR. VAN DE WATER in a sermon recently preached at St. Andrew's P.C. church, New York, said: "A perfectly healthy body means healthy morals. The body must be used or destroyed, but excess is always a sin. The abuse of intoxicating liquors is a social vice. There is a proper and legitimate use for intoxicating liquors. I preach and I practice temperance—not total abstinence. God made liquor to be used. If a man chooses to be a total abstainer it is purely a matter between himself and his God. It is neither a virtue in him nor a discredit to me. Drinking is not a sin, but drunkenness is. If I had the power to close the liquor stores in which the poor laboring man gets his beer I would not do it." This statement has caused to descend upon the reverend gentleman's head whole volleys of thunder. He is accused of pandering to society and of having champagne sent up to his house by the case. We do not know that there is very great sin in a clergyman taking a glass of wine. He might even find it beneficial. But every man who stands forth against prejudice and for the equal rights to all must expect to have to make front against a torrent of abuse.

If you do not know me watch me work. Always up to time and ready for business. I am the silent guardian; 70,000 of us in constant work. My comrades can be found at 43 King street west, city. No introduction necessary.

THE BUDGET.

THE IMPORTANT RELATION OF EX- CISE TO REVENUE.

Increased Contribution Last Year. Why the Malt Duty Was Reduced.

HON. MR. FOSTER'S budget contains a great deal that is of interest to the trade besides the reduction of the malt duties announced in our last issue. Referring to the revenue for last year and his estimate in his previous budget that it would roughly speaking be \$38,000,000, Mr. Foster pointed out that the actual revenue has exceeded the estimate by \$108,608, the Customs overrunning the Customs receipts of the preceding year by \$452,944, the Excise overrunning the Excise receipts of the preceding year by about \$422,267, and so the miscellaneous revenue of earnings overrunning those of the preceding year by \$871,529. So that the overplus of revenue from these three sources, besides being \$108,608 more than was estimated, shows \$1,246,637 in advance of the revenue of the preceding year.

Among the increases were \$164,918 in spirits and wines and \$22,075 in tobacco. Ale, beer and port decreased \$21,071.

THE EXCISE DUTIES.

Proceeding, Mr. Foster said: The movement in excise is shown by the following comparative table of the quantity taken for consumption and duty accrued on excisable articles in 1892-93 as against 1891-92.

	Qty., 1892.	Qty., 1891.
Spirits.....	2,578,973	2,747,307
Malt.....	46,423,582	36,082,740
Wine.....	1,013,813	11,695,848
Cigarettes.....	40,147,200	42,570,100
Tobacco and Snuff.....	5,672,196	10,990,062
Spirits.....	\$5,872,840	\$1,129,306
Malt.....	228,138	1,491,665
Wine.....	625,932	661,298
Cigarettes.....	625,932	661,298
Tobacco and Snuff.....	2,336,000	3,207,817
Total.....	\$7,848,107	\$5,396,796

The duties accrued in 1892-93 as compared with 1891-92 show an increase in spirits, in malt, in cigars, in cigarettes, in tobacco and snuff; that is, along the whole line. This shows an increase on the revenue accrued of \$420,509. The per capita consumption of these articles as revealed by the report of the Controller of Inland Revenue is:

Average from	Spirits.		Beer.		Wine.		Tobacco.	
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.	
1897	1,120	2,768	187	2,13	187	2,13	187	
1891-92	701	3,516	101	2,26	101	2,26	101	
1892-03	740	3,485	94	2,31	94	2,31	94	

There is a slight increase in tobacco over the average, and over the consumption per head, over the year 1891-92. The House will see, then, from what I have stated that the remarkable fact about the year 1892-93—and I think it is a fact well worth noting just here—has been the extraordinary recuperative power which has been exhibited; a recuperative power in Canada which has been in marked contrast with the history of greater nations, and I may say, in fact, with all the great nations of the world. For, whereas these other countries have during the year 1892-93 experienced exceedingly great disturbances in trade, with a falling off in exports and imports, and a falling off in revenue as well; the fact remains that as far as trade is concerned, as shown by the Customs House revenue, as far as excise is concerned, and as far as the earnings, the miscellaneous revenue of the country is concerned, there was an increase in each item; a considerable and a steady increase over the year preceding, which, as the House may remember, marked the high-

est period which has been attained from Confederation up.

THE NEW TARIFF.

In introducing the new tariff, Mr. Foster said:

The first item in the schedule of dutiable goods is that of liquors and tobacco. In tobacco we have made no change whatever. In spirituous liquors we have made no change whatever. With reference to malt liquors, we have made one change. It will be remembered that two or three years ago, when I undertook, in the face of a fairly buoyant revenue, to reduce that revenue by \$3,500,000 or more, I had to have recourse, for a limited period at least, to some expedient of recouping the great drop in the revenue caused by the reduction of the sugar taxation. I did so by putting a larger duty—although small in degree—upon tobacco, by heightening the duty to a small extent on spirituous liquors, both excise and customs; by heightening also the excise on malts, making the excise, which had always been in this country, with the exception of a very short space of time, 1 cent a pound, 2 cents a pound. That was felt to be a very large increase. It operated in this way: The malt, and consequently the beer duty, in this country became 7 cents, as compared with 4 cents in Great Britain and 3 and 1/2 cents in the United States. The revenue has since come up largely to the expectations formed. The chess that was made has been filled, and, under these circumstances, the Government has determined to take off from the malt duties one-half cent per pound, leaving it at one cent and a half instead of one cent, which it was all the rest of the time since Confederation, with the exception of one or two years. The loss which will accrue to the revenue from that will be in the neighborhood of \$200,000. We will get some accretion of revenue probably from the larger amount made, because, under the 2 cent duty on malt, the production decreased to a certain extent, and sugar and other substances were used which, it is said, are deleterious in their effect.

CASH RECORDERS.

It has become a necessity to all well regulated hotels and sample rooms to have a cash register or Recorder. It is acknowledged to be the only reliable check on the cash receipts, and it is encouraging to find that a Canadian firm have brought out a machine which is a decided improvement in machines heretofore used. The Anderson Trading Co. are manufacturing a Total Adding machine, invented and patented by Mr. John Sharp, a Canadian born and bred inventor. At the company's office, 561 King St. East, we were surprised to see the perfection of the machine they are producing.

The machine is a total adding machine, adding one or several amounts to previous recorded amounts instantly. We examined the machine closely and it is an absolute protection against manipulation by the operator in every possible way, and is always accurate. We believe it will pay every hotel and sample retail dealer to use these machines. They are a credit to Canada. Their advertisement will be found in another column and the opportunity to see these machines while the Convention lasts should be taken advantage of.

D. Hewis, of Midland, has erected a large brick hotel in that town. It is laid out in a most comfortable manner, and doubtless will command a large share of the commercial trade of the district when opened. It takes the place of the Hotel House, which was burned last September.

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