

parts of Canada, and it passed a law taxing these visits out of existence. If we mistake not, this has been repealed, so perhaps it should not be mentioned.

The latest piece of insular legislation is a proposal that no motor-cars are to be allowed to roam the rural lanes of the Island. Whether the law excludes electric motor-busses and trolley-cars is not clear.

Prince Edward Island is one of the finest summer resorts in Canada and should be frequented each year by thousands of tourists from United States and Canadian cities. It is one of the most fertile spots agriculturally in the broad Dominion. It has contributed a number of first-class citizens, men of mark and learning, to Canadian public, educational and commercial life. It is a splendid little province, but it should stop grumbling and make the most of its exceptional opportunities.

ONLY one province is opposed to the Dominion Government placing an export duty on pulpwood and that is Quebec. The provincial authorities there are not sure that the small bush-owner, who now sells much pulpwood to the United States manufacturer,

EXPORT DUTY ON PULPWOOD

would approve an export duty or a prohibition of the export. Until new paper mills were built in Canada, there would be a decreased sale for pulp logs and a distinct loss of revenue. It is equally plain, however, that the loss would be but temporary and that in the end the province would gain much.

There has also been some talk that if Canada were to prohibit export of this raw material, the United States would retaliate by putting such a duty on Canadian lumber as would prevent it being sold in that market. It now appears that the Ottawa lumber interests have informed the authorities that they do not fear this retaliation and that they approve the prohibition. Thus the air is being cleared for some sort of legislation.

It seems strange that Canada should sell pulpwood at five or six dollars a cord when we can manufacture it into paper and export it at \$50 or \$60 a ton, one ton of paper, speaking roughly, being equal to a cord of wood. The demand for paper is so great that the United States must take our paper products if their manufacturers cannot get our raw wood. This may be taking advantage of our neighbours' necessities, but it would be a justifiable policy. We are entitled, as is the United States, to sell our natural endowment to the best advantage.

NEITHER those who favour leaving the question of temperance to individual discretion, nor those who would abolish entirely the sale of intoxicating liquors can afford to be extremists. When those who sell liquor for a profit seek to prevent the restriction of

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licenses, the shortening of the hours of sale, or other legislative or administrative restrictions, they are but hastening the day when their business shall be taken over by the state or entirely abolished. Similarly, when the advocates of prohibition pass unfair by-laws and talk rampant nonsense about the evils resulting from the traffic, they are restricting the progress which they most desire.

In Toronto recently, a by-law was passed to reduce the possible liquor licenses from 150 to 110, without any reference of the question to a vote of the people. The movement was both un-British and unwise. It outraged the good sense of the community because of its unfairness to people who, thinking themselves safe in their business, had greatly increased their investments. The by-law was hurriedly passed, and because of this haste, Chief Justice Meredith was forced to declare it imperfect. It has been annulled. The only result of all the agitation has been the creation of a bitter antagonism between

two sections of the community. This will delay needed reforms in the restriction of indiscriminate liquor-selling.

A similar case has occurred in Collingwood. The temperance wave made it possible for the people there to increase the license fee to such a figure as would have confined the trade to such hotels as had a reputation to sustain. If the license fee had been increased from \$450 to \$1,000 or even \$1,200, the temperance ideas would probably have been of some effect. Instead of being moderate, the people voted to raise the fee to \$2,500, which Mr. Justice Britton found to be practical prohibition. The judge declared that "it was not intended by the Legislature that local prohibition should be brought about in this way" and he quashed the by-law.

If the people want license restriction or total prohibition, the liquor interests should not resort to sharp practice or legal chicanery, such as trying to unseat aldermen on technicalities in order to stop the reform. Nor should the temperance public resort to snap verdicts or underhand methods in attempting to bring about further restriction of the traffic. This great question should be discussed by all without bitterness and unfairness. The extremists on each side should be eliminated so that sane discussion and sound policy will have first consideration.

IT is just as well that the Champlain tercentenary comes this year, when there is a scarcity of celebrations and the Quebec week of pageantry will be comparatively conspicuous. Were it to occur in the July of 1909, instead of the coming summer, it would be only one in

a series of remarkable centenary celebrations. In the month of February, 1909, the one-hundredth anniversary of Darwin's birth will be honoured by the British universities and scientific associations. There was a brilliant band of scientific investigators in the England of the Nineteenth Century but the author of the "Origin of Species" influenced public thought more than any other of that group. Among the statesmen of the last century there was not a more striking figure than William Ewart Gladstone, whose centenary will also be kept next year in all Anglo-Saxon countries. The English poets of the same century were singers who make this age seem "immolodious," as Mr. William Watson complains; but among them was no artist who held the popular affection more closely than Alfred Tennyson, who was born in a Lincolnshire rectory in August, 1809. Darwin, Gladstone and Tennyson—a trinity to be remembered by Cambridge, Oxford and the world beyond the universities where they left their student record. In the summer of 1909, the University of Leipsic will celebrate the fifth centennial of its founding and the University of Berlin its first centennial and a writer for the Atlantic Monthly has suggested: "Old England's scholars, like our own, will share in the great German commemorations in 1909; and the thinkers of England, Germany and America should there unite in epoch-making speech and action in behalf of international justice and fraternity." Among the poets of the last hundred years several women held an honoured place. Of these Mrs. Browning was undoubtedly the most widely known and she also belongs to 1809, the Year of Wonder. Another poet, one whose imaginative work is among the most amazing productions of the last century, Edgar Allan Poe, was born in Baltimore in that year. Yet another famous son of the American Republic, who was to know the gravest responsibility and most crushing care of them all, Abraham Lincoln, first saw the light on a February day, 1809. Truly next year will be twelve months of centennial remembrances and the world will be kept busy recalling the deeds and works of the famous writers and statesmen whose names give 1809, a year when Europe was convulsed with Napoleonic strife, the right to the old Latin designation, *annus mirabilis*.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM SCORES AGAIN

LAST week it was the Hon. Mr. Sifton who joined the ranks of the Civil Service Reformers; this week it is Mr. J. M. Courtney, C.M.G., who has brought this subject to the front. No more important document has been presented to the people of Canada in the last ten years than this report of "The Civil Service Commission."

The present Civil Service Act is stoutly condemned, because it applies to "a very limited number of the members of the outside service and probably about one half of the members employed at the seat of the Government." A new Act is recommended which will be broad enough to cover all civil servants—their appointments, their promotions, their dismissals and their salaries.

It is to be hoped that both parties at Ottawa will unite to bring about a new state of affairs. The interests of state are higher than the interests of either party. The Evils of Political Patronage can be eliminated only by making Civil Service Reform a non-party question. Every member of parliament should view this question from a patriotic point of view and resolve that the reform shall be made quickly and thoroughly without regard to political exigencies or party considerations.

If the leaders on both sides get together, an Act may be passed during the present session which will enable a re-organization of the Civil Service along independent lines to be accomplished during 1908. The evil is apparent, the remedy is clear, and it would be unfortunate if the question of reform should be made the football of politicians.