

political question has been opened up; and legislative measures are not only possible, but are regarded as the only means by which immediate effect can be obtained. At present, the liquor traffic is everywhere subject to governmental control. The first real, restrictive liquor law was passed in the State of Maine in 1846, and in 1851, a more stringent prohibitory one was enforced. This law is still extant. In Canada, the Scott Act of 1878 was the only law which resembled the above-mentioned measure, in any respect. By it, on demand of one-fourth of the voters of any county, a by-law was submitted to the people to be either passed or rejected; if passed, all bars would be abolished at the end of the licensed year. Perhaps that method of removing the bar, resembled more closely the local option system of the present day; it was what might be called, county option.

The many restrictions—such as early closing, the local option system, etc.—which have been introduced by our provincial parliaments at different periods, have proven to be of great value in lessening over-indulgence. Public opinion in Ontario has elicited the advocacy of ‘the abolition of the bar’ and ‘an anti-treating law’ from the Liberal and Conservative parties, respectively. Which of the laws would more effectively aid the cause of temperance is problematical. Perhaps before saying anything of these policies, a few words concerning the terms bar, saloon, and hotel would not be amiss.

The public-house came naturally into existence to afford man the opportunity of gratifying his social instinct. The ordinary normal man desires to meet his fellows, to enjoy the interchange of views and opinions, friendly companionship and social intercourse. With this reason for existence, the bars would be merely incidental, even if useful and necessary accessories to a public-house.

In the course of time the evolution of the public-house along two different lines produced two distinct types of houses. The one along the line of what is called the legitimate hotel business, provides for the necessary accommodation of the travelling public; here the bar is only an accessory. The other, where the bar as a source of revenue tended to dominate the whole institution has developed the saloon. With the Liberal policy the saloon would pass into oblivion, and the prime accessory of the legitimate hotel would also be extinguished. This policy further provides for the elimination of drinking from all social clubs. Liquor shops, then, would be the only remaining resource of the