

## "NO!"

### SIR JOHN'S ANSWER TO THE PROHIBITIONISTS.

#### The Premier of Canada Emphatically Refuses to Give Any Pledge.

The short report of the Prohibitionists' onslaught upon the Government at Ottawa in our last issue, may now be supplemented by more full details. The faithful gathered in the Railway Committee room of the House of Commons early in the morning, to the number of about one hundred. A score of members of parliament were present, with Senator Vidal, president of the Dominion Alliance. The representations were almost entirely from Ontario, though a few were present from Montreal and one from Halifax.

Col. Bond, of Montreal, was moved to the chair by Rev. Mr. Kettlewell. The chairman made a short speech, the principal item in which was a declaration that he had good reason to believe that the Royal Commission on the liquor traffic would report in favor of Prohibition. We may be pardoned if we express a doubt whether any member of the Commission has had the bad taste to discount the official report in advance.

Mr. F. S. Spence was appointed secretary and made a speech. So did about a dozen others. The burden of the addresses was that they would be satisfied with nothing less than a positive promise to enact Prohibition this session and an equal assurance that the French treaty should be ratified. "Serious consideration" might do very well at Toronto, but now that they had moved on to Ottawa, definite action would alone satisfy them. Finally the following resolution was adopted:

"That this deputation wait upon the Dominion Government and urge the duty of the immediate enactment, by the Dominion Parliament, of legislation giving effect to the strongly expressed desire of so large a proportion of the electors of the country for the total prohibition of the manufacture, sale and importation of liquor, thus giving effect to the strongly expressed desire of so large a proportion of the electors of the country, and making effective provision for the carrying of such legislation into practical operation."

A second resolution on the French treaty expressed the belief that its adoption would be of the greatest detriment to the country and imperil the cause of Prohibition.

#### THE GOVERNMENT ARRIVE.

At noon the members of the Government entered the room. With Sir John Thompson were Hon. Messrs. Bowell, Ives, Costigan, Daly, Smith, Carling and Sir C. H. Tupper. Hon. Mr. Foster was absent with his Budget speech, and could not attend. Sir John made a short welcoming speech, and then business commenced.

Col. Bond presented the case. He said the large delegation had come voluntarily for the benefit of their fellow-citizens. He had no hesitation in saying that a prohibitory law could be enforced just as easily as a license law, in fact, more easily. This declaration, which is disproved by every particle of evidence upon the subject, was applauded.

F. S. Spence devoted his time mainly to an endeavor to show that the report of

the Royal Commission could not have influence. His argument, if it can be called such, was that the vote on the plebiscite had vitiated any facts the Commission might have gathered. This wonderful logic was also cheered.

Mr. Alexander, of Ottawa, spoke on behalf of the W. C. T. U., and made a very good address from her point of view.

Mr. Buchanan, of Hamilton, made a carefully worded address. He intimated that while they spoke with proper courtesy they were resolute in their determination to press through this reform, and if necessary going so far as to elect a Government which would carry out the reform.

Mr. Walter Paul, of Montreal, said he wanted the Government he supported to have the honor of introducing a prohibitory measure. He did not want it left to the Reform party. Referring to the Royal Commission, he said they should not depend too much on what the Royal Commission would have to tell them. Most of them knew as much about this question as the members of the Royal Commission.

The Rev. Mr. Henstin, of Halifax, presented a memorial from the convention of Nova Scotia Prohibitionists protesting strongly against the ratification of the French treaty.

#### THE PREMIER'S REPLY.

Sir John Thompson replied with a plainness and emphasis that rather startled his hearers. He started out by saying that he would be frank, and he said Sir John, "that a prohibitory law can be passed this year. The Finance Minister will make his annual statement at three o'clock. There it may be between one and three o'clock to provide for a deficit of \$9,000,000 in the revenue." This was rather a settler so far as the immediate future was concerned, but there was still hope for next year. "In regard to the future, I must tell you frankly that I can make no pledge at all. I must do that out of respect to you. I could do as some others are said to have done, and say that I will give a pledge, which I could walk out of to-morrow with arms akimbo, but I would be false to you and the respect I entertain for you if I gave such a pledge.

Proceeding the Premier said, a Royal Commission had been at work for three years and accumulated a mass of evidence which he was sure would be found exceedingly instructive, not, perhaps to the delegates, who knew more of the question than one-half of the witnesses examined, but for public men, including himself and for the general public. A preliminary report would be presented by the Commissioners in a few days and a final report probably before the end of the session, and the consideration and report that was carefully considered. He agreed that the report was not to be conclusive. It was for advice and information. In advance of that it would be impossible for him to give any pledge as to what measures concerning Prohibition would be taken by the present Government.

Mr. Buchanan asked if a plebiscite for the Dominion would be granted.

Sir John replied that he would not. Then he went further. He told them emphatically that he would not for a moment swerve from his sense of duty by taking any vote that could be taken. He would not because a majority of votes introduced into the House a measure that they could not defend in the House and in the country and defend for all time to come. He made it quite plain that he placed no value whatever upon a plebiscite vote.

Lately the Premier disposed of the French treaty, and here again the Prohibitionists were knocked out in a single round. In effect he told them that they

were barking up the wrong tree. There was, he said, nothing in the French treaty intimating to the carrying out of a prohibitory law if such a policy were decided upon. There were no obligations in the treaty which would restrict or hamper Parliament in the least, and, if necessary to remedy any defect, it would be made perfectly plain when the Government announces its policy. At the same time he did not propose to announce what that policy would be just then. It is quite evident that Sir John will continue the French treaty altogether apart and from the view of the Prohibitionists. This concluded the session.

#### THEY FELT BAD.

When the deputation re-assembled in the afternoon, they unanimously decided that there was "not a ray of hope" for them in what Sir John had said. Sir Spence felt bad because, as he said, Sir Oliver Mowat had been "sneered" at by Sir John. After some talk most of the deputation went out to hear the Budget Speech. Those that remained relieved their feelings by passing resolutions. Rev. Dr. McKay, of Woodstock, fathered a resolution declaring for political dependence, though not in the Hamilton, strongly urged that the temperance people should go over in a body to the Reform party.

Finally this resolution was adopted: "That this meeting regrets and is very much disappointed that the Dominion Government has not seen its way clear to offer us any ground for hoping that there will be any prohibitory legislation promoted by that Government, and that in view of the great majority recorded by the electors in favor of Prohibition in the recent plebiscites, and request our friends in the House of Commons and Senate to take immediate steps to divide both Houses during the present session on some such resolution as the following: "That the Government be requested to direct the Dominion Parliament should enact a law prohibiting the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors except for medicinal, scientific and sacramental purposes, this meeting believing that such a division of the House of Commons would put the electors in a position to judge of the claim of their representatives for the support of Prohibitionists at the polls.

"That the resolution be sent to the legislative committee of the Dominion Alliance to-morrow for action thereon."

#### WILL DIVIDE THE HOUSE.

On the following morning the parliamentary committee of the Dominion Alliance met and considered the above resolution. There was a long discussion, Mr. Charlton and Mr. Scriver favoring a resolution demanding a plebiscite and pledging parliament to abide by the result of the vote. The majority, however, would not listen to this and finally it was decided to present a resolution to the House and divide upon it. The form of the resolution was decided upon as follows:

"That as speedily as possible the Dominion Parliament should enact a law prohibiting the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors except for medicinal, scientific and sacramental purposes."

A committee of six was appointed to decide upon the time of moving the resolution, and to whose care it shall be entrusted. It is not likely to be heard from for a few weeks. When it is there will probably be some enquiry as to what "as speedily as possible" really means. At a subsequent meeting, Mr. Flint, of Yarmouth, was selected as the mover of the resolution and Dr. Rooms, of Middlesex, the seconder. The first is Liberal, the second Conservative.

## BOILED BEER.

John Chinaman Will Not Take His Drink Cold.

A Murr street Chinaman walked into a Bowery saloon the other day, carrying a sauceman, says the New York World. He laid it down in front of the bar-tender and called for five cents' worth of beer. The mixer of drinks gazed at the queer utensil a moment. Then he said:

"Hello, Chink! What do you get your beer in a sauceman for?"

"Boil him," replied the Chinaman, emphatically. "I think I closed my eyes and remarked: 'Velly good way. No make cold. Taste good.'"

Boiling their beer is a common practice among the denizens of Chinatown. They purchase it in saucemans, and bring it home still foaming, to be placed on the fire while fresh. They claim it is the only proper way to drink it; that the method ordinarily in use of taking it into the system in its cold state is very injurious, being provocative of dyspepsia and other ailments, while the boiled article has an injurious effect and is just as satisfactory as a drink.

The custom is by no means confined to Mott street, but all over the city, where ever a laundry sign is to be seen, Chinamen going for its "boiled beer" may be encountered. Bar-tenders have become accustomed to it and no longer regard it as a novelty.

The Chinese are not the only people who boil or heat beer. In Germany beer soup is quite common. It is also known in France as *soupe a la biere*, and is made of grated black bread, sugar and lager. It is served hot before meals, like any other soup, and is a tempting dish.

"Schaum-beer," or foam-beer, is another deception made from boiled beer. It consists of eggs and sugar mixed with beer. The whole is placed on the fire and cooked until it begins to rise. Then it is considered fit to drink.

Many Americans are already acquainted with "mulled beer," which is obtained simply by plunging a red-hot poker or other similarly shaped iron into a bowl of strong lager. The mulling process renders the beer an excellent beverage which is compelled performance to pass a sore throat.

John Chinaman, when he boils his beer, has not discovered a new way of taking his German drink. Rather has he simplified the method, for his drink is merely the old way of serving it, minus the accompanying ingredients.

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