

The Advocate.

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THEY ARE SOLID TRUTHS.

ANOTHER is added to the string of the press reports about Prohibition, and slips on merrily from one esteemed item to another, quite oblivious of the fact of the fake cablegram about the British Medical Association, the fake story of the Willard's apostasy, and the fake message of Gladstone's defection. There is just as little basis of truth in the new one. Here it is: "The Maine liquor is entered cheerfully upon the forty-sixth year of its existence, with 400 saloons in its city of Portland alone. The rum-runners and the question, 'Does Prohibition prohibit?' are both open."—*The Tempter*.

Now it is the *Tempter* which is faking. The "cablegram" regarding the British Medical Association was purely bogus, the statement regarding Miss Willard is untrue; the message as to Mr. Gladstone's "defection" was not and the report as to Portland is not.

As regards Miss Willard, that lady made a certain statement which was telegraphed abroad, and was taken to mean that she had changed her views with regard to the prohibition question. She denies that such meaning should be taken from her words, but there was no "fake" about the message.

With reference to Mr. Gladstone, the veteran Liberal wrote a letter in which he denounced local option and endorsed the Gothenburg system. The very words of the letter were cabled here and were published. Where in the name of common sense did the fake come in there!

Now, as to Portland, Maine. In another column will be found the result of an investigation made by a Commission of the Boston Herald and published on the 29th December last, which absolutely corroborates in every particular the dispatch quoted by the *Tempter*. The Boston Herald does not publish facts. Bishop Neely, of Portland, has made the same statement, not as to the exact number, but as to the fact of an enormous number of drinking places in the city. Bishop Healy, of Portland, says the same. In fact he goes farther and says there is not a village in Maine large enough to support an hotel wherein there is not a place or places selling liquor. Eighty over a year ago the editor of the paper made a personal investigation as to the selling of drink in Portland. Within two

blocks and a half, on one of the principal streets, a perfect stranger and without a guide, entered seven places where liquor was sold openly. As the result of that investigation we estimated there were one hundred places selling regularly as a business, not including an innumerable number of "kitchen bars," saloons under the steps, in back yards, stables, or establishments where a jug was kept in a dog house, a barrel up the chimney, and in all conceivable ways. That there are, all told, 400 places in Portland that sell liquor is quite within the mark.

The *Tempter* would do well to face the facts instead of crying "fake."

THE QUEEN VS. CUNERTY.

THE Queen's Bench Division have delivered judgment in this case, dismissing the appeal of the defendant, Cunerty, on the ground that the Court had no jurisdiction to entertain the appeal, the conviction being good on its face but both Judges who heard the case were clearly of opinion that the conviction was wrong and should not have been made. In other words, that the sale by the defendant of the quart bottle of ale and the half pint of brandy was a legal sale within the License act. It will be remembered that the Police Magistrate convicted on the ground that liquor could not be sold under a shop license in bottles containing less than three half pints each, and that irrespective of the quantity sold. (On appeal from this conviction Mr. Justice Rose held that while the conviction was bad on the ground stated by the Police Magistrate, it could be sustained on the ground that when different liquors are sold there must be at least three half pints of each kind. The result now is that so long as the quantity sold at any one time is not less than three half pints it is immaterial whether the liquor is different kind or in how many bottles it is contained. It is understood that an application has been made to the Attorney-General for a remission of the fine in Cunerty's case and others of a similar character inflicted at the same time.

The London *Advertiser*, always a staunch prohibition organ, at last recognizes the truth in the following taken from a recent issue:—"The desire for stimulants of some kind and a knowledge of their beneficial action when used in moderation seems to be instinctive in all but the very lowest races of mankind. At first sight it would seem that this rule, but that is not the case. As a matter of religious discipline they refrain from alcohol, but in coffee and opium they have stimulants better suited to inhabitants of hot countries than alcohol. The same may be said of the Hindoos and the large number of Mongols who take no alcohol. These races are in about the third rank of civilization. In the first two ranks not only is there no race which uses no stimulants, but it is a fact that the complexity and variety of stimulants used increases directly with the development of civilization."

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

BEFORE another issue of THE ADVOCATE reaches you the municipal elections will have been held and the fate of the municipality, for good or bad, settled for another year.

We have again to urge the trade, as we have done over and over in the past few months, to look well to the candidates nominated and see that only those favorable to our interests are elected. The temperance people are working all along the line to secure favorable Councils when they will harass the business with vexatious restrictions of all kinds. This is their present policy and if successful it will be a most hurtful one.

They cannot be successful if every member of the trade will do his duty. A little work now will save a lot of trouble a month or two hence.

HOW PROHIBITION WORKS.

THE *Journal*, a reputable paper of Kennebec, Maine, is responsible for the following: "The year of 1893-4 will be noted in the jail annals of this State for the number of commitments, that of the past year, 6,176, being over 2,000 greater than during any year previous to 1893, when the number of commitments was 4,957. Also in the number of commitments for drunkenness, the excess over previous years is noticeable. In 1894, 2,808 were sent to jail for drunkenness, 900 more than in the previous year, and there were over 400 more tramps committed than in 1893."

It would thus appear that the more the years go by the more difficult it becomes for an obnoxious law—a law that seeks to deprive people of their individual liberty—to be enforced.

THE GOTHENBURG FAILURE.

DEALING with the statement that "the companies system" has reduced the drink bill in Norway and Sweden one-half, no less an authority than the *Alliance News* of England, the leading temperance journal in the United Kingdom, comes to the front with facts and figures to smash Mr. Gladstone's latest fad. The *News* says:—"This statement is grossly inaccurate, for since 1875 there has been a great decrease in the drink bill of this country. In that year the quantity of beer consumed per head of the population was 36½ gallons; of spirits 130 gallons and of wine 53 of a gallon; but in 1893, the last for which we have returns, the quantity of beer consumed per head of the population was 29.59 gallons, of spirits 98 of a gallon, and of wine 36 of a gallon. In 1875 the total cost per head for drink was £4 9s. 6d., but for 1893 it was only £3 12s. 3d. In England and Wales, during the same period, the number of convictions for drunkenness, and drunkenness combined with disorderly conduct, had decreased from 7,625 per thousand to 5,275 per thousand, while in

Gothenburg it has increased from 41.5 to 44.36 per thousand."

What puzzles the ordinary mind is why the *News* in demonstrating as it does the great advantage in sobriety in England does, not satisfy itself with what education and the general amelioration of manners is doing in this direction, but must needs attempt to force matters by methods of drastic legislation repugnant to a free people and calculated only to arouse bitter antagonism. The Gothenburg system has proven a failure, just as the prohibitory laws in the United States have proven failures, and the Scott Act in Canada has proven a failure, because they attempt by law to force the people on a matter of individual judgment, a course that has always been and always will be resented.

IOWA IS WET.

THE *New York Fair*, the grand organ of the Prohibitionists of the United States, speaking during the summer of the anti-prohibition success in Iowa said: "The only thing that can block their game is a heavy vote for prohibition this fall." The prohibitionists of Iowa took the matter up zealously, ran the usual campaign, called upon all true disciples to leave the old parties, and triumphantly polled 6,317 votes out of a total of nearly 400,000.

To the outsider it would not appear that the "game" had been very materially "blocked."

A GREAT CANADIAN WINE FIRM.

CANADA has made great strides in wine making since 1860. At that date little thought was given to the manufacture of wine in Canada. The climate was considered too cold and unfit for vine growing. In that year a company of gentlemen from Kentucky, who had been engaged in vine-growing in that state, feeling sore over the results of the war, learned of the mild and salubrious climate of Pelee island, in Canadian territory, only six miles north of Kelly's island, then considered the home of the Catawba grape, removed to that island and established the first grape vineyard in Canada. Three years afterward Captain J. S. Hamilton, of Brantford, took an interest in the company, and through his tact and push, combined with the high class of wines manufactured, made Pelee island wines a household word throughout the Dominion of Canada. They are to be found on the wine list of every first-class hotel from Halifax in the east to Vancouver in the west. In 1869 the Pelee Island Wine and Vineyard Co., Limited, was established, and Captain Hamilton was elected president. He still holds that position, practically controlling the stock, and the company's brands of dry and sweet Catawba, St. Augustine, Isabella and claret, are creditable alike to the company and Canada. The company's special claret, now on the market, is a wine of 1891 vintage, known as "Chateau Pelee Medoc," has a large sale in Canada, and can be obtained from leading wine merchants everywhere in Ontario at \$3.75 a case. In the Lower Provinces, where E.G. Scovell, of St. John, N.B., has the agency \$1 a case is added, for freight charges. In 1891, a brandy distillery was established on the island, and is now being put on the market under the brand "J. S. Hamilton & Co., Cognac." The purity and high quality of the brandy already commands an extensive sale, and connoisseurs state that few French brandies equal it in quality.