

## The Plebiscite

Editor Gazette:

I enclose a clipping from Tuesday's Halifax Herald which should be of interest to a large number of your readers. I trust it will appear in your next issue.

Dunperris.

Halifax Herald.

The public press informs us that on the 29th of September a plebiscite is to be taken on the question of prohibition. This is a matter of sufficient importance to justify a few serious observations.

The issue is one of vital importance to the nation, and it involves several other issues which are, perhaps, more important than the question of prohibition itself.

Upon certain points there will be no difference of opinion among worthy and high minded men and women. The use of intoxicating drinks constitutes a serious evil in this country and in all other countries, and anything which could minimize or obliterate this evil would be an enormous step in the direction of reform.

But another thing it is equally important to bear in mind, and that is that a person may have the highest moral instincts, the warmest patriotic impulses, and still find ample reason for not voting for national prohibition. If any one after due impartial investigation, has reached the conclusion that the enactment of a measure to prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale of all intoxicating beverages would be a means of stopping immorality and advancing the national morality, he would certainly be justified in voting for it. But, equally clear is the duty of any person who believes that the enactment of such a measure would only lead to a magnification of the evils which it sought to destroy, would introduce chaos were some sort of system now prevails, would engender contempt for law, hypocrisy, and various deadly forms of crime.

Any person believing this is bound to go to the polls and vote against it. It is safe to say that as many good men in this country believe in the last proposition as in the first.

But there has arisen in connection with this matter a question of greater importance than the immediate one of

Prohibition or no Prohibition. It is nothing less than liberty of opinion and freedom of speech.

I have no hesitation in admitting frankly that the arguments for and against prohibition are not all on one side. On the contrary a great deal may be urged in favor of both and it is only by a fair, full, frank and manly discussion of the question that the great mass of people will be able to form a sound and wise judgment.

But the advocates of Prohibition have adopted a system of terrorism in regard to the discussion of this question which is fatal to all just deliberation and is intended to gag the expression of public opinion.

Let me give illustrations. The Rev. Geo. M. Grant, one of the ablest, one of the purest and one of the most broad minded clergymen in the Dominion of Canada, has ventured to give it as his opinion that prohibition would not prohibit, and that the adoption of prohibition now would be nothing less than a national calamity. That his motives in expressing himself thus were the highest and best, no person who is not a fool or a bigot could doubt. His christian ministers and the religious press have had the unparalleled impudence to charge him for this frank expression of opinion with being the confederate of rum sellers and the abettor of crime. Such tactics are unworthy of the worst days of the Spanish Inquisition.

Only a few days ago Dr Allison, president of Mount Allison College, and one of the most clear-headed and high-minded men in the Methodist body, also took the liberty on a suitable occasion of expressing a doubt as to the remedial qualities of prohibition. What was the result? A storm of intolerant abuse coupled with veiled threats that he would be driven from his position as president of the college. It had the effect of inducing Dr Allison to write a disclaimer which was far less creditable to him than his original declaration. It was unheroic yielding to an impudent terrorism which ought not to be tolerated for a single moment in a free country among self-respecting people.

This terrorism has had its effect. It prevents good men, high minded men and thoroughly earnest men from expressing a candid opinion upon the subject. If this candid opinion was



A city business man, who gets to work at nine in the morning, takes an hour for lunch and leaves for home at four or five in the afternoon, little understands the hardships of the farmer, who starts to work at break of day and frequently works on into the night by lantern-light.

A man to endure the hardships of a farmer's life, must be robust physically at the outset, and if he would live a long life, always keep a watchful eye upon his health. He should remember that it is the apparently trifling disorders that eventually make the big diseases. It does not do for a hard working man to neglect bilious attacks or spells of indigestion. If he does, he will soon find himself flat on his back with malaria or crippled with rheumatism. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is the best of all medicines for hard working men and women. It makes the appetite keen and hearty, the digestion perfect, the liver active, the blood pure and rich with the life-giving elements of the food, and the nerves strong and steady. It builds firm muscles and solid flesh. It is the greatest of all blood-makers and purifiers. It cures malarial troubles and rheumatism. It is an unfailing cure for biliousness and indigestion. An honest dealer will never try to substitute some inferior preparation for the sake of a little additional profit.

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