

Comment.

How would an independent, broad-minded man run between the two cranks in North Toronto? He would hardly be ground exceedingly small. If there was ever a chance for a liberal-viewed laborer or any other kind of a candidate, there is one in that constituency.

The W.C.T.U., of Aylmer, Que., say in the petition for a reduction of licenses in the town: "We believe that two places are more than sufficient to supply those deadly drinks to the public," etc. We believe that two places are two too many to supply "deadly drinks" to anybody. The Rev. E. P. Judge spoke of the address as "moderate." Some day, perhaps, the reverend gentleman will be kind enough to explain what he considers "immoderate."

Here is a hard nut for the advocates of total abstinence to crack: In the life of her husband, the great explorer, Sir Richard Burton, Lady Isobel Burton writes: "In all bad climates, West Africa, Indian, and elsewhere—when an epidemic such as cholera or yellow fever comes on—the first men to die are the water drinkers, and when the first virulence has polished them off, it clears off the drunkards, and the only persons left are the moderate drinkers. This is a positive fact, and anybody who gainsays it has had no practical experience of very bad climates."

It is interesting to learn from the Toronto Globe that hepatitis is most common in Russia, where it is generally attributed to drink, and that deaths from alcoholism are most numerous in Russia, Denmark and Norway. The next time some water purveyor calls Britain the most "beer-soaked country on the face of the earth," he can be referred to the Globe, which in prediction times is very strong on temperance as understood by the extremists, but which is just now making a show of holding an even balance, being possessed of an overweening desire to hook both kinds of fish.

The Rev. F. W. Willis, rector of Warrington, having been invited to a temperance meeting in the town hall of the town, thought it his duty to attend. He did not, however, consider it a part of that duty to hide his light under a bushel. Being asked to deliver an address, he was asked: "Was there to be an entire abolition of the liquor traffic?" and he answered "No, so far as I am concerned, and I wish to speak my own mind. If I thought the drink traffic was wrong, I could have nothing on earth to do with it; but I do not think it is wrong. The Bible from beginning to end allows the moderate use of intoxicating drinks, and the Saviour gave it in large quantities, not for its medicinal qualities, but for enjoyment."

The Ottawa Journal does not believe in Prohibition by Provinces, but it apparently has faith in the general and

wholesale article. We believe in neither, for the all-prevailing reason that we have no confidence in emaculated manhood. There is no virtue in tyranny either by the piece or in the whole. It is practically established that a Province cannot prohibit, and as the Ottawa Government, with a proper appreciation of the liberty of the subject, will not, there is neither rhyme nor reason in trying to shove the onus on one more than another. Let us all rather stand on the broad principle of right or wrong, and not be continually charging our Governments, Dominion as well as Provincial, with raising money by improper methods, and that is what every man who writes or speaks as our Ottawa friend is doing.

we distinguish? Or, why not prohibit the water and the log?

Referring to the state of things in New York a correspondent says: "I was recently informed by a saloon keeper whom I have always found to be a reliable sort of man, that for his side door privileges he paid \$25 each month. If this statement is true, and I have no reason to doubt it, and if \$25 represents an average subscription for this purpose, then the intake from the extant ten thousand saloons would be about three million dollars a year. Now, I have no objection to the saloon keepers being taxed three million dollars a year for side door privileges, but I cannot help thinking that it

That must have been a very thirsty farmer, but it was really generous of the old-time temperance people to disavow the keeping of other people's consciences once in a while, although it was a great piece of presumption on their part to imagine that an occasional drunk was a necessity of existence. We are rather afraid that Mr. Murphy is straining a point and that the pledge was merely a private agreement not to drink except on the special occasions referred to. Weak people "swear off," as it is called, for stated periods at the present day, but they do not call such process taking a pledge, and make it public, although we believe that practically it is one of a temporary nature.

At a meeting of workmen in London recently the following resolution was passed with only two dissentients: "That this meeting of Radicals' workmen, while congratulating Sir William Harcourt on the generally sound Radical character of the Budget of 1894, regrets that an extra tax should have been imposed upon beer and spirits, believing that the burden will fall upon the poorer classes, either in the matter of the price or of the quality of the article consumed. The meeting respectfully suggests that the deficit might be better provided for by an additional tax upon foreign wines, or by imposing a small duty on mineral waters and other beverages of the tea-tasters, who at present are called upon to pay far less than their proportionate share of the revenue of this country." People in England who like a glass of beer do not hesitate to carry the war into Africa. In Canada the disposition is too plainly manifested to shirk the issue.

The London Times remarks that "as far as the evidence in my possession enables an opinion to be formed, the most successful American experiment in the way of temperance legislation has been that of raising the fee charged for a license to amounts ranging from five hundred to as much as a thousand dollars. Of course, if a State confers a privilege, it may demand for it whatever sum seems to be in accordance with public policy; but it is notorious that high duties are incentives to smuggling, and it is evident that the cost of the 'high license' must fall ultimately upon the consumer. Among other differences between England and the United States is the greater freedom of classes in the latter than in the former; and the first effect of high licenses in England would be to excite an outcry against a system by which the drink of the poor man was taxed, either in excess of that of his richer neighbor, to whom wholesale or other sources of supply would be accessible, or, at all events, in excess of his power to pay without inconvenience." And yet England is aristocratic and Canada democratic! Surely the younger might take a lesson from the older in the matter of moderation. As the Times says, "the cause of temperance will be best promoted in the future, as it has been in the past, by the progress of knowledge, of domestic comfort, and of refinement."



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OF WATERLOO,

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HERE are two items that appear in a temperance paper in juxtaposition:

Shenandoah, Pa., April 31—Frank Kaspjok, a single man 25 years of age, was found dead in a barrel of whiskey at his boarding house. He was a victim of rheumatism, and was advised by friends to take whiskey bath. He procured a barrel of liquor and took three baths at short intervals, with what appeared to be satisfactory results, but after entering the barrel for a fourth time he dropped dead.

At Tuckersmith on Saturday a five-year-old daughter of John McLean was drowned in the river while attempting to cross on a log. The body was found yesterday morning.

would be better if this large sum of money, instead of being irregularly collected and distributed in secrecy to beneficiaries who, it may be, are suspected, but who certainly are not known, should be legally assessed and deposited in the city treasury. Three millions per annum would well nigh pay the interest on the city debt."

MR. THOS. E. MURPHY, the temperance apostle, recently declared that an old-time temperance pledge made people promise to get drunk only on the Fourth of July or at sheep shearing time. "And," continued he, "I once heard of an old farmer who kept a sheep in his barn that never had a bit of wool on its back."