

# THE CANADA CITIZEN

AND TEMPERANCE HERALD

Freedom for the Right Means Suppression of the Wrong.

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## The Canada Citizen

AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

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TORONTO, FRIDAY, AUGUST 15TH, 1884.

This number is sent to many friends whose names are not yet on our subscription list. Will they kindly aid our enterprise by forwarding their dollars and addresses? It is desirable to subscribe early, as we propose making every number well worth preserving for future reference and use.

### HALTON.

From all directions comes the outcry against the injustice that has been done to Halton. There is no doubt whatever as to the fact that the framers of the Scott Act never intended it to be construed as it has been construed. The intention was that a county should have three full years' experience of the working of the law before the question of repealing it could be voted upon. The people of Canada had accepted this as the meaning of the Act. With this understanding the Act had been adopted, and even if the law can be construed to authorize voting at an earlier date, it could only be construed as permitting, not requiring, the granting at once of the repeal petition. Under the circumstances the duty of the Government was perfectly clear. The intent of the Act should have been carried out; faith should have been kept with the people who had adopted it, and who were anxious to give it a fair trial. There is but one conclusion that we can come to in reference to the matter, and to that conclusion we come with reluctance, with shame and with pain:—The drink traffic has power enough with our Dominion Government to keep that Government from giving the temperance men fair play. It is not a matter of party politics at all, it is a matter of whisky influence. There are too many liquor sellers in the Privy Council. Their

presence there is an outrage upon the community, and it is utterly contrary to all decency that men who are so deeply interested in the sustaining of the liquor-traffic should have a voice in such matters as the bringing on or keeping off of Scott Act contests. Tavern-keepers are by law excluded from municipal councils, because these municipal councils have a certain control over the license system. On the same principle, brewers, distillers, importers and vendors of intoxicating liquors ought to be excluded from our National Parliament, but they are not merely allowed to be members of the House, but actually are appointed ministers of the crown. Men who are engaged in business that is subversive of all order and law, are appointed our Governor's special advisers, and special administrators of laws framed for the express purpose of restricting their own dangerous occupation. There can be no excuse for such a state of affairs. The great Conservative party has no lack of men of executive ability, of public reputation, of integrity, men who would do honor to the responsible positions that are now filled by men whose interests are those of the liquor party, the interests of which are not those of morality and progress.

In the meantime the evil has been done, but we are thankful for the encouraging information that there is very small probability of its accomplishing the harm that its promoters desire to see accomplished. The liquor men can already see that they have not caught the heroes of Halton off their guard. Organization has been quickly accomplished. The men who fought for the Scott Act are at their posts to defend their rights. The electors know too well what are the real objects of those who are asking them to go back on their splendid record, and they will not be misled by sophistry and misrepresentation. We look confidently for another victory on September 9th. We look for such a response from the men of Halton, loyal to what is good and true, as shall give liquor domination in Ontario a sorer blow than any it has yet received.

### SCOTT ACT OR LICENSE.

The electors of Canada in the present contest are simply asked, "Which of two laws do you approve of, as an agency for the restriction of the liquor traffic?" The question of the desirability or rightness of restriction is not at issue. Both parties are at one in reference to this. Indeed the anti-Scott party state as reason for their opposition to the Scott Act, that that Act does not sufficiently and effectually restrict the sale of liquor, and they argue for the license law on the ground of its restrictive character and effects. The principle of prohibition is not at issue. It is the chief feature, and the only beneficial feature, of the license system which now enacts for nearly all the community the same prohibition that the Scott Act will extend to the small remainder. The questions of vested rights and compensation are not at issue. The license laws have abolished, without compensation, more taverns than now exist; the Scott Act never cancels a license, only refuses renewal, and this the license law is doing every year. The license law prohibits the sale of liquor by certain persons, in certain places, and at certain times; this is the feature of the license law that does all the good that comes from that law; and the Scott Act goes still further in the same direction. The Scott Act permits some sale hence does some harm, but the license law goes a great deal further in the same direction. All that is bad in the Scott Act is to be found in the license law