

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

THE FIGHT FOR REPEAL STILL CONTINUES.

More of the Producers' Scott Act History. Politicians and Prohibitionists. Large Promises and Little Performance. Fighting the Traffic under Difficulties - Good Results - Sons of Temperance.

The vote on the question of repealing the Scott Act in Prince Edward County was taken on February 7th, 1884, and resulted in the sustaining of it by the magnificent majority of 1874, there being cast in its favor 1177 votes more than at the first election.

The enforcement of the Act then passed into the hands of the newly appointed Dominion License Commissioners. The work of these Commissioners was fairly well done in Queen's County and Prince County, but in Kings a majority of the Commissioners were opposed to the law and consequently very little good resulted from its operation.

In the City of Charlottetown the "bite" of the Act hurt the drunkard-makers so keenly that they determined on a vigorous effort to repeal, and succeeded in getting another vote in that city on October 18th, 1884. The Act was sustained by a majority of forty.

Much credit is due to the late Rev. Geo. W. Hudson, and P. R. Bowers, a Catholic Liberal (now in the United States) for the success of that contest. The Patriot, (Liberal), Examiner, (Conservative), and the Protestant Union (now Island Guardian) newspapers supported the Act, while the Herald (Catholic) opposed it.

After the Act had been sustained, the Alliance did most of the prosecuting work; Rev. Mr. Hudson and other temperance men taking their turn at it. It was felt, however, that this was almost too much for private citizens to do. A delegation waited upon his Honor the Stipendiary Magistrate, R. R. Fitzgerald, requesting (as the police were under his control) that he should enforce the Act, in the city. His Honor replied that the police were under his control, and it was as much their duty to enforce the C. T. Act as any other civil law. He gave the deputation to understand that the work would be done, and the committee withdrew full of hope for the future. For a time it was believed that the matter was settled, and that the police force for all time to come would be compelled to enforce the Scott Act in common with other laws. Some convictions were secured.

The Dominion license law having been declared ultra vires, there were no one in the whole Province to look after the rum-runners, except once in a while a private citizen would secure a conviction. A movement was set on foot to ask the local government to undertake the work. This was in the fall of 1885. Petitions were circulated, and numerously signed, requesting the government to appoint one or more inspectors for each county. Meetings were held in some of the electoral districts, and M. P. P.'s were pledged to vote for this much needed reform. At the next session of Parliament in reply to a question asked the Government at the opening of the House by G. W. Bentley, (now Commissioner of Public Works) the Premier stated that it was the intention of the Government to appoint one inspector for each county, but that the City Council of Charlottetown and the Town Council of Summerside would have to enforce the law in their jurisdictions.

The general election for the Local House took place on the 30th June. As no inspectors had been appointed, the temperance question had more prominence than at any subsequent election. The temperance Liberals said that they had no faith in the promise of the Government, while the friends of the Government contended that the inspectors would be appointed if there party was returned to power. The Government was sustained by 18 to 12, and one inspector for each county was appointed at a salary of \$200 per year.

There had been on the Provincial Statute Books since 1849, an Act requiring every person who peddled goods of any kind to pay a yearly fee of \$25. This law had fallen into disuse, but it was revived, and the Scott Act Inspectors were required to see it enforced, in addition to their duties. This was a great deal of work to be done by the inspectors, especially in view of the small salary which was voted for their remuneration.

The Inspector appointed for Prince County, Mr. John McCaull, proved an efficient officer, but the men in Queen's County and Kings County, Messrs. Leman and Vadenstine, were really worse than useless. They held office for one year, the work of enforcement was of course left to them, but they failed to secure a single conviction. Both then resigned their positions, and the King's County Inspectorship was held for a few days by Hon. D. Ferguson, Commissioner of Crown Lands, who took this method of vacating his seat, to enable him to stand for the Dominion House of Commons. It is hardly needful to say that he performed none of the duties of the office, and resigned as soon as he had attained the desired office. James Nicholson was appointed his successor.

At the last Municipal Election at Charlottetown, the question of enforcing the Scott Act had a prominent place, with the result, that a Temperance Mayor and

City Council were elected. D. W. Henderson, Inspector for Queen's County was appointed a special officer to enforce the law in the City of Charlottetown as well. Notwithstanding that he has had obstacles put in his way by lawyers, magistrates, and even judges, he has accomplished much, and the present agitation for repeal, is the result of the pressure brought to bear by him on the liquor traffic, making those engaged in it more uncomfortable than they had been in this city before.

The repeal vote will take place on the 24th inst. Liquor men are confident of success, and the friends of the Scott Act are also hopeful. Death has, however, carried away many of the best temperance advocates since the last campaign. The Examiner newspaper, which formerly supported them, has gone over to the side of the liquor traffic, and an unusually hard fight is impending.

The advocates of the Scott Act have, however, a good case. Notwithstanding all the difficulties with which they have had to contend, the law has proved a wonderful check on the sale and consumption of drink. In 1877 there were in the City of Charlottetown 23 licensed taverns, 18 saloons, and 8 shops; a total of 50. Now there are only known to be 30 places in which liquor is illicitly sold, even there the traffic goes on under such difficulties as to be practically very small.

Prior to 1877 the annual consumption of liquor for the whole province averaged 130,000 gallons. Under the Scott Act it has fallen off to less than 80,000, a reduction of more than 50 per cent. In 1877 the arrests for drunkenness numbered 737; for eight months of the present year they have amounted to only 130.

The liquor traffic fully recognized that a defeat in Charlottetown would give them a very much better position in Prince Edward Island as a whole, and they are fighting desperately and will win if they can.

Next week I hope to send you a full report of convictions for violation of the Scott Act in this province during the past year.

The thirty-ninth annual session of the Prince Edward Island Grand Division Sons of Temperance was held at Victoria on Oct 28th, about 50 per cent. of the Divisions being represented. The Grand Scribe's report shows that there are 49 divisions on the roll with a total membership of about 2,000. Officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows:-

G. W. P., Simon W. Crabb, City Com., Charlottetown; G. W. A., Richard Nelson, Hampton; G. Scribe, Jessie S. Burns (re-elected), Lower Freetown; G. Treas., D. W. Henderson (re-elected), North Wiltshire; G. Chap., Rev. E. C. Turner, Bedouque; G. Con., David Arburg, South Freetown; G. Sant., Simon Brown, Hunter River; P. G. W. P., Wm. Ramsay, Park Corner.

Twenty-five dollars was voted to Inspector McCaull, and twenty dollars was voted for temperance literature to be used during the forthcoming campaign.

A resolution was adopted approving of the Scott Act and urging all Sons of Temperance to stand loyally by it.

The following resolution was also carried:-

Whereas, we, the members of this Grand Division, learn with deep regret of the early demise of Hon. John B. Finch, R. W. G. T. of the I. O. G. T. and a member of Massachusetts Division No. 71 in Boston.

Resolved, that we write upon our records the acknowledged loss of the late Bro. Finch, feeling as we do it to be one of the saddest blows that could be dealt the advancement of Prohibition.

A great public meeting was held at night in the Methodist Church, presided over by P. G. W. Patriarch, Wm. Ramsay, and addressed by J. J. Chappell, S. W. Crabb, James McKinnon, Rev. E. C. Turner, Professor Ross, Rev. T. W. Ross, Rev. T. W. Johnstone, D. Rogers, Rev. Allan McLean, James Carruthers and Rev. George Steel.

Smoking.

In a letter in the Times, Mr. E. J. Wetherston says - "I have observed that no one as yet has, with reference to the dire calamity at Exeter, referred to the most dangerous and otherwise objectionable practice of smoking in the refreshment rooms of London theatres. Words are wanting adequately to describe this unmitigated nuisance. Managers would do well to nip it at once in the bud. Ladies bitterly complain. If they want a little fresh air between the acts, and are now conducted to the passage, they find themselves in an atmosphere of bad tobacco, and if an ice or other refreshment be needed, they find a reeking tap-room, crowded by men, in gaudy attire, some smoking the vilest of cigarettes, which, as everyone knows, are now procurable at the rate of a penny a-piece, affording an enormous profit to the vendor."

"But," continues the writer, "it is not only a question of manners; I hold that the practice is dangerous to the nth power. A lighted cigarette carelessly dropped might set fire to a curtain, or to a part of a lady's dress, and in many a theatre a catastrophe of the most terrible extent might occur in a moment. The practice is the result of a bad system; theatres now all get a wine and spirit license (an utterly unnecessary luxury), and so, in order to make their refreshment bar pay (the contractor having to pay a heavy rent) they refuse to give 'passes out.' And, as 'Young England' cannot exist for three hours without a smoke, this nuisance has cropped up in our midst. But it must be stopped, and the sooner managers understand it the better. Perhaps the Lord Chamberlain could himself forbid smoking in theatres."

The Canada Temperance Act.

RESULTS OF THE VOTING SO FAR:

Table with columns: PLACE, VOTES POLLED (For, Against), MAJORITIES (For, Against), DATE OF ELECTION. Lists various Canadian locations and their voting results for the Scott Act.

N.B. - In the preceding table a place that has voted more than once has the different votes indicated by the figures (1), (2), (3) after the name of place. Figures printed in italics are for first or second votes in places in which a later vote has been taken than that so printed. Names in heavy faced type are of cities, others of counties.

SUMMARY.

Nova Scotia has eighteen counties and one city, of which thirteen counties have adopted the Act. New Brunswick has fourteen counties and two cities, of which ten counties and two cities have adopted the Act. Manitoba has five counties and one city, of which two counties have adopted the Act. Prince Edward Island has three counties and one city, all of which have adopted the Act. Ontario has thirty-eight counties and union of counties and eleven cities, of which twenty-five counties and two cities have adopted the Act. Quebec has fifty-six counties and four cities, five counties of which have adopted the Act. British Columbia has five parliamentary constituencies, none of which have adopted the Act.

In all, up to the present time, 81 cities and counties have voted upon the Scott Act, and 63 have adopted it. Nine counties and cities voted twice and 2 three times, making an aggregate of 92 contests, of which we have been victorious in 71.

The aggregate votes cast in all the contests have been:- For the Scott Act 161719 Against " 111764 Net Scott Act majority 49955

If we omit all voting but the last, in those places which have voted more than once we get the following as the latest vote:- For the Scott Act 147372 Against " 108639 44633

It is more than eight years since the Scott Act was first voted upon and adopted in different localities, and so COUNTY OR CITY HAS YET REPEALED IT, although many votings have taken place on the question of repeal.

Preserve this Paper. You will need this table for reference.

GOING DRY.

PROHIBITION BOOMING IN THE SOUTH.

Grand Work on Local Option Lines Missouri Voting out the Rum-Working Traffic - Good News From a far Country.

The State of Missouri is making rapid progress in the suppression of the strong drink traffic. Commencing on July 28th last there have been fought in this State a series of bitter contests between the prohibitionists and the saloonists, but on the whole our friends have come off magnificently, when we take into consideration the difficulties to be met with by temperance workers in the South, the class prejudices which the liquorites are ever ready to foster and utilize, the ignorance that prevails in a very large class of the voting population, the hold that the liquor traffic has upon the community, the obstacles placed in the way of temperance progress by hostile courts and officials, we cannot but be surprised at the remarkable results achieved. We heartily congratulate our co-workers on what has been accomplished, and wish them good speed in the light they are making for the redemption of their State.

The following is the result of all the votes that have hitherto been taken:-

Table with columns: Cities, Date of Voting, Majority. Lists various southern cities and their voting results for prohibition.

Our Division and its Work.

BY J. B. H. [Prepared for and read at a recent meeting of Chandler's Division No. 333.]

ONE constituent element in temperance work, as applied to abstinence from strong drink, must ever recommend it to the thoughtful as being a lover of immense power for good, viz., being thoroughly cosmopolitan. Thank God, all are welcome whatever may be his or her religious creed, nationality or character. Temperance advocates have reason to be profoundly thankful they possess so mighty a weapon with which to fight, otherwise they court defeat, an overwhelming overthrow.

We are glad every battalion of the immense army is permeated with this influence, none more so than the Order of the Sons of Temperance, with which, as a Division, we are identified. At the threshold of the Division the candidate for initiation has the guarantee given that we interfere not with religious views or political aspirations, while nationalities are never considered. True character must necessarily be regarded, inasmuch as if utterly worthless, or the object of being initiated plainly to cloak a dishonorable purpose, then, for the sake of all, such a proposition must be, and justly so, rejected; but when the desire is evident to overcome mighty temptation, an endeavor to amend the past and become worthy counsel, in