

Montreal Letter.

PROHIBITION A FAILURE.
Prohibition has proved an unmitigated failure. It has opened up avenues of crime and crime has become a more serious menace, measured up to the standard which its advocates and supporters expected. On the contrary, it has turned the wheel of contentment and satisfaction backwards and has brought about fraud, deceit, and dishonesty, to refer supreme among them, both old and young. It has caused many into drinking concupiscent poison, who would have been abstemious of such a thing until prohibition was put in force. It has caused the hospitals to be filled with the sick and the lame, and a great amount of work, both and extra exertion, has caused hypocrisy and a general loss of the guiding star in the lives of men, who simply rebelled against the had spirit of depriving them of their free will in the use of the liquor. In a word it has brought a blight throughout the city. Here in this city we witness the same drunkenness on our public streets as was the case many years ago. And yet we have prohibition. In every saloon, and a large number of cafes, and where are sold. In many places, small and large, a wine license is granted. Then we have the Commission License stores where the strong liquors are sold, but only a bottle of each kind at a time. The new law went into effect. Montreal has become a city of tourists from the United States and parts of Canada, where prohibition, that does prohibit, is enforced. Last year the Quebec Government derived a surplus of over \$1,000,000 from its liquor and the next surplus, judging from the large number of convictions for breach of the law, the figures reach over the five million. Let us take the Province of Ontario with its great boast of having prohibition. Statistics for 1922 show Ontario heads the list of provinces in the number of convictions for breach of liquor acts, and offences against the narcotic act. Truly great are the blessings of Prohibition! Canadian Freeman, a weekly newspaper, Ontario, commenting on the report of the License Commission for Ontario says editorially: "The first ten months of 1923

Uneeda Biscuits, New Jams, etc.

From various shipments, have received the following:

- NEW POTATOES.
- FRESH PEARS, TOMATOES, CUCUMBERS.
- RED & BLUE PLUMS.
- Hartley's New Season's RASPBERRY and STRAWBERRY JAM.
- Hartley's NEW MARMALADE, etc.

UNEEDA FANCY BISCUITS—
Viz.: Cheese Tit Bits, Oysterettes, Nabisco, Assorted De Luxe, Saltines, Zu Zu, 5 o'clock Tea, Graham, Lemon and Chocolate Snap, Sorbets, etc.

C. P. EAGAN,
2 Stores:
Duckworth Street & Queen's Road

the business done by the Government dispensaries amounted to \$3,354,000, which is not bad for a "dry" province. The net profit was \$177,000 which is not bad for a "dry" province. To this sum should be added \$385,000 the amount raised in fines, which is not bad for a "dry" province. Another feature of the report that makes amusing reading is the fact that in December there were 77,600 invalids in the province, as compared with 42,000 for January. Strange that no many extra thousands get ill at Christmas time!

We would like to have expert medical opinion as to why Ontario is getting more and more unhealthy as the cellar gets drier. The contrary should be the case. Yet in 1921 this province had \$30,000 who needed liquor for medicinal purposes, whereas last year the number jumped to 623,000!

But the germ of the whole document is contained in the following passage: "No line-ups or queues have occurred on the streets since the new premises were occupied, and the business is

carried on quietly and in an orderly manner, as becomes the terms of the Ontario Temperance Act." We suppose that the O.T.A. is now conclusively demonstrated a success because Millita hadn't be called out to quell the rioting by the "invalids!"

When one considers the above figures, and then remembers that there is a huge illicit trading in liquor, the pretence that Ontario is "dry" is simply grotesque.

But the worst is yet to come. During the year 1921, "wet" Quebec had 421 convictions for drunkenness per 100,000 of population; "dry" Ontario had 494 per 100,000! "Dry" Toronto had 900 per 100,000 population; "wet" Montreal 848 per 100,000! "Nuff said."

THE DRUG HABIT STILL FLOURISHES.

Notwithstanding the activities of the Special Morality Squad, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and private detectives, the drug habit is still flourishing. Lately, two officers of a steamer were caught with a quantity

of drugs in their possession and a seizure was made on the steamer for \$3,500. This was paid and the steamer released, but the officers got the full limit of the law.

On the request of Justice Place, acting for the Department of Justice at Ottawa, Judge Perrault asked bail in the sum of \$25,000 from Benedict Bucci, who was arraigned on five charges under the narcotic drug act. Bucci was represented by the prosecution as being one of the biggest men locally in the traffic of narcotics. The "big" where the supplies come from has not yet been discovered, and probably never will be. Secretary of State C. E. Hughes of Washington, in an article, "America fights the Narcotic Evil," says:—"The secrecy of the indulgence in narcotic drugs, the extent to which addicts enjoy immunity from detection, the destruction of character which follow drug addiction, the failure of cures and the facility of relapse within the walls of the country; in the evil the most inhuman and dangerous of all the abuses that afflict us, I count it a privilege to have the opportunity to co-operate in the organized effort to stop the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs. The worst feature of the narcotic evil is that the most numerous victims are the young men of the country seeking stimulus and relief from the nervous exhaustion produced by the questions and excitements of abnormal living. I was interested to note the recent statement of the Chief City Magistrate of New York City that of the thousands of addicts whom he had examined in recent years at least 98 per cent. were young men under thirty years of age. To an increasing extent the abuse of these drugs is threatening the vitality of the country; in the case of many thousands it is the last downward plunge or push which makes recovery impossible."

SAID SHE WAS SICK OF LIFE.

After five years of a hard struggle to eke out an existence, a Russian woman made an attempt to commit suicide. Her husband had died five years ago and she was left alone with a twelve year old daughter. Though ill, she was obliged to work in a clothing factory and by keeping a boarder she managed to keep things going. As the time went by she became more depressed and ill through heavy work and little nourishment and growing discouraged, she drank an ounce of iodine. Her daughter, who is now seventeen, found her semi-conscious and summoned the police, who had the victim taken to

the Montreal General Hospital, where the doctors saved her life.

Pale and still very weak from her experience, the woman appeared before Judge Perrault, and through an interpreter told the judge her story: "For five years I have had no husband and have worked hard. I have no more strength to work, and I am sick of life. I have undergone two operations in the hospital and am still weak. The landlord came to my house and I am behind a few months in my rent, and am unable to meet it. My daughter is now seventeen years of age and earns only \$5 per week."

The judge ordered that the woman be taken down to the woman's jail immediately and be looked after. He emphasized the fact that she require medical treatment, saying that "she was more to be pitied than condemned."

It is likely that the Society for the Protection of "Women and Children" will try and provide means to care for the unfortunate woman when she is again restored to health.

THE HONEST PORTER.

Around the C.P.R. Windsor Station you'll notice seven or eight "Red Caps." They are porters who attend to passengers' grips and suit cases going in and coming out from the different trains day and night. A few evenings ago a passenger reaching the station had forgotten to provide himself with a bottle of "Maudie Vie" Calling a "Red Cap," he told him to go to a Quebec License Commission store and get him a bottle of a certain brand. The Porter made off in haste having a ten dollar bill which the traveller gave him to pay for the liquor. As he came to the store he found he was one minute too late, as the place had closed at that hour. Returning to the station he found the train gone and the traveller could not be found. Then going to the Station Agent he told him of his message and passed the ten dollar bill over to him. The Station Agent took a note of the fact, and in case the traveller sends for his money, it will be forwarded to him, though he would much have preferred to enjoy the "Maudie Vie" on his trip.

WHAT A RECKLESS DRIVER DID.

Reckless drivers under the influence of liquor, can do lots of damage, even when the Arm of the Law gets after them. Here's a case, that the Judge might have given him a year in jail without the option of a fine, for his antics while in charge of a car.

Judge Perreault sentenced Joseph Steele to pay a fine of \$150 and costs for a month in jail and cancelled license.

His case was, according to the constable who arrested him, one of the most reckless driving he had ever seen. Constable Coache was on duty on St. Lawrence Boulevard, a short distance from Sherbrooke Street, when he saw Steele drive into another automobile, which was parked near the curb. Coache walked toward the driver to question him and swore that he was under the influence of liquor. As he was stepping on the running board Steele stepped on the accelerator and started his car so violently that Coache was thrown and rolled several feet.

As he jumped up again he saw that Steele had struck the curb on the other side of the street and could not go farther. He chased after him but as he was about to reach the automobile Steele started his machine backward with such speed that he knocked down the constable a second time and nearly collided with another automobile. This time Coache managed to jump on the running board and killed the engine himself, stopping the automobile a short distance farther on.

A FAMOUS CRICKET MATCH.

In a recent cricket match between the McGill and Lachine eleven for the John Ross Robertson Cup, McGill made the highest score in the history of the Club, and probably the highest ever made in Montreal. The total was 364. The Captain of McGill, Sanderson, played careful innings for 81. Their total reached only 129. On going in a second time, they were all disposed off for 88 runs. Potter, a West Indian, and a law student at McGill, taking 5 wickets. Potter is the "Demon Bowler" of the League, especially as regards speed. Last year he broke a bone in Wallace's wrist with the force of the ball. This year he broke Probyn's, the McGill wicket keeper's finger, and put him out of business, probably for the season. During the two days' match with Lachine he struck several of the Lachine players and made them wince. In fact some of them showed considerable nervousness in standing at the wicket. Mitchell, the left-hand bowler got four wickets. McGill won by an innings and 112 runs. A week before Lachine had practically beaten McGill at Lachine. Lachine had declared their innings for six wickets, with a score of 182 runs, while McGill for 5 wickets had only 73. The



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SMALLWOOD'S
Big SHOE SALE

SCHOOL SHOES

It is becoming a common practice for abandoned babies to be found in Churches or on the steps of charitable institutions or private houses. A few days ago, a baby of one month and five days old was found on the doorstep of a house on the third floor at midnight with a note attached which read: "His name is Aroene. He was baptized. Take pity on this child in the name of God." The baby is in the hands of the police matron at headquarters, and unless the parents are found, will be handed over to the Grey Nuns for care.

POSITIONS ACCORDING TO MERIT

The Montreal Daily Star, speaking of awarding positions according to merit at the City Hall, says editorially: "It is to the credit of the Executive Committee at the City Hall that it very rigidly conditioned the system in vogue in all well-run cities of seeing that appointments are made to positions on the merit system. In the good old days of aldermanic rule and manipulation the custom was most rigorously observed of parceling out 'jobs' and positions 'according to pull.'"

The main idea kept in mind to-day by the Executive Committee that there shall no longer be toasters on the payroll. There are among the city fathers those who are not sympathetic to this sane way of management, and from time to time complaints are heard. The truth is that patronage has had a direful history in Montreal's administration, and the efforts now being made to overcome it cannot but receive public approval. Just how very necessary it is that the patronage evil should be fearlessly faced and overcome is proven by the declaration of a learned jurist that there have been epochs in Montreal's history when fully twenty-five per cent of the annual revenues were frittered away by the stuffing of the salary lists with unnecessary and incompetent employees. The fact can probably be kept in mind, moreover, that it is due to the patronage evil that the debt-to-day consumes over a third of the revenue in interest charges. This fact has resulted in taxation being very materially augmented.

R. J. LOUIS CUDDIHY.

"Won't you sing something, Miss Muriel?"

"Oh, I haven't after such good music as we have been listening to."

"But I'd rather listen to your singing than to any amount of good music."

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