

THE PLEBISCITE.

THE QUEBEC VOTE.

A circular has been issued by the Quebec Branch of the Dominion Alliance, setting out some important facts relating to the voting last September in that Province. One of the most serious matters with which it deals is the improper practices which seem to have been common in many places. It will be remembered that at the interview of the prohibitionists with the Dominion Government, this matter was mentioned by Major Bond, and referred to also by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who did not think there was any general dishonesty. Major Bond again refers to this matter in a statement signed by him in the Alliance circular. He says:

The Premier then referred to the charge of fraud, and while disposed to admit that frauds may have been committed in the large cities, yet he was of the opinion that the rural vote was absolutely honest. I can only say that a careful investigation, since my statement was made, warrants me in making the assertion that if the Government investigation, which must necessarily be asked for, be granted, I believe that some of the most outrageous and widely extended frauds that were ever perpetrated in a campaign will be unearthed in the rural municipalities.

From the circular we take the following further interesting statements:

The Executive repudiate at the outset any idea of offering excuse or apology. They are satisfied with the splendid work performed by the temperance people in the Province, work done under most adverse circumstances, entailing labor and self-sacrifice that calls for the warmest recognition.

The problem placed before the Executive was one that had challenged the wisest counsels of the Dominion Alliance at its different sessions during the past five years. At the last annual meeting in Toronto, it was pointed out most clearly that the temperance forces in the Province of Quebec could not possibly be expected to protect the whole territory without financial aid from the other Provinces; but such aid was not forthcoming. Each Province had all it could do to take care of itself. The Province of Quebec was regarded as "A forlorn hope." It was freely granted that it would be hopeless to expect a favorable vote. The only question was how far could the opposition be held down.

The factors of the issue were:—

First: Preponderance of the French. The English population in the Province is about one-seventh; the French population in the Province is about six-sevenths. Roman Catholics number about 1,488,500; all others, 196,800. Now, while the French, more particularly in the rural districts, are most moderate in the use of alcohol, chiefly due to the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church—of which faith practically all the French Canadians are—yet the more radical question of prohibition had never been placed before the people as a live issue.

Secondly: The advisability or possibility of placing prohibition before the French rural electors in the short time between the adoption of the bill and the vote; and

Thirdly: The funds at the disposal of the Executive and the large territory to cover.

Regarding the first factor named, it was found we could only expect voluntary help where Protestant churches were established, as apparently all prohibition work had crystallized round these churches. In the purely French districts the Church of Rome taught temperance only, but with the splendid result according to the testimony of the Comptroller of Provincial Revenue before the Royal Commission, that over one-third of the municipalities of the Province were under "no license" system; but while fully recognizing the value of this system, it should not be overrated from a prohibitory point of view. Liquor, chiefly whiskey, could be freely and legally obtained, as importation was not controlled, and some of the serious crimes that have taken place recently in the Province are traceable directly to liquor.

Regarding the second factor, our first step was to approach the Roman Catholic Bishops of the Province, with the request that they would endorse the movement, and use their influence

towards having their people vote in favor of the act. After full consideration of the matter, the decision arrived at by the Bishops was not to interfere, but to allow their people to vote as they chose. It is well known that the only way to reach the French rural population on a subject such as prohibition would be to follow the custom of the country, and address meetings in front of the Church after services on Sundays. But, even if we had had the large staff of speakers at our disposal that would have been necessary for such a process, the question of advisability was one that required careful consideration; and the best advice we could collect throughout the Province was almost unanimous in being adverse to such a course. It was finally decided to address every priest in the Province by circular, a copy of which is printed herewith.

Closely connected is the third factor—that of the money at the disposal of the Committee. Notwithstanding the earnest appeals that were sent out when considering ways and means, about one month prior to the vote the Treasurer of the Central Committee was not able to report more than one thousand dollars in sight. It is true this was considerably augmented before the close of the campaign, but too late to be of service in the way of preparatory work.

The Committee were, however, able to secure the services of two competent French Canadian Roman Catholic gentlemen, one taking the north shore, and going as far as Quebec; the other taking the south shore, starting at St. Hyacinthe, and going as far as Rimouski. These gentlemen went to the central points in each county, and for the first week sent encouraging reports. They found many parish priests favorable to the movement, and quite a number of people willing to watch the polls so as to prevent fraud. However, about ten days before the vote was taken, the whole situation changed. Parties who had promised to watch the polls withdrew, and the tide set overwhelmingly against prohibition. The chief reason given for this was the active entry of four Dominion Cabinet Ministers into the field against the movement, and the report industriously spread that Sir Wilfrid Laurier wished all his supporters to vote against prohibition, and unless this was done the party would be endangered. An appeal was promptly made to Sir Wilfrid, who repudiated the use of his name in this connection; but the damage was done. Apart from this, even a greater factor was that of organized fraud. There is prima facie evidence of ballot-stuffing, both in the City of Montreal and in the rural districts, sufficient to cause the gravest doubts as to the correctness of the vote in the Province of Quebec.

QUEBEC R. T. OF T.

The annual meeting of the Quebec Branch of the Dominion Alliance was held on March 2nd, in the Y.M.C.A. building of Montreal, J. R. Dougall, the President, occupying the chair. The principal theme of discussion was the recent plebiscite and action to be taken following up the same. The delegates were unanimous in their demand upon the Dominion Parliament for legislation in obedience to the mandate of the people. A good deal of discussion took place over the question of fraudulent practices on the part of the liquor party during the voting, of which there was much evidence. Mr. J. R. Dougall was re-elected President, with a large and influential staff of vice-presidents and general committee. The appointment of Secretary was left to the Executive, deep regret being expressed that private business had compelled Mr. J. H. Carson to resign from that position which he had occupied for many years to the satisfaction of prohibition workers, and the great benefit of the cause.

A MANITOBA MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Manitoba Grand Council, R.T. of T., was held in Winnipeg on Feb. 11th and following days. Reports were very cheering. It was shown that the Select Degree had made an increase of about one hundred and fifty per cent. The report on Political Action called upon the Dominion Government to carry out its pledges by the enactment of prohibition following up the plebiscite. The Grand Councilor elect is S. H. Healey, of Virden; Grand Secretary, Dr. Beath, of Winnipeg.

FACTS AND FIGURES

FOR THINKERS AND SPEAKERS.

THREE BEERS A DAY, OR

1 Barrel of flour,
50 Pounds of sugar,
20 Pounds of corn starch,
10 Pounds of macaroni,
10 Quarts of beans,
4 Twelve-pound hams,
1 Bushel sweet potatoes,
3 Bushels Irish potatoes,
10 Pounds of coffee,
10 Pounds of raisins,
10 Pounds of rice,
20 Pounds of crackers,
100 Bars of soap,
3 Twelve-pound turkeys,
5 Quarts of cranberries,
10 Bunches of celery,
10 Pounds of prunes,
4 Dozen oranges,
10 Pounds of mixed nuts,

FOUR BIG BARRELS HEAPED UP! and in the bottom of the last barrel, a purse with two pockets. In one pocket a five dollar gold piece marked, "a dress for mother," in the other pocket a ten dollar bill, marked, "to buy shoes for the children."

Working men! Look at that list. What is it? That's what three beers a day for a year would buy. Do you hear that, drinking men? Three beers a day would buy that whole list, and a five dollar dress for mother, and ten dollars' worth of shoes for the children thrown in. Every drinking man that buys three beers a day could send to his home such a Christmas donation every year.

Fathers, look at that list.

Show it to mother.

Show it to the children.

Ask them how they would like such a donation for Christmas next year.

Three beers a day will buy it!—*National Advocate.*

NEW YORK'S LIQUOR BILL.

No one will accuse the New York press with being otherwise than friendly to the liquor interests. According to one of its reports, the men of this city during 1898 spent for wines, liquors and cigars, \$109,000,000. This is \$34,000,000 more than the entire annual clothing bill of the city; \$6,000,000 more than the amount spent by all the people for groceries. Men paid \$20,000,000 more last year for liquor and cigars than was spent in the city for boots and shoes, coal and wood, gas, car fares and hats. The liquor and cigar bill of the men folks of Gotham was \$89,000,000 more than the women spent for jewellery, dresses, hats, cloaks and capes, entertainments, perfumery and cosmetics, candy, ice cream and soda water. The women spent for these articles, \$40,484,305.

The whole city government of Greater New York cost, during 1898, \$77,559,332 or \$32,000,000 less than the drink and cigar bill of the city.

There were built in the city, in 1898, 5,312 residences, valued at \$91,075,404. The money spent for the articles drank and smoked last year would have built all the residences put up in the city for the housing of families, and 1,000 just like them in addition.

The increase in real estate values in 1898 in the city was \$63,180,317, just \$40,000,000 less than the liquor and cigar bill.

The \$109,000,000 spent for liquors and cigars would have paid the regular wages of 30,000 carpenters, painters, stone masons, tailors, women coat-makers and bootmakers, for a whole year.

Last year the public schools of the greater city cost \$12,003,611, about one-eighth of the amount spent for liquors and cigars.

These figures are compiled from statistics furnished *The World* by Carroll D. Wright, of the National Labor Bureau; the Controller of New York, and the heads of the Bureau of Vital Statistics, of this city.—*Exchange.*

THE GREAT DESTROYER OF THE ANGLO-SAXON RACE.

Mr. T. W. Russell, member of the English Parliament, in an address at Belfast, Ireland, referred to the history of the members belonging to a young men's society in County Tyrone, thirty-five years ago, and declared that every one whose life had turned out a failure had been ruined by drink. He described the appearance of the most brilliant of the youthful band laboring on a wharf at New York, brought low by the mecker. Drink had the country by the throat. When A. M. Sullivan

lay on his death-bed he sent for the speaker, pointed out to him that the Irish party was going to be captured by the drink-power, and charged him never to give up the battle. The public house had become a more potent force in politics than church or chapel. The apathy of Christian men and ministers was astounding. The scorn and vengeance of a trade grown rich by widows' tears and children's cries were almost enough to make one quail. Drink was the great destroyer of the Anglo-Saxon race; Satan's prime agency in the unmaking of men. The lecturer had changed some of his views, but those on the drink question he had never modified in the slightest degree.—*N. Y. Advocate.*

"IT NEVER PAID ME BETTER."

In an address at the recent annual meeting of the United Kingdom Alliance, held at Manchester, England, Rev. Charles Garrett said:

"I met with a brewer, a good man in his way, who had been a member and office-bearer in our church for years. He was a man kindly, generous, ready to help anybody in distress, and with a kindly word for anybody in trouble. He met me; we had a hearty shake of the hand. He said: 'Well, Mr. Garrett, I suppose you are as earnest in teetotalism as ever.' 'Yes,' I said, 'rather more.' 'Well,' he said, 'it's all right, you know; it pleases you and it doesn't hurt me. The fact is, I was never doing better than I am doing now.' Not long afterward I saw his second son coming out of the yard in delirium tremens with three men struggling with him, a fine young fellow and broad-chested. I saw them as they wrestled with him; his veins standing out like ropes on his forehead, and his eyes flashing. I saw him fall; they carried him in. Half an hour afterward I heard a whisper, 'he is dead,' and I went in to try and comfort the family; and when I entered the room, there was the body, and on that side was the mother drunk, and on the other side the brother drunk. As I stood and looked on that horrible scene I heard that father's words again, 'It never paid me better.'"

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"Temperance in a'l Nations" is an interesting and important work, based upon the World's Temperance Congress held at Chicago during the great exhibition.

It is in two handsome cloth bound volumes, comprising over 1,100 pages, containing a verbatim report of the proceeding of the Congress, together with a great collection of papers and addresses that were presented, dealing with various phases of the temperance reform and the liquor question. It is practically a statement of the position and a history of the progress of the temperance movement in every part of the world.

A few copies of this valuable work are now at the office of the CAMP FIRE. The publishers' price is Five Dollars. We can send a set post paid to any address in Canada for TWO DOLLARS.

CAMPAIGN EQUIPMENT.

There is a hard struggle ahead of Canadian prohibitionists. They will obtain magnificent results from the victory won at the polls in September last. There is, however, hard fighting ahead of us before the people's mandate is embodied in legislation, well enforced.

Anyone who wants to be well equipped for this campaign will act wisely in sending to the CAMP FIRE office One Dollar, and in return being credited with a year's subscription to this journal, and also receiving by mail, postpaid, the two valuable works named below.

The Vanguard, all numbers issued, in neat cloth binding, is the most important Canadian contribution yet made to the literature of the temperance and prohibition reform, containing over 650 pages full of invaluable argument, facts and statistics, all reliable, fresh and good, fully and carefully indexed.

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