

The Canada Citizen

AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

A Journal devoted to the advocacy of Prohibition, and the promotion of social progress and moral reform.

Published Every Friday by the

CITIZEN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Office, 8 King Street East, Toronto.

SUBSCRIPTION: ONE DOLLAR A YEAR, strictly in advance; six months, FIFTY CENTS; three months, TWENTY-FIVE CENTS.

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LODGES, DIVISIONS AND ALL TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES are earnestly requested to send us items of temperance and prohibition news.

All communications to be addressed to

F. S. SPENCE, - - - MANAGER.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1883.

SHOP LICENSES IN TORONTO.

We reprint, in another column, an article from the *Daily Globe*, in which that journal strongly endorses the position of the Toronto Auxiliary of the Dominion Alliance in reference to the issue of shop licenses. The Alliance made a strenuous effort last year to secure the enactment by the City Council of a by-law requiring the sale of liquors to be entirely separated from the sale of groceries. The Ontario *Liquor License Act* contains the following provision:—

"The Council of every City, Town, Village or Township may, by by-law to be passed before the first day of March, in any year, limit the number of shop licenses to be granted therein for the then ensuing license year, beginning on the first day of May, and in such by-law, or by any other by-law passed before the first day of March, may require the shop-keeper to confirm the business of his shop solely and exclusively to the keeping and selling of liquor, or may impose any restrictions upon the mode of carrying on such traffic as the Council may think fit."

Largely signed petitions were presented to the City Council, praying them to pass a by-law, as authorized by the above clause, to separate the sale of liquor from the sale of other goods. Large and important deputations waited upon the Council to urge the request of the petitions; a large public meeting, presided over by the Mayor, endorsed the movement; the best men in the Council supported it; but in utter defiance of public opinion and the best interests of the community, a large majority burked the by-law in the interests of the liquor traffic.

The Alliance now call upon the better disposed electors of the community to rally into line for the coming elections, and support only those candidates who can be relied upon to support this measure of reform. This call ought to meet with an enthusiastic response. There is no reason at all for the maintenance of the shop-license system. It is unjust to other lines of business to single out the grocery trade, and give it special monopoly of liquor-selling. It is unjust to respectable grocers to attach to their otherwise honorable occupation the stigma of association with the infamous liquor traffic. The best men in the business must see their calling disgraced, that the worst men may have an exclusive and money-making privilege. It is unjust to right-thinking citizens to put what they detest alongside of what they require, and

insult their better feelings in supplying their necessities. It is wrong to attempt to respectabilize the liquor trade by connecting it with what is right and required. It is wicked to do anything that will tend to facilitate the introduction of the perils of drink to the sanctity of home; and it is cruelly unjust to reformed men to force temptation upon them, even when they stay away from the places set apart for liquor-selling and liquor-drinking.

The Dominion Parliament has recognized public sentiment in the direction of abolishing this excuseless agency for the cultivation of intemperance. Let us show to the whole country that moral feeling in Toronto is not so far below par, that we will not rid ourselves of an admitted nuisance and curse, because some office-seekers are opposed to doing it; but let us rally sensibly and unitedly to the support of men who will do what is right and what those who elect them want to have them do.

CORRECTION.

We much regret that a couple of mistakes were made by our printers last week in hurrying our paper through. The items of "Temperance News," on page 184 had over them the misplaced heading "Intemperance News," and an article on "New Developments on the Lager Beer Question" that appeared on page 183 had some lines left out at the end of its closing paragraph. It should have terminated as follows:

"It also tends directly to cause induration of the liver, and fatty degeneration of the heart, both of which tend to premature death. Hence large death rates would naturally be expected among this class of drinkers, and life insurance statistics verify this expectation. In view of these new developments we wait to hear further from the Rev. Howard Crosby and company.—*Living Issue.*"

MATTERS OF MORE IMPORTANCE.

A gentleman living not far from Vincennes, Ind., said: "Well temperance is all right enough, but there are matters of more importance before the people now." Two nights after he made the above remark, a spring wagon was stopped in front of his house about twelve o'clock. He was called to his door. His wife looked out of the window and saw six men carrying something on a large door or wide board. She guessed what it was in an instant, and giving a wild, frantic scream, she jumped out of bed and cried, "My boy! O, my boy! What shall I do? He is dead, he was killed! I know he was killed! O, I've been fearing that would happen! O, that cursed whisky!" Sure enough it was her son, brought home nearly dead. He had been drunk and engaged in a saloon brawl. He was brutally beaten into almost a shapeless mass, and was stabbed in the right side. But for the timely interference of friends he would have been murdered. Yet his father says there are things of more importance than temperance.—*Ohio Good Templar.*

A SQUARE DRINK.

"Come, Tom, have a pint—I the money will stand."
 "No, I shan't drink the price of a square yard of land."
 "Drink what?" "Why, the price (look, this fact is a shaker)
 Of a square yard of land, sixty pounds to an acre—
 Four thousand eight hundred and forty yards clear;
 About sixpence a yard, or a pint of strong beer!
 Nay, some land in this country to buy you'd contrive,
 Not at sixty pounds ten, but at thirty pounds five.
 Four square yards for sixpence! Then, don't be a fool,
 And drink a small garden at one single pull.
 Six feet every day, neither greater nor less,
 To sow radishes in, or some mustard and cress.
 Stop one pint a day, you'd have bought in one year
 Seven hundred square yards for a few drinks of beer!
 Do the sum for yourself, and you'll find it quite true
 That the temperance pledge is the best thing for you.
 Then don't be a fool; join the teetotal band,
 And don't drink any more square yards of land."

—*British Workman.*

In Canada, where, in many places, good land is only worth three or four dollars an acre, a five cent glass of beer would purchase about sixty square yards of land.