

IOWA'S NEW LAW.

The law has been passed in Iowa providing for a tax of \$600 on the property of persons carrying on the business of selling liquors, and for the payment of the tax quarterly in advance in localities where 65 per cent. of the voters, by petition, have signified their willingness to allow such payment. The payment of the tax is to be a bar to prosecution under the prohibition law. The sales of liquor are not legalized, and a failure to pay the tax brings down all the present penalties for violation. No sales are to be made on Sundays, or between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. Sales to minors, drunkards or graduates of Keeley institutes are prohibited. No music, games, tables or attractions will be allowed, and no female persons shall be employed around places where liquor is sold. A law like this is neither equitable nor just. With one hand it is provided that it is wicked and illegal to do what with the other it is declared you can do if you only have the money. Like all summary laws the Iowa liquor law is preeminently tyrannical.

THE DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

As far as the trade is concerned, the session of the Dominion Parliament up to Tuesday's session was a blank. The speech from the throne contained no reference to Prohibition, and in the debate on the address, prolonged as it was, the question was not once touched upon. This would not indicate that the subject was of such all-absorbing interest in the country as some of the brethren affect to believe.

On Tuesday, however, there was a change. The great Prohibition delegation waited upon the government with demands for the immediate destruction of the liquor interest and the rejection of the French treaty. On the same day the tariff changes were announced, and they concern much directly affecting the trade. Coming so late these matters will have to stand for discussion until our next issue.

The prospects are that the session will be a long one, and that many matters affecting trade interests will come up.

THE EXCELSIOR LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

It can well be laid down as a cardinal principle that it is the duty of every Canadian to support, if possible, home institutions. It, therefore, gives us the greatest pleasure to advocate the claims of the Excelsior Life Insurance Co., of Toronto, of which one of the staunchest and liveliest men of the country—to wit, E. F. Clarke, M.P.P., is president. In our last number we gave the statement made at the fourth general annual meeting. In this number we merely wish to emphasize the claims of the company to consideration. Its figures show that the business of the company is conducted on a sound and conservative basis, the total

expenses of management being but \$29,965, while the gross surplus on policy holders' account is not less than \$355,538. Last year's business indicated an increase of half a million dollars, a more than remarkable showing, considering the general financial situation. On the board of directors are many of the leading business men of the country.

A REDUCTION IN MALT.

FINANCE Minister Foster delivered his Budget speech on Tuesday. Among the changes in the tariff he announced half a cent reduction on malt. There will be no change as regards spirits.

A HUNDRED years ago the hotel keepers of England organized for self-protection and for mutual benefit as regards the families of members of the trade. They started the *London Morning Advertiser*, out of the profits of which over £400,000 has been expended in weekly allowances and temporary assistance. The Licensed Victuallers' School, the child of the Incorporated Society, has educated, clothed, and maintained 2,620 children at an outlay since 1807, when the Subscription Fund was opened, of something like £200,000, mainly derived from voluntary contributions, so that the benevolent expenditure for all purposes may be taken as close on £700,000, that is \$3,500,000.

THE value of advertising in a daily paper is well illustrated by the following which appeared in the paper from which it is taken among the news notes, and without anything to show that it was an advertisement:

The Hoffman House, the only place where you can have a good breakfast for the most reasonable amount of cash.

Now what kind of influence can that have on anybody? In the first place, it is an insult to every other hotel and restaurant keeper in the town, and in the next, having nothing about it to show that it is an advertisement, the newspaper fathers both the statement and the insult.

We thank the *Monetary Times* for a friendly notice of THE ADVOCATE, and we quite agree with our able and influential contemporary that "strong and angry language with respect to well-meaning men on the teetotal side of the argument," should be avoided. We also agree that if such language is sometimes used by our friends in opposing their enemies, it is "hardly to be wondered at, for the intemperate zeal of the temperance crank leads him to say things of those who do not agree with him that no man should be expected to stand in silence." It might be possible that we have ourselves occasionally put a little extra strength into our talk, but it is desperately trying to have men frequently utter what they must know to be untruths, what, at least, a little investigation would prove to them were so, and to bow and scrape with a humble "excuse me."

PROHIBITION.

A Deputation Waits Upon the Dominion Government.

The Premier and the French Treaty.

OTTAWA, ONT., March 27.—The deputation appointed to wait on the Dominion Government and to endeavor to secure a promise that a Prohibitory measure would be submitted to Parliament in the near future, crowded the Railway Committee room to the doors at noon to-day.

All the ministry were present except the Hon. Messrs. Foster and Haggart.

The deputation asked for Prohibition out and out, and the rejection of the French Treaty.

Sir John Thompson refused to pledge the Government in either case. He said the French Treaty would not interfere with Prohibition, but was not favorable to it.

The case of the temperance people was laid before the Ministers by Major Bond of Montreal, F. S. Spence, Mr. Alexander, W. W. Buchanan, of Hamilton, Walter Paul, of Montreal, and S. F. Heustis, of Halifax.

Mr. Spence said that the voice of the people demanded Prohibition, and he protested against the French treaty as being an obstacle in the way of Prohibition.

Mrs. Alexander came as the representative of 10,000 members of the W.C.T.U.

Mr. Buchanan said that the legislation on Prohibition was not commensurate with the development of temperance sentiment.

Mr. Walter Paul was present as a representative of Quebec and Mr. Heustis as the spokesman of Nova Scotia.

Sir John Thompson told the deputation that it was out of the question to expect prohibitory legislation this session. Such a change would seriously affect the revenue of the country, and it would be absurd to think of making a change before the budget speech was delivered. He also said that he could make no promise for the future until he had studied the report of the Prohibition Commission. He needed light both on the nature of the legislation and its enforcement. In appointing the commission it was not the intention of the Government to put the question off for a more convenient occasion. He promised that a preliminary report of the commission would be laid before the House in a few days, and the final report would be forthcoming before the end of the session. About the French treaty he said that he did not know if it would be ratified this session, but if it were it would contain nothing that would be prejudicial to the temperance movement. He promised that the Government would give the whole matter its serious consideration.

THE BLOOD OF DIOMED.

A WRITER in a contemporary greatly observes that "the most remarkable fact in equine history is that the descendants of the first Derby winner, imp. Diomed, have been so bred that they dominate all other importations of Thoroughbreds in the production of extreme speed in our running horses, such as Domino and Salvatore; and in our trotting horses, such as Nancy Hanks, Maud S., Sunol, Alex, Directum, Arion and each of the remaining twenty-three with records of 2:10 or better; and in our pacing horses, such as Mascot, Hal Pointer, Flying Jib, Jay-cye-see, Johnston, Direct and Robert J., the gamest and fleetest in each class tracing to the infamed Diomed Lexington, and nearly all of them tracing to Diomed through both sire and dam." Of all the twaddle that has been written about the supposed or alleged influence of running blood in the production of trotting speed this is easily first. And yet it is what might be expected. Diomed is not only responsible for the best runners and trotters, but also for the best pacers. Diomed is the champion of all paces and also several other kinds of champions. His sire has a trotting record of 2:17. His grandsire was brother to a 2:17 trotter, they being by the trotter Hysdyk's Hambletonian. The dam of Directum is a trotter with a record of 2:51, and her sire was a trotter with a record of 2:27. None of this blood made Directum a trotter. Certainly not. It was the Diomed cross, back five or six generations. Flying Jib, named among the pacers whose speed is due to Diomed, is an infamed Hambletonian. Robert J. is by the developed trotter Hartford, 2:22, dam by the developed trotter Jay Gould, 2:14, and, like Flying Jib, he is infamed to Hambletonian. Hal Pointer is a pacing-bred pacer, but that blood does him no good. It is the far-away Diomed strain that leaves the whole lump, although as a matter of fact there are not three instances on record of a Thoroughbred horse pacing—probably not one instance. Arion is by the trotter Elettioneer and out of a mare by the trotter Nutwood, 2:18, and therefore he is infamed to Hambletonian. Does it ever occur to the Diomed parities that possibly trotting instinct, derived from trotting ancestors, has something to do with making these horses trot and pace fast? It does not. The sublimations of common sense do not penetrate the cavernous recesses of their intellectual mushroom factories, the only light therein being from the flickering will-o'-the-wisp of their distorted fancies.—*American Sportsman*.

Teacher (to small boy).—"Tommy, give me an example of a hairless animal that take to water."

Tommy.—"My pap fills half the bath."

Teacher.—"Why, Tommy, how can you speak so of your father?"

Tommy.—"Well, he does. His head is as bald as an egg-plat. But he don't take to water, not much; whiskey is his lay-out."

It had been over four months since they were engaged, and as they read the evening paper together, he said:

"See, my dear, only \$20 for a suit!"

"Is it a wedding suit?" she asked, sweetly.

"No, a business suit."

"Well, I meant business," she answered.

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