

causes a tenth part of those melancholy cases, in which a Coroner's investigation is required! We believe that every inquest costs the public £5, if such a paltry consideration may be mentioned, in connexion with the life of a fellow-being. For the sake of this £1675, we subject ourselves to an expenditure of £13,917; knowing it at the same time to be morally certain, that the system which yields this odious tax will involve thousands of our citizens in crime, and bring many of them to an untimely end. How long will it be ere men's eyes be opened to see this fatal mistake, and permit the application of an effectual remedy?

PETITIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE.

We understand that the Order of the Sons of Temperance, both in Upper and Lower Canada, and the Temperance public in general, are petitioning Parliament to enact the Wisconsin Law in this country. The practical working of that law has not yet been fully tested, but we have no doubt that wherever it is faithfully enforced, it will present an effectual barrier to the spread of intemperance. Its chief feature consists in making the vendor liable for all the consequences, and in requiring him to give a bond of \$1000 with two sureties, before he can obtain a license, so as to secure a fund, out of which damages may be obtained. We repeat, that if this law can be enforced, it will secure the object; but there seems to be an unaccountable and lamentable determination, both among rulers and people, that no penalties shall be exacted against the licensed or the unlicensed tavern keeper. But as unanimity is of the utmost importance, we would exhort all to join with the Sons in petitioning for the same law: it is only by unanimity that our petitions are likely to make any impression on Parliament. The following is a copy of the petition:—

To the Honourable the Legislative Council of the Province of Canada.

The petition of the Inhabitants of the ———

Humbly Sheweth:

That the Laws of this Province relating to the granting of Licenses for the sale of Spirituous Liquors, are injurious to the general prosperity and well being of Her Majesty's subjects, and require the consideration of your honorable House, for the amendment thereof.

It is not necessary that we expatiate before Your Honorable House, upon the pernicious properties of Spirit, the detestable nature of drunkenness, or the wickedness and miseries that are produced by it. Your Honorable House must be fully convinced by the records of death and crime, how much the use of spirits is abused, and how much that abuse contributes to the disease, wickedness, and misery, which pervades certain portions of our population.

Neither is it necessary to remind you that the preservation of virtue and morality, where they exist, and the recovery of them where they are lost, are the most valuable purposes of Government; that Laws which do not promote these ends are useless, and those that obviate them injurious; that the government that does not lead the people back to virtue, but plunges them deeper into vice, is no longer a sacred Institution, because it is no longer a benefit to society.

Your Petitioners therefore pray, that, in consideration of the prosperity and well-being of Her Majesty's subjects in this Province, your Honorable House will be pleased to enact the following:

LICENSE LAW.

No person shall hereafter be allowed to vend or retail Spirituous Liquors, until he shall, in addition to any other requirements of the Law, have executed to the Treasurer or other proper Officer of the County, City, Town or Village in which he may reside or carry on such business, a bond in the penal sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds, with three or more sufficient sureties, who shall be residents of the place where such business is carried on,

conditioned to pay all damages the community or individuals may sustain by reason of such traffic; to support all paupers widows and orphans; pay the expenses of all civil and criminal prosecutions made, growing out of, or justly attributable to such traffic.

The bond, above required, shall be filed with the proper Officer, and a copy of the same, properly authenticated, shall be received in evidence in all Courts of Justice in this Province.

It shall be the duty of the Officer with whom such bond may be filed, to deliver on demand, a copy of the same to any person who may claim to be injured by such traffic.

It shall be lawful for any married woman to institute and maintain in her own name, a suit on any such bond, for all damages sustained by herself or children on account of such traffic; and the money when collected, shall be handed over to her, for the use of herself and children.

No suit for Liquor Bills shall be entertained by any of the Courts of this Province, and whenever it shall be made to appear to any Court before which a suit may be pending on a Promissory Note, that such note was given in whole or in part for Liquor Bills, such Court shall immediately dismiss such suit at the costs of the Plaintiff.

On the trial of any suit under the provisions of this Act, the cause or foundation of which shall be the act of an individual under the influence of liquor, it shall only be necessary, in order to sustain the action, to prove that the Principal in the bond sold or gave liquor to the person (so intoxicated or in liquor) whose acts are complained of on that day previous to the commission of the offence.

Whenever a person shall become a County, City or Village charge, by reason of intemperance, a suit may be instituted by the proper authorities on the bond of any person who may have been in the habit of selling or giving liquor to such person or pauper so becoming a public charge.

Any person against whom a judgment may be obtained under the provisions of this Act shall be entitled to compel a contribution towards paying the judgment against him against all persons engaged in such traffic in such County, City, Town or Village, who may have sold or given liquor to such persons committing an offence or becoming a public charge.

Any person who shall vend or retail, or for the purpose of avoiding the provisions of this Act, give away Spirituous Liquors without first giving a bond required by the First Section of this Act, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined in a sum not less than £10, or not more than £100, and be imprisoned in the County Jail, not less than Ten Days, nor more than Six Months, and shall be liable in all respects, to the public and to individuals, the same as he would have been had he given the bond required in the First Section of this Act.

All suits authorized by the provisions of this Act, may be commenced and prosecuted before Judges of the Division Courts, when the damages claimed do not exceed £10, although the penalty in the bond may exceed that amount, and the judgment shall be for the damages proved.

This Law, your Petitioners are confident, will be found at once useful to the Finance and beneficial to the People, at once powerful in its effects and easy in its execution; a Law by which a middle way is proposed between Prohibition and License; by which reformation may be produced by those gradations which have always been found necessary where inveterate vices are to be counteracted. And your Petitioners, us in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

We rejoice to find, from the following extract which we take from the *Guelph Herald*, that in that locality at least the District Council is composed of men, who not only know but are willing to perform their duty. The scourge of intemperance would be comparatively light, and would, no doubt, soon entirely disappear, if all the District Councils throughout Canada, and other officers appointed to administer the laws, were acting their part in accordance with their respective oaths:—

CONVICTION OF A MAGISTRATE FOR DEFRAUDING THE REVENUE
At a Petty Sessions of the Peace, held at Fergus on the 17th ult.—present, John Harland, Alexander Harvey, and John Wall.