

THOUGHTS BY THE WAY.

It is sometimes the case that facts and figures are "cooked" to serve a bad purpose. The saying is that figures do even sometimes lie, but we suppose this applies to politics only.

In the case of every letter from the physicians referred to that is in my possession, all either commence their letters or close them by referring to the terribly increasing habit of cigarette smoking by boys under twenty years of age, and no observant person can walk the streets of Toronto, either day or night, without being appalled at the number of boys, very much under the age of twenty years, with cigarettes in their mouths.

There is a great deal to be said from a moral standpoint on this question. No boy can cultivate the habit of cigarette smoking without creating fears in the minds of his parents or guardians that it will eventually lead to something worse.

If all parents are not as thoroughly anxious about the moral well-being of their sons as they might and should be, there are few, at any rate, who are not careful of their health. In no way does it pay to raise a family of sickly boys and girls.

It is on beer drinking itself that the testimony principally bears, but here is a physician who tells us of the effects of lager beer, that drink that is supposed to create no hurtful effects, and which is so largely indulged in at certain seasons of the year.

Coming back again to the regular beer drinker, whether it be lager beer or any other kind, like damaging testimony follows. Our papers, secular and religious, are literally filled up with advertisements of the quack medicine manufacturer, who draw very largely from those who are troubled with Bright's disease, which seems to be, like catarrh, one of the complaints that is growing in our country.

"It produces fatty degeneration of the heart, liver and kidneys. Nothing will degenerate the organic tissues so rapidly as to use beer every day, and year after year. It coarsens a man in appearance, in morals, in mental fibre, in physical constitution. It is the beverage of the Bill Sykes, of the vulgar ruffian, of the beastly tramp."

Don't jump this column, men and boys, because I have given you these few hard nuts to crack. Cigarette smoking is either a good thing or it is not. Let us get at the bottom facts in any matter and stand by these. If it is good, let us bring forth the testimony and advocate cigarette smoking generally; if bad, then be done with it, and use all our personal influence against it.

What about your boy, kind reader? This testimony is voluntarily given by men eminent in the profession, and can undoubtedly be supplemented by volumes of similar testimony. There is need for spreading such facts, in view of the spreading of this habit amongst the boys.

Let us leave the boys just here, only hoping that the gathering together of this evidence will not be in vain, both on the boys and those who have the care of them. What of the bigger boys and the men, who are so fond of telling us that whilst to drink gin and rum may be injurious to the health, light wine and beer have no such an effect.

Shortly before he laid aside the pen for all time, he undertook to interview ten of the leading physicians of the City of Toledo, where he had long been a resident, a city noted for its beer guzzling. They, with one accord, gave damaging testimony against the beer drinking habit.

Without quoting their names, we will here just select some of their most telling sentences when interviewed. Says the first man on whom Mr. Locke called, a physician of thirty-five years' practice "It kills quicker than any other liquor. Pneumonia, pleurisy, fever, etc., have a first mortgage on the beer drinker."

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On the same principle as the cigarette smoking with the boys, if the beer drinking is a good thing let us have plenty of it, but contrariwise, if not, then likewise be done with it. As the expression is sometimes forcibly put, let the advocates of these customs "put up or shut up."

The Canada Temperance Act.

RESULTS OF THE VOTING SO FAR:

Table with columns: PLACE, VOTES POLLED (For, Agnat), MAJORITIES (For, Agnat), DATE OF ELECTION. Lists various locations and their respective voting results.

N.B.—In the preceding table a place that has voted more than once has the different votes indicated by the figures (1), (2), (3) after the name of place. Figures printed in italics are for first or second votes in places in which a later vote has been taken than that so printed.

SUMMARY.

Nova Scotia has eighteen counties and one city, of which thirteen counties have adopted the Act. New Brunswick has fourteen counties and two cities, of which ten counties and two cities have adopted the Act.

In all, up to the present time, 81 cities and counties have voted upon the Scott Act, and 63 have adopted it. Nine counties and cities voted twice and 3 three times, making an aggregate of 93 contests, out of which we have been victorious in 72.

The aggregate votes cast in all the contests have been:— For the Scott Act. 162328 Against " 112508

Net Scott Act majority. 49820 If we omit all voting but the last, in those places which have voted more than once we get the following as the latest vote:— For the Scott Act. 147228 Against " 102508

It is more than eight years since the Scott Act was first voted upon and adopted in different localities, and no county or city has yet REPEALED IT, although many votings have taken place on the question of repeal.

PRESERVE THIS PAPER. YOU WILL NEED THIS TABLE FOR REFERENCE.

ANOTHER BATTLE COMING.

Sherbrooke, Quebec, Organized—The Scott Act to be Submitted.

A mass convention of various temperance organizations, Y. M. C. A.'s, and church societies, was held some days ago at Sherbrooke, Quebec, for the purpose of organizing a branch of the Dominion Alliance.

Rev. James Kines was appointed chairman, and M. J. R. Ball acted as secretary.

The convention was organized and appointed a committee on resolutions which later on presented a report that was adopted in the following form.

"Believing that the drinking usages of society and the traffic in intoxicants can be best combated by a union of all temperance workers for prohibitory purposes—or for measures tending in that direction, we hereby unite ourselves as Church Societies, W.C.T.U.'s, Y.M.C.A.'s, Good Templars and Royal Templars, with a well established organization known as 'The Dominion Alliance for the total suppression of the liquor traffic.'"

The following is our declaration of principles:

- 1. We declare ourselves the friends of all and the enemy of no human being in the world; our motto is "For God and Homo and Humanity" and our warfare is against whatever wars with these. 2. Knowing the liquor traffic to be such an enemy, we declare our purpose to work through every legitimate channel for the curtailment of its influence and its ultimate annihilation.

SCOTT ACT.

Knowing the License Act of this Province to be a failure in materially checking the growth of intemperance, its only features seeming to be to give to a few monopoly in a business which success to be profitable, but known to be ruinous besides adding somewhat to the City's revenue. And believing the Canada Temperance Act to be a much more restrictive measure, checking the power of the traffic, on well defined lines, and as it has been found wherever moderately well enforced to serve the end we seek much better than any other legislation hitherto enacted. Therefore resolved, that as soon as deemed best by this Alliance, we will proceed to bring said act before the people in this Electoral Division.

CITY COUNCIL.

Whereas a petition signed by more than 500 citizens of Sherbrooke was presented to our City Council, praying that "Shop and Saloon Licenses" should not be issued by them this year; And whereas said Council or a majority thereof, did from one pretext or another refuse the prayer of said petitioners; Therefore resolved, that this convention places on record its disapproval and condemnation of such obstructive tactics on the part of said majority; and further to record its thanks to Councillors Foss and Bryant for their expressed purpose, by their votes; to grant the petitioners' prayer."

The meeting then proceeded to the election of officers with the following result:—

President, Rev. James Kines; Secretary, J. R. Ball; Treasurer, C. W. Cate; Vice-Presidents, Rev. Messrs. G. Thorneloe, A. Lee, Dr. Barnes, W. K. Shortt, A. Burwash, I. W. McLaughlin, and Mr. H. A. Elkins; Council, Wm. Hale, Capt. Bennetts, E. W. Abbott, John Blue, and Arthur Mills.

The city of Sherbrooke has been much excited recently over a vigorous agitation for the abolition of liquor licenses. A petition signed by more than 500 citizens was presented to the Council asking that no licenses be issued. The Council, however, refused the request of the petitioners, and at the close of the convention to which we have just alluded, a great mass meeting was held in the city hall to protest against this action of the Council. Mr. Kines acted as chairman, and rousing addresses were delivered by Rev. A. Lee, Dr. Barnes, Rev. Mr. Thorneloe, Rev. J. McKilligan, and Rev. Mr. Burwash. The meeting adopted the resolution already quoted as having been adopted by the Convention.