

Act were defiance or evasion of the law, contrabandism and perjury, together with an increase instead of a decrease of drunkenness, clandestine drinking, always leading to more excess, deterioration of the liquor, demoralization of the trade, and the substitution of whiskey, as the liquor most easily smuggled, for milder beverages such as lager and cider. An unlicensed and unregulated took the place of a licensed and regulated trade; and it was a notable and instructive part of the experience of the contest that the tavern-keepers of the worst class were not strenuous opponents, in fact were often secretly friends, of the Act: they knew that the practical result, so far as men who had no scruple in evading the law were concerned, would be simply escape from the license fee. Recent inquiry assures us that the fruits of Prohibition in the North-West, where it is nominally enforced by the Mounted Police, are no better than they were in the East; that, as regards the quality of the liquor they are worse; and that instead of an extinction of the taste, an artificial excitement of it is the general result. The repeal vote was essentially popular, the politicians fearing to take any part.

Let all due honour be rendered to those who took part in what they believed to be a moral crusade against a great social evil. It was not their fault if the movement drew into it some whose object was to carry the bag, and who kicked away the Temperance ladder as soon as they had clambered to their mark. Had not the first crusade of all its crafty and self-seeking Bohemond as well as its pure and devoted Godfrey? Nor is it possible that enthusiasm, however genuine and well warranted, should not have fanaticism as its shadow. That shadow fell darkly on some clauses of the Scott Act by which, for an object assumed to be better than justice, the safeguards of justice were set aside, hearsay evidence was admitted against the accused, appeal from the arbitrary jurisdiction of Prohibitionist magistrates was denied, and, worse than all, husband and wife were compelled in defiance of the laws of affection and in breach of their marriage vow to give evidence