

We heartily congratulate the citizens of Toronto upon the efficient work that is being done this year by the Board of Ontario License Commissioners. The strong element of integrity that characterizes the new Commission, is making itself felt and seen, and the result will tell well for the morality of our city. The gentlemen who constitute the Board, are taking a personal interest in the carrying out of their duties, in many cases directly visiting and inspecting the premises of applicants for licenses, and generally, insisting upon strict compliance with the requirements of the law.

NO MORE TINKERING.

The miserable and disgraceful spectacle of a handful of irresponsible legislators emasculating and whittling away the Scott Act, and of the House of Commons wrangling and quarrelling over license laws, and going as far as possible in the same direction as the Senate, ought to teach temperance men to take to heart the lesson that ought to have been plain enough to everyone before. From year to year, at convention after convention, we spend our time in tinkering and patching up the wretched system of restricting and attempting to regulate that sin-producing liquor traffic. Men of sound principle and advanced thought ought to be above such inconsistency, and ought to have too much wisdom to spend time and energy in efforts so comparatively unproductive and vain. The time has come—in fact, had come long ago—for more decided action. The Alliance should have insisted, as it readily could, on a straight vote this year in the House of Commons on the question of immediate total prohibition. The people of Canada realize the gravity of the situation. They are beginning to find out that legislators show too much respect to the whiskey party that stands solidly united and enforces its demands, and too little attention to the petitions of the temperance people who talk out-and-out prohibition, but do not combine to back their principles by their political power, as do their wiser opponents, who can control more legislation though comparatively weak in numbers, influence and means. There are already rumors of a general election at an early date. Even if these should prove unfounded, the present Parliament will die a natural death before very long. Now is the time for quiet, but compact and determined organization in every electoral constituency in the Dominion, and our friends if true to the cause, and if as earnest as the whiskey party, can take a stand that will make that cause triumphant in a national law of total prohibition, enacted before three more years have been added to our country's history.

THE LATEST DODGE.

The Anti-Scott Act party has resorted to another attempt to get an expression of opinion in favor of their paltry little beer-and-wine amendment and three-fifths-vote hobby. They are too late. The scheme wont work. Last winter they issued petitions, appealed frantically to the public, and strove in vain to get a petition signed extensively enough to warrant their presenting it to Parliament, but the whole thing fell flat. The Alliance at once issued counter petitions, which were circulated everywhere, signed by great numbers of people, and in an almost incredibly short space of time we fairly flooded Parliament with our demands for total prohibition, and against the weakening alterations that the whiskey men proposed to make in the Scott Act. The liquor petitions were withdrawn: none of them ever came before the House; and it seemed as if we were to have the thing all our own way: but an artful dodge was being worked: our Scott Act amendment bill passed the Commons, came before the Senate, and while it was being considered, the following resolution was sprung upon the House, and carried through by a vote of 42 to 20:—

"That the dealing in ales, porter, lager-beer, cider and light wines containing not more than 12 per cent. of alcohol, be exempt from the operation of 'The Canada Temperance Act of 1878.'"

No one pretends that the Senate is in any sense a representative body, yet its irresponsible members actually undertook by a vote of 42 to annul legislation that the public have so far endorsed by a majority of about 45,000.

About the same time this trick was being played at Ottawa there was inaugurated in this city a so-called National Liberal Temperance Union, which is working towards the same end as the whiskey party in the Senate, and now to cover over the whole thing with some appearance of popularity the following petition is being circulated in duplicate, one copy being addressed to the Senate and the other to the House of Commons:

"Your petitioners humbly sheweth that the cause of Temperance will be better promoted by exempting ale, porter, lager beer, light wines, and cider from the operation of 'The Canada Temperance Act of 1878' than by endeavoring to prohibit the use of these light, wholesome, nutritious and comparatively non-intoxicating beverages.

"Your petitioners also believe with Sir Leonard Tilley, and other advocates of the C. T. Act, that this law will prove a failure, unless supported by at least a three-fifths majority of those voting.

"Your petitioners therefore pray that the Canada Temperance Act may be so amended,

(1) As to exempt ale, porter, lager beer, and light wines, and cider from its operation; and

(2) That the said Act should not hereafter come into force unless supported by a three-fifths majority of those voting.

And your petitioners will ever pray,

NAME.	RESIDENCE.
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Along with the above document the following circular is being sent out:—

TORONTO, MAY 9th, 1885.

"DEAR SIR,—

Enclosed please find blank petitions in duplicate to the Senate and House of Commons praying for exemptions of beer and light wines from the operations of the Scott Act; also to provide that the Scott Act, wherever submitted, shall not be carried by less than three-fifths majority of those voting.

"Place these at once in the hands of energetic people in your towns and vicinity and get all the signatures you can.

"Have the list headed by persons likely to have weight with your member and signed generally.

"A great many supporters of the Scott Act will support this measure, as it will not injure the working of the Act.

"Treat this letter confidentially and return petitions, fully signed, if possible, not later than the 18th of this month, as the amendments will be voted on in the Commons immediately after that date.

Address, AUGUSTE BOLTE,
39 Colborne St., Toronto."

We desire to warn our friends and the public generally, against being misled by any such contemptible dodges. Neither the Senate the Liberal Temperance Union, nor Mr. Auguste Bolte has any right or authority to speak for any large section of the Canadian community except that part of it that is interested in perpetuating the abominations of the license system. In articles to follow this we shall expose the pretensions the unreliableness and the heartless selfishness of some of the promoters of this movement, and we urge our friends again to use their influence against the contemptible tricks, with which the whiskey crowd is now endeavoring to influence the vote at the forthcoming Scott Act elections.

A BIG BACKDOWN.

The National Liberal Temperance Union has again been exhibiting the terror of free discussion, and the trickiness that so far has characterized all movements in the interests of the liquor traffic. At various meetings of the N. L. T. U. it had been stated that discussion would be welcome, but a hearing was always refused to any man known to be connected with real temperance work. Some time ago, sick of this pretence and equivocation, the representative officers of the Toronto Reformation Society, the Toronto Temperance Electoral Union, and the West End Christian Temperance Society published a challenge inviting the N. L. T. U.