

And an organized minority can, under such circumstances, easily get a majority of votes.

But there is room for reaction. If drunkenness should flourish under the Scott Act, its saving efficacy will cease to be believed in, and those who are silent now will then be outspoken in opposition. If the habits of a nation can be changed by an act of parliament, then the world will witness something that it has never seen before. We are not permitted to forget that a number of States of the American Union, within the memory of many of us, went through an experience similar to that with which the adoption of the Scott Act is making us acquainted, and that they have nearly all of them retraced their steps. The once fair promise of the Maine law is to-day, with few exceptions, outside of Maine, blighted and hopeless. But whether mistaken or not, it is by no means a bad sign to see people attempt what they believe to be a moral reform, though the method may be arbitrary and inadequate. The hope of the advocates of the Scott Act is that it will save from harm the young in whom a craving for whisky has not been formed.

THE EXPANSION OF CITIES.

The executive committee of the city council of Toronto and the owners of some adjacent outlying property have been discussing the question of a further addition to Toronto's limits. As always happens in such cases, some owners of the property represented were in favor of annexation and others against it. Mr. Frank Turner has an alternative scheme in the incorporation of the township of York and he seems to think that the owners of the land, on the north, could take possession of the streets of Toronto and drain through them. But in arbitrariness this would more than equal forcible annexation. There are villages on the city borders now being built up of which the drainage, if they have any drainage at all, flows into an open creek in the city. For sanitary reasons, this is a practice which should at once be brought to a stand. The question was discussed largely from a private point of view. Some of the speakers did not like to pay the city taxes, and others alleged that these taxes would amount to a confiscation of the property. When a city enlarges its bounds to an extent far beyond present building requirements, the conditions of annexation should undoubtedly protect the incoming property from having to bear undue burdens. But the cry of "no city taxes," in any shape, has surely done all the duty that can be got out of it. All the places that commenced by showing their superior attraction in being free from city taxes, are likely to end by knocking at the door of the city for admission.

"No city taxes" means no city improvements; when improvements come the taxes follow. Whenever the time arrives that a village can be built on the borders of a city, the time has arrived for the extension of the city over the area proposed to be built upon. Such extensions belong to the city in all but in name; and if they take the status of villages instead of being under the control of the city, they are gen-

erally without adequate fire protection, if they have any at all, and it depends upon their situation whether they can have any drainage or not. At this meeting, some one said east Rosedale could do without annexation, because it has drainage already. But if it makes a cholera canal of the river Don, we apprehend it does what an injunction could be got any day to restrain it from doing.

The incorporation of the township of York, if the object be to build up villages on the borders of the city, aims at preventing the expansion of the city, or to control its expansion by parties who owe no responsibility to the city council. There can be no good reason for fencing in Toronto by unwholesome villages, wanting in the most essential of sanitary conditions and forming a menace to the city whenever a fire occurs within their limits. If expansion is to take place, it should be under the same sanitary conditions that prevail in the city, and no village should be allowed to be built upon immediately on the other side of a boundary of the city without having appliances for preventing the spread of a fire. Quebec has suffered immensely from this cause, and most other cities in the same condition, not having the separating walls, are in even greater danger. If expansion were impossible, reasons for annexation would be hard to find, or rather the reasons against it would be conclusive. But when villages have grown up, or are growing up in a position which really forms a continuation of the city, they ought in justice to their greater neighbor, to be subject to the sanitary conditions of the city, and to be made to offer all possible safeguards against fire. They ought also, for their own sakes and the good of their neighbors, if possible, to be provided with other water than that which contaminated wells afford. To the hill north of Toronto, the city reservoir is not high enough to send up water. There can be no doubt that the annexation of Seaton village is desirable on public grounds; and on public grounds the whole question must be determined. Beyond the foot of Wells's Hill there are no present signs of city extending; and the justification for extending beyond that point, at present, would be hard to find. The future may well be left to take care of itself. If at any time, ten, twenty or fifty years hence, further extension in that direction should become desirable on grounds of public necessity, private interests must give way. But at present, the line might be drawn at the Hill. In compromise the solution of the difficulty ought to be found. But Toronto should strongly resist extension under the form of adjacent villages over which she can exercise no control; and the proposed incorporation of the township of York should not be allowed to embrace what really, under another name, belongs to the city. Parkdale was advantageously situated for commencing as a village; being on the lake shore, it could have no difficulty about drainage. Whether it will join the city, as Yorkville has done, is now only a question of details.

The objection was made by one speaker, at the meeting, that coercion ought not to be used to bring a few straggling residences into the city; but the owners of a few strag-

gling residences cannot, on public grounds, be allowed to stand in the way of what may be necessary for the hundred thousand people by whom the city is inhabited. The question is a public one and must be decided on public grounds. The owners of property have not, besides, a right to say whether they will allow that soil to become part of a rapidly growing city; they have a right to be heard in the negative, but their private preferences must give way to public requirements, which include the safety of the city from any danger to which it is exposed by its nearest neighbors. It is at the expense of the inhabitants of the city that the adjacent property acquires any value it possesses above that of farming land; and the owners cannot always expect to reap the profits of improvements to the expense of which, as such owners, they do not contribute. If they are also tax-payers in the city, they only pay like others for the advantages they enjoy there; so that this fact does not touch the other question. The things are separate and the only connection they have is that the proximity of the city gives value to the outside land, an advantage for which the owners pay the city nothing. If a man enjoys equal rights with others within the city, that fact can give him no claims to more than justice, the right to city water for instance, outside. The plea that expansion has ceased, if true, might be conclusive against annexation, in any direction; but the demand for the incorporation of a township for the purpose of building villages on the borders of the city, admits the need for expansion and betrays a desire to cramp the city in its natural development. The mere ownership of the land can convey no such right as this; if it did, Vanderbilt could by buying up all the land around a city, refuse the city room to expand, and coop up the inhabitants in a space which would contract their business and shorten their lives. The private grounds surrounding the mansion of the proudest Duke in England are remorselessly taken, on the demand of commerce, for railway purposes, the owner receiving a fair remuneration. But land brought into a city is not taken from the owner; and the fear of confiscation by taxation is groundless.

It is quite possible that the annexationists are asking too much, and that some who are resisting are not doing so on tenable grounds. But this only shows that the negotiation has not got beyond the initial stage. By and by the opposing parties will come closer together; and then it will be found that the difference between them is properly a matter for compromise. If the people of Wells's Hill desire to remain out, there does not seem to be any good reason for bringing them in, but the contiguous villages and all the adjacent land likely soon to be in demand for building purposes, ought undoubtedly to form part of the city.

—A five per cent. loan of the Province of Nova Scotia, to the amount of \$400,000 has been placed in the Province at \$106 to \$107. Parties in England tendered for the loan at 108, but were unable to make good their offer, and Provincial subscriptions were fallen back upon with the above result. It may be considered a good sale for the Province.