

THE ADVOCATE

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Comment.

When you have read THE ADVOCATE yourself hand it to a friend.

It is given out on the authority of the leading Prohibition organ that the majority of the Patron candidates for the House of Commons are "strong Prohibitionists."

PROHIBITION is being made an issue in the North-West elections, and the party is being run by the Good Templars. Very well. We will see what the result will be.

The New Hampshire campaign is being run on the question of Prohibition or License. The practical issue is license or free sale. It is now free sale under the guise of Prohibition.

Last Friday a well-known resident of Bowmanville was fined \$2 and costs for asking for a drink at an hotel on Sunday. He didn't get the drink either. Bowmanville would seem to be a good place to stay away from on Sunday.

The Ingersoll *Star* speaking of Mr. Laurier's attitude on the Prohibition question says: "That is probably as far as any politician could be expected to go and certainly it is vastly more encouraging than the cool reception and impertinent snub given by Sir John Thompson to the deputation of Prohibitionists that waited on him some months ago.

The *Citizen and Home Guard*, edited by Rev. John Cameron and issued from the office of the *London Advertiser*, is perhaps as good an authority on Reform political matters as the *Hamilton Times*. It says that THE ADVOCATE's delineation of the attitude of the respective party leaders on the Prohibition question, is correct and not to be gainsayed.

RATHER than confess that it misrepresents Miss Willard, THE ADVOCATE pretends to insinuate that she is seeking to denigrate her friends. Miss Willard's denial was as unequivocal as language could

make it. THE ADVOCATE should be ashamed of itself. — *The Templar*.

THE ADVOCATE, strange as it may seem, is not ashamed of itself and can see no reason to be. If Miss Willard had not changed her views let her say so. So far she has not said so.

Now we are coming down to business. *The Templar* remarks: "A particularly deceptive thing is the plebiscite, because it appeals to the democratic spirit of the people, and only those who look beneath the surface are able to discover that it is utterly subversive of responsible government." What a change, my friends, from the time when the Ontario plebiscite was supposed to have heralded in the millennium.

This truth, at last, is dawning upon thousands of Prohibitionists throughout Canada, and a movement has been begun, and is extending, for their organization; and the time, we believe, is not far distant when an attack will be made at the ballot-box in such force as will ensure a glorious victory.

This is the official pronouncement of the Prohibitionists. They are organizing for the battle at the ballot boxes. And the first fight will be in the coming municipal contest. Our friends must meet organization with organization.

MR. W. W. SMITH, C.P.R. agent at Sutton Junction, has been dismissed from his position. Mr. Smith is president of the Broome County Alliance, and his friends claim that his dismissal has been brought about "because of his temperance activity." In consequence the executive committee of the Quebec Alliance has formally resolved to stand by Mr. Smith. The best thing they can do for Mr. S. will be to hunt him up another situation where he will have opportunity to attend to his own business and leave other people's alone.

In a bar-house on Long Island on Thursday last were found two bodies. A young woman who had died from inhaling chloroform, and a young man with a bottle in his pocket and a bullet through his brain. Both belonged to the first families of New York and they were engaged to be married. It was a terrible tragedy and the bottle in the young man's pocket told the harrowing tale. But, come to think of it, this will not do

for Bro. Casey's "Horror" column either, because the bottle contained chloroform and both of the young people were total abstainers, Sunday school attendants and church members in good standing. Yet he had poisoned her and then shot himself.

The child-saving conference held in Toronto last week, will, we doubt not, do good work in a practical way. Such an organization in the hands of a man like Judge Macdonald, of Brockville, has really no bounds to its sphere of usefulness. Juvenile crime throughout this province is increasing to a degree that is startling. Especially is this the case in Toronto, and it is a sad commentary on our boasted righteousness. On the other hand child desertion has become so common as to attract little attention, while child murder is frequent. Evidently there is something radically wrong, and it will tax the best efforts of our philanthropists to find a remedy. One thing is patent, the police morality department is not equal to the task.

MR. SIDNEY FISHER, ex-M. P. for Brant, is being lashed by his Prohibition friends. Mr. Fisher is the gentleman who presented the report of the committee at the recent Dominion Prohibition Convention in Montreal, wherein it was decided to demand a public pledge in favor of Prohibition from every parliamentary candidate. Mr. Fisher has accompanied Mr. Laurier throughout his western trip; and so far as the reports show has not opened his lips on the Prohibition question. Therefore, temperance people say they look upon him with "shame and chagrin." For our part we look upon Sidney as displaying considerable more political acumen than we had given him credit for. Presenting a report to a Prohibition convention and addressing a meeting of the electors are two widely different things. The one demands most for strong men on the lines of their particular inclinations, the other demands the exercise of common sense. Mr. Fisher acted with superlative wisdom in permitting his leader to deal wholly with the entanglement.

In New York State the outlook for Democratic success in the contest for governor now going on was of the darkest. The party has to suffer for its dilly-dally-

ing with the tariff, for the hard times and for the sins alleged and proven of Tammany. The Republicans nominated their strongest man, ex-Vice-President Levi P. Morton. Against him there is no cause of complaint except that he has an English coachman. The Democrats selected Senator and ex-Governor David B. Hill. This caused the Cleveland and anti-Tammany Democrats to split and led to a combine between what are known as the County Democrats and the Republicans. Under the circumstances Hill's defeat was certain. But in an evil hour the Republicans began coquetting with the Prohibitionists, promising in consideration of their support a high-license-local-option-municipal-control bill. The Democratic leader seized his opportunity like a flash, declared flatly for the present license law and against the rule of fanatics of all kinds. The result is alarming the Republicans and it is believed their blunder will cost them the state. We will wait and see.

THE *Hamilton Times* returns to the attack with this: "Which will catch the most suckers for the Tory table—Krebs, with regulation whisky bait, or Boss Buchanan, with his professions of sanctity and temperance." *The Templar* retorts that it "would not be half as much ashamed of fellowship with a desecrated, square-and-above-board whisky organ, as with the hypocritical apologist of a hide-bound party, which nominates a brewer for its local leader, and boasts of the use of a saloon-keeper's 'lymph' as political ammunition." For our part we have the highest respect for both Bro. Buchanan and Bro. Gardiner. They are, however, each a little bitter in consequence of certain influences. Our friend of *The Times* is mad because, not believing in Prohibition himself, he thinks his leader has gone altogether too far in that direction. On the other hand the calm equanimity of *The Templar* editor is disturbed because Mr. Laurier has not gone far enough to suit the Advanced Prohibitionist. Both will cool down in time and to each we extend the assurance of our most distinguished consideration; to Mr. Gardiner as one of the ablest of Canadian editors as he is one of the most genial of men; to Mr. Buchanan as one of the most fearless of advocates of a cause which he has devoutly at heart, and which we do not respect in the least.

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