

JUN 6

1951  
**THE  
NEW BRUNSWICK  
MUSEUM**

Circular. --- Send to your neighbour.)

Saint John, N. B., 14th March, 1848.

Sir,

AT the CONVENTION of the PROVINCIAL TEMPERANCE UNION, recently held in FREDERICTON, the following Resolution was, after mature and anxious deliberation, carried by a large majority :

"RESOLVED, That whereas in the opinion of the Convention, the traffic in ardent spirit and other intoxicating liquors is morally wrong, therefore any law which provides for licensing that traffic must also be morally wrong."

It has been the growing conviction of a large portion of the temperance community in this Province, and especially in the two Cities, that the time for Legislative action in this matter is at hand. The precise mode however for dealing with the evil is not the subject of equal agreement. That the trade itself is wrong;—that it is productive of incalculable evil, morally; socially, and politically;—that it undermines and neutralizes all religious and moral influences: carries a withering curse into all social circles: impoverishes, sensualizes, and degrades all communities and countries, in exact ratio to its activity and extensiveness, are propositions so incontrovertibly true, as to call for the serious consideration of all religious and moral men, of all lovers of peace and social order, and of all patriots of what political creed soever.

From the diversified opinions as to the course of action necessary, we enumerate three :

- 1st.—That the trade should be positively prohibited, and adequate means adopted for its total suppression ;
- 2d.—That the *unlicensed* trade should be visited with severe penalties, rigidly enforced, and the laws regulating the licensed trader faithfully executed ;
- 3d.—That all Legislative sanction and countenance should be withdrawn from the traffic, and the business allowed to take its own course without license or prohibition.

Against the 1st opinion it is affirmed, that the history of the trade satisfactorily demonstrates the impossibility of its legal abolition, the severest penalties, DEATH itself, having been found insufficient to check a trade, which when prohibited, offers the hope of great lucrative remuneration.

Against the 2d method it is argued, that while Legislative sanction is given to the trade, it is constituted *honest and respectable* ; and that with this *lawful* argument, *respectable and honorable men*, (so called,) will always be found to carry it on. It is further added, that no system can be devised, and no penalties imposed which will effectually root up the UNLICENSED TRADE.

To the 3rd means it is objected, that withdrawing prohibitions, penalties, licenses, and countenance from the trade, will cause increased consumption, and consequently increased misery and crime.

You will at once perceive that the subject is of a perplexing character ; it is hoped however, that the difficulties are not insurmountable. With a view to create an agitation, co-extensive with the limits of the Province, and thereby to elicit at the Meeting of the Convention, in September next, the collected opinions of all the friends of our noble TEMPERANCE REFORMATION, we have, in obedience to the duty imposed upon us by the last Convention, prepared this Circular, and we now respectfully solicit you will be pleased to give the matter your own careful attention, and then use your influence in its agitation and discussion, at all proper times, and on all suitable occasions.

We are, Sir,

Very respectfully, Yours, &c.

P. LE SUEUR,  
S. L. TILLEY,  
W. H. A. KEANS.