

THE ADVOCATE

VOL. 1.—NO. 19.

Toronto and Montreal, Canada, Thursday, June 14, 1894.

PRICE TEN CENTS.

Comment.

The Templar says the liquor traffic is taking refuge in politics. In the annals of common sense who first threw the Prohibition question into the domain of politics? Bro. Buchanan does not usually talk nonsense.

The Prohibitionists have denounced for these twenty odd years that Prohibition "is not an issue." Now both parties have adopted the fall as a plank in their respective platforms and still they are not happy. What would they have?

A TRULY good contemporary in the Maritime Provinces bids THE ADVOCATE "Begone!" Certainly. Kindly indicate where to and inclose travelling expenses and we will Begone B'gosh. When it comes down to obliging folks we are Begones from Begonerville.

The Hon. G. W. Ross in a campaign speech the other day said that the Separate School supporters formed one-seventh of the population of Ontario, and that they had rights. The opponents of Prohibition are at least forty per cent. of the population of the Province. Have they no rights?

Don't forget that THE ADVOCATE is your paper. The only way that prejudice and bigotry can be combated is by education. Hence it is your duty to set the truth before your customers. The way to do this is to encourage the circulation of THE ADVOCATE. It is the only Journal in the Dominion whose support you can always rely on.

This item is going the rounds of the Temperance papers: "The Workingmen of Great Britain and Ireland earn £200,000,000 a year, sixty per cent. of which goes for drink." Can any sane man, woman or child, really believe that of £200,000,000 the workingmen of Britain spend £200,000,000 in drink? Such a palpable lie carries its own answer.

The House of Keys, as the legislation assembly of the Isle of Man is called, has passed a bill providing for the granting of permits to boarding houses in Douglas

the sale of beer from May 1st, to Sept. 30th each year. The bill is to be in force for two years as an experiment. Three hundred homes are affected by it. Opposition was expected from the large hotels, but it was not forthcoming.

REEVE RICHARD, of Kylie, a Roman Catholic, in the absence of the Mayor, welcomed the Grand Lodge of British North America, to Lindsay at the recent annual meeting. Mr. Richard plainly told the Orangemen that he had nothing in common with them and yet made a happy speech of greeting. It is men like the Revue of Kylie that make life worth living. In all charity we commend his example to his worship Mayor Kennedy of Toronto.

THE temperance people of Hamilton are after the Jockey Club of that city for selling liquor at the recent meeting. The club sold under a transfer and on what grounds their enemies propose to prosecute it is hard to conceive. Still they are at it and have written to the Attorney General's department, asking for an investigation. It is to be hoped these mis-sports will get what they deserve—a righteous smelting. If they do, however, it can be depended upon that it will be after the elections.

THE German Emperor is a genuine wine-grower, as Prince Bismarck is a trader in alcohol and lumber from his properties. The vineyards of William the Second are situated in the most renowned localities along the Rhine, like Hockheim, Erbach, Hattenheim, where is produced the famous white wine known by the name of Steinberg Cabinet. It was a case of this famous wine that was sent recently by the Kaiser to Bismarck on the latter's birthday anniversary.

NEVER mind the numbered ballot, but vote for the candidate whom you think will consider your interests the most. If you are of the opinion that the Reform candidate can be relied on, vote for him. If on the other hand, the Conservative is the broadest minded vote for him. But beware of trimmers, they serve nobody but themselves. Better an open enemy than a deceitful friend. Members of the trade should try and act in union and, if possible, secure an undertaking from the candidate. Your opponents are bringing all the pressure they can to bear. You should

do the same. This does not mean that you should be aggressive but rather that you should be wary.

AFTER remarking that *The Temperance Record* thinks that those who triumph in the matter of strong drink are those who never give the foe a chance of gaining against them the slightest advantage, our able contemporary *The Licensing World* of London logically says: "Further, it is of opinion that the abstainer is the only man who really struggles and fights against 'the devil in solution.' On these lines, granting purely for the sake of argument that drink, and not drunkenness, is the enemy to sobriety, the proper way for one army to overcome another would be to run away from it and get and keep as far away as possible. Where the struggle and fight would come in is not quite clear, except perhaps to the teetotal mind. In exactly the same fashion the monastic ascetics of old 'fought' against the charms of the fairer sex by fleeing into the desert and never setting eyes on a woman if they could possibly help it. This, of course, is all right for those who have good reason to believe that their natural appetites once indulged would straightway become their tyrants, and therefore it may be a good thing that the average teetotaler is afraid to salubrit his moral strength to the test of moderate indulgence. But it is absurd to claim that he fights or triumphs. It takes two to make a fight, and as he never ventures to tackle the so-called enemy in person, it is quite impossible to see where the fight comes in."

"How," asks *The Newcastle Daily Chronicle*, "in the circumstances, are these phenomena to be accounted for?" The "phenomena" are those which were stated in this column last week in the account of my interview with Mr. George Griffith. Canada, as he said, is drinking more alcohol, and manufacturing more, and is also becoming a considerable exporter of whisky. This was in spite of the fact that there is a Scott Act in Canada—more honored in the secret breach than in the open observance; that Ontario passed a prohibition plebiscite four months ago, while Prince Edward Island followed suit. *The Newcastle Daily Chronicle* is naturally puzzled, and yet the solution of the problem is very simple. The unamiable fanatics who rage furiously together in Canada, as elsewhere, about th

management of other people's morals have no real influence on the bulk of the population. The majority of men in British North America, as elsewhere, prefer to mind their own business and manage their own affairs. They don't get up on their ideas and howl about the depravity of their fellow creatures, and they don't want to crann their own hats upon everybody's heads; but what they want and can pay for, they have, and they happen to want good whisky, social beer, and pleasant wines, and they have them. The number of these good, sensible folk is happily increasing, and therefore more good liquor is wanted, and that is the answer to the seeming puzzle.—*Licensing World*.

THE NEW YORK *Evening Post*, a paper noted for its respectability, literary merits, judicious utterances, a paper moreover that has generally leaned towards Prohibition, recently said: "Human nature continues to be as 'queer' as it ever was. The Mayor of Portland, Me., in an address at a recent temperance meeting, told of a young Englishman who came to that city seven years ago in order to escape the temptations of open saloons, which he could not resist, and which threatened his ruin, and who has been sober ever since, and has risen from earning \$4 a week to a salary of \$2,500 a year. On the other hand, we have been told by a clergyman in another Maine city of a young man who was being ruined there by the temptations of the 'social clubs,' which took the place of saloons as drinking places, and who came to New York for salvation, which he found here, because the open rumshop had no charms for him. In like manner many of the most thoughtful and conservative citizens of Des Moines, Ia., have signed the petition for the introduction of saloons in that city under the liquor law, because they believe that the change will diminish the terrible amount of drunkenness among young men which has prevailed under the prohibitory law and the club system. These instances show how differently the same influences affect different persons, and how impossible it is to find any system which is perfect." There can be but one moral to the inconsistencies depicted by our contemporary, namely, that Prohibition is impracticable and that the true temperance is moral suasion and the moderate use at becoming times of the things that God has given us, not for our hurt, but for our good.

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