GODERICH, MARCH 24, 1877.

Thoughts on Tariff.

Our Minister of Finance has, once again, as we mentioned last week, a subject of Tory wrath, for his independent action on the tariff question. The *Mail* has concluded that he is "untrue to his party," consequently fitted to the hollow assertion that sometimes the Home are representatives merely of parties and not of the constituencies generally. It is easy to understand the cause of this journal's indignation, since every one who is not willing to abjectly and unfeelingly play the game of "Simon, thumbs up! Simon, thumbs down!" under the direction of Sir John, is the associate of thieves and shoulders Mr. Greenway's peculiar position as a representative was, to its mind, no reason why he should vote and speak independently—it was expected of him as an old member of the Conservative party (our readers as Sir John's party), that he would sink all conscientious scrupulous and give an uncomprehending support to the chief tain. His duty to the Reform party, which he represents as well as the Conservative party, by the nature of his election, and his long advocacy of the principles of free trade, seems to be thought of in such an emergency as that which Sir John brought about in the House by his amendment on Mr. Cartwright's tariff measure, and were to be regarded as "trifles light as air" in comparison with the chieftain's claims. With these narrow views of duty, it is not to be wondered at, as we have said, that Mr. Greenway should resent his walking ticket from the magnates of the Conservative party. He was too consistent and honest to sink their views—his continued adherence to his free trade principles at Jacobs shrieked Sir John for his inconsistent adoption of a principle directly opposed to that which he has heretofore adhered to and advocated—and he was therefore "counted out."

Our Exeter contemporary also takes exception to Mr. Greenway's act, stating particularly that the South Riding is noticeable for more prominence and will not endorse the course he pursued. It gives a copy of a resolution passed at the last meeting of the South Riding Agricultural Society, recommending the imposition of tariffs on grains. The Riding being populated principally by farmers, we do not hesitate to say that it would strongly oppose Sir Jobsh's vague protection policy. The evidence in the resolution quoted by our contemporary is with little, The members of the Society who adopted this resolution, though few may be influential, but their position should not put themselves upon the matter. It is known that the Society is principally controlled by Conservatives, and having put themselves in the Riding to defend them through thick or thin, right or wrong, urging appeals when no ground of appeal was possibly exist; and further that the magistrates have been too liberal in their interpretations of the act, and the wording, or rather the want of wording, in some sections of the act, has enabled them to do so. Also, the Judge of our County has not, we think, adhered very closely, if at all, to the spirit of the law, and cases coming before him have been kept in his hands a long time, and a number are still undecided, and that our Inspector has been considerably hindered by adjournments and inferred decisions in Magistrates' Courts.

2.—1st. They have had the effect of almost entirely separating the liquor traffic from every other kind of business, and in that way have done a vast amount of good. 2nd. They have done away with a large amount of night drinking, by enforcing early closing. This in our towns and villages has had a very beneficial effect. 3rd. By the watchful care of our inspector, they have largely done away with gambling in the ridings. 4th. By energetic, continuous inspection it has raised the standard of accommodation, and made our hotels much more respectable. 5th We think we have all the hotel accommodation needed under the present Act.

3. There are persons selling without a license, but not a large number, and they are scattered over their ridings, and a source of constant trouble to watch and check, and by these means are in a great measure kept down. They are very difficult to get hold of, from the fact that those who go there and drink will shield those who have sold them liquor, as soon know the inspector; hence he loses his power to catch them, and in this ridding he would be much better in searching, and could not get a conviction after so searching and finding spirituous liquors in unlicensed houses. There is the additional difficulty, that while it totally expers sometimes explain of not being protected, they will give no assistance, and many go and drink in such places, and some help to pay the fines of those caught, and had it not been for the promises of the late J. H. Cameron, some would have gone out of the business, who are still in it; expoating the Act would be declared bad.

4.—We have had a few complaints for not granting licenses, the nature of which was generally frivolous and selfish. Partiality has been charged, but not shown. Our replies have been that we had done fairly and according to the best of our judgments; in fact, we have had very little trouble.

5.—The first thing to be done is to so word the Act as to delegate all powers to control and regulate the entire traffic to your Commissioners. It would appear by sec. 1 of 1876, that they have such powers, but our Inspector has been very doubtful about it, and has called our attention to the fact that we had not power to regulate the hours of closing, stopping gambling, and things of a like nature, and has failed to get convictions on these points. In other words, it is said that the powers formerly conferred upon Municipal Councils and other licensing bodies, are some of them derived from Statutes previous to 1874, and not being recited in the Act of 1874 are not delegated or conferred upon your commissioners; in fact, our Inspector has had such ruling, and been put in for the costs

We think the wholesale license should be better defined. Our Inspector thinks that person engaged in a retail business should not have a wholesale license to sell liquors. This does not appear to be clearly defined in the Act. It should define whether or not a person holding a wholesale license can tap and sell in quantities of five gallons or one dozen bottles. This is a disputed point, and needs explaining. There seems to be no time fixed for asking for wholesale licenses; we think this unfair to applicants for shop licenses, who are bound to apply within a limited time. Sec. 15 of 1876, in regard to native wines, while the manufacturer may sell three gallons without license, a question arises can a *retail* dealer sell such without license? We beg also to suggest the propriety of the Legislature separating entirely the liquor traffic from all other business; such an enactment would, we believe, give very general satisfaction. We have also to direct your attention to sec. 56 of Statute 1874. We fear that after the word "admit" in one place, and "admission" in another, there is no power given to search; it is implied but not expressed. The Justice of Peace year in which the new Act was in force.

The following questions were submitted to the several boards of License Commissioners, and the answers will be found below:

1. How far have the provisions of the law been enforced?

2. What has been the effect of these provisions?

3. What, if any, number of persons are known to you to sell liquor without being licensed, and under what circumstances?

4. Have, if any, complaints been preferred of not being granted licenses, and on what was the nature of such complaints? Were they frivolous or not?

5. What, if any, amendments would you suggest to the Act, to make it more effective? Or, if you think it needs no amendment, state what it is in the Act, or what defects?

EAST HURON.

1. The law has been enforced in all cases where sufficient evidence could be got to ensure a conviction.

2. The effect has been increased at proper times, more attention paid by tavern keepers in general to keep down drunkenness, and to close at the hours set out of public view. The Saturday night and Sunday law is well observed; one tavern keeper was fined for allowing drinking, and one for selling after hours.

3. There are ten unlicensed houses in this district, who give liquor to their friends without any license. In common way is, they drink quietly with the landlord, after they have paid for temperance drinks; and the landlord is the chief offender, in not getting a license for which no money is paid. None have been convicted for selling without license.

4. Five complaints were made on the ground that they should have been granted as good as others to those which received the best selection. The Inspector, with knowledge of the parties and their position, as the Act stands, granted the best.

5.—1st, To amend the Act so as to allow one Justice to hear and convict all cases under the Act, and to extend the time to commence prosecutions to forty days, instead of thirty. 2nd. To make all appeals under the Act to the County Judge in Chambers, instead of the General Sessions. 3rd. To empower the Commissioners to grant licenses in localities of public entertainment that will temperance drinks; at a lower rate than such under inspection of inspectors, and prevent such houses from allowing liquor to be sold in and on the premises by members of that family. 4th. To amend sec. 56 of 1874, so as to allow officers or constables to search all parts of the house.

SOUTH HURON.

1st. As far as our knowledge and ability extend.

2. A great improvement, better observance of the Sabbath, less drunkenness observable.

3. No direct proof. No reliable information.

4. One Mr. Marker complained of being cut off, on account of religion, being R. Catholic, which we think sectarian, as seven hotels were shut off by limit of population, the best accommodation and repute being selected.

5. The law defective in not giving inspectors power to search premises suspected of selling without license. Ineffective in not giving Commissioners power to control hours, with regard to the closing of shops and bars.

WEST HURON.

1. They have been as well enforced as they could be, taking into account the opposition which has been put in the way, the weak points in the law, together with the fact that the Temperance Reformers' Association have the best interest in the Riding to defend them through thick or thin, right or wrong, urging appeals when no ground of appeal exist possibly exist; and further that the magistrates have been too liberal in their interpretations of the act, and the wording, or rather the want of wording, in some sections of the act, has enabled them to do so. Also, the Judge of our County has not, we think, adhered very closely, if at all, to the spirit of the law, and cases coming before him have been kept in his hands a long time, and a number are still undecided, and that our Inspector has been considerably hindered by adjournments and inferred decisions in Magistrates' Courts.

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