

# Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

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## The Weekly Messenger

### HALTON STANDS FIRM.

#### AN EXCITING CONTEST.

The County of Halton, Ontario, three years ago adopted the Scott Act, prohibiting the sale of liquor. On a petition got up by the drink sellers to repeal the Act, a poll was granted and was held on Tuesday, 9th of September. Those who will be soon asked to vote for or against the Scott Act in many other countries have been asking—"What will Halton do?"

This was not a fair test election, as the liquor men of the whole country poured their money and influence in to defeat the temperance workers of a single small county.

Still, it is with great joy that every well-wisher of his country will learn that Halton has voted to continue the Scott Act in force. Up to the hour of going to press we had not received the figures, but it is believed the Act has been sustained by a handsome majority.

#### CANADA, BRITAIN, AND THE UNITED STATES.

A recent proposal by statesmen in England to take steps for the federation of the British Empire having started much discussion with regard to the future of Canada, of the Empire, and of the Anglo-Saxon race, a number of leading public men were invited by the editor of the *Montreal Daily Witness* to contribute an article each for its columns during the sittings of the British Association. Among those who responded were Sir Francis Hincks, G.C.M.G., C.B., formerly Governor of the Windward Isles and Finance Minister of Canada; the Rev. Joseph Cook, the eloquent Boston divine, the Rev. G. M. Grant, D.D., principal of Queen's University, Kingston; Benjamin Sulte, Esq., author of the "Histoire des Canadiens-Français" and other works; the Hon. Lucius S. Huntington, late Postmaster-General of Canada; William Houston, Esq., parliamentary librarian of Ontario; and Henri Beaugrand, Esq., editor of the *Montreal Patrie*, the most outspoken Liberal French Journal in the Province of Quebec. The position taken by the various writers may be summed up as follows:

Sir Francis Hincks thinks federation of the British Empire impracticable, however desirable. He does not think independence means anything less than annexation to the United States, or that it could be accomplished without war. He, therefore, looks to the continuance of Canada's present relations to the empire, but points out some important internal constitutional changes which he thinks desirable, such as placing the provincial legislatures on the same footing as municipalities, that there be only single branches which should elect the lieutenant-governors, that their power should be strictly defined by law and they should be completely independent of the Dominion Government and Parliament, the interven-

tion of the Supreme Court being available to any party claiming it.

The Rev. Joseph Cook, of Boston, after expatiating upon the marvellous spread of knowledge among the nations and the fact that owing to steam and the telegraph there can be no "hermit nation," concludes that in this: "possible but not in the probable future there lies at a distance of not more than two centuries an alliance, (not a union) of Great Britain, the United States, Australasia, India, belting the globe and possessed of power to strike a universal peace through half the continents and all the seas."

Principal Grant comments upon the fact that all the communities of the English speaking race, no matter what bit of the globe they occupy, (the people of the United States alone, excepted) are bound together by a common citizenship. Had it not been for the secession of the American colonies a century ago the whole English speaking race would to-day have a common citizenship, and with this preserved the race could have been organized under flexible forms in this or that direction, as necessities or requirements arose. With a hundred millions of English speaking men thus bound, peace would have been secured so far as they were concerned; no nation or combination of nations would have dared to attack them. To bring about this citizenship we should do our utmost to close up the cleavage that was made in the race more than a century ago,—not by casting off our present citizenship, but by welcoming every closer connection that is proposed. The more free is trade, especially over this continent, the better, always provided that it is not bought at the price of a Chinese wall excluding us from the rest of the world. Principal Grant thinks that views in the United States are mellowing, and things will come right by-and-by.

"Let well-enough alone" is the gist of Mr. B. Sulte's article. A union of the empire, and the centralization which he believes would ensue, would result in the interests of the colonies being sacrificed.

Mr. Huntington takes the position that, even if separation were to take place suddenly between Canada and the Empire, annexation to the United States need not be considered a certain result. Even if annexation follow an unsuccessful attempt to sustain our national existence, we should lose nothing.

Mr. William Houston endeavors, without expressing his own views, to describe a change of opinion which is going on around him, and the annexationist tendencies he discerns therein. One of the causes at work is the desire of a large number of Canadians for free commercial intercourse with the United States. The intensification of sectionalism by the increasing demand for local subsidies, taken in connection with other forms of inter-provincial conflict and the friction inseparable from the working of a new federal constitution, has caused many who were once hopeful of the political future of the Dominion to despair. They profess to see no increase of solidarity as the result of seventeen years of union, but rather the reverse. And, again, there are to be found in both Canada and the United

States those who believe that the union of the two countries would be in the interest of the greater Anglo-Saxon union of which they dream. The English and German elements of both countries are related, and time will bring homogeneity.

Mr. Beaugrand sees nothing to be gained by an imperial confederation. Canadians wish to become an independent nation, when the time comes for separation from the mother country. Mr. Beaugrand says "our country is large enough, prosperous enough, to aspire to conduct her own business in her own way, without the interference of any power, whether on this or on the other side of the water."

#### THE DOMINION EXHIBITION.

The annual Dominion Exhibition of Canada for this year is now being held at Montreal. "Rusticus" contributes to the *Weekly Messenger* the following notice of the live stock department:—

Though the numbers in this department of the Dominion Exhibition are not so large as on some former occasions, yet in several classes there is a decided improvement in the quality of the animals shown. Especially is this the case with heavy draught and carriage horses, and with milch cows. Among the heavy draught horses, the Percherons are on exhibition for the first time here and they certainly seem to be coming into favor, though the ponderous Clydesdales, both imported and home-bred, continue to show considerable improvement. In coaching stallions, a remarkably fine horse is shown by Mr. John Anderson, of Dominionville, Ont., which has already taken fifteen first prizes and four diplomas at the principal shows in Ontario.

There is a considerable falling off in the number of Ayrshire cattle shown, but the Jerseys show a decided improvement, both in numbers and quality, Mr. W. A. Reburn, of St. Ann's, taking the lead in this part of the exhibition. The Holsteins are on exhibition here for the first time; Messrs. Lord, Cook & Co., of Aultsville, Ont., and Mr. George Pierce, of Stanstead, have each superior herds of these cattle.

The sheep and pigs shown are of superior quality, and show considerable improvement since former exhibitions.

#### PEOPLE VERSUS LORDS.

With the sounds of actual war coming from China, with the sickening statistics of cholera coming from the south of Europe, with most disquieting reports of national bad temper coming from both France and Germany, and with nothing less than tropical heat from the sun itself, the attention of the British people seems not to be in the least diverted from the great question of domestic politics. The people want a reform bill, and the Lords stand in the way: the people are therefore engaged in proving to their Lordships, in the clearest possible way, that the longer the obstruction remains the worse it will be for the obstructors. As Professor Donaldson, of Aberdeen University, has just said, the majority in the House of Lords is like the cow that

stood in the way of George Stephenson's locomotive. The engineer has several times got down and shoved the animal off; but if the cow stands on the track any longer it must take the natural consequences.

Scotland is roused, to its centre. Aberdeen, a town of 100,000 inhabitants, has been the scene of an immense reform open air demonstration in which no less than 60,000 persons took part. A still vaster gathering took place last Saturday in Glasgow, when the procession alone contained 60,000 men, and was ten miles long. Four hundred survivors of the first reform bill agitators, of 1832, rode together. On the same day, 12,000 persons met for the same purpose at Carlisle, and 17,000 at Swansea.

All these crowds are extremely good-natured,—knowing as they do that the people in Britain rule in reality as well as in name, and that they only need to show their will and not to exercise their force. They can thus afford to treat their opponents with ridicule and they do so to their hearts' content. They are profoundly in earnest, however, and it is significant that the Glasgow stone masons carried in the procession a tombstone, with this inscription:—"To the memory of the House of Lords."

The National poet, Robert Burns, with his intense spirit of independence, is always brought in to provide inscriptions for reform banners. Here is one of them:

The rank is but the guinea stamp,  
The man's the gowd for a' that!

Here is another.

It's comin' yet, for a' that,  
When man to man, the world o'er,  
Shall britners be, and a' that.

A third inscription declares,  
Princes and Lords are but the breath of Kings.

#### THE LATE SECRETARY FOLGER.

Mr. Folger, Secretary of the United States Treasury, is dead. The event took place at a quarter to five on Thursday afternoon, 4th of September, and was so sudden that neither of his children could be summoned to his bedside.

Mr. Folger had lived where he died, in Geneva, N.Y., for 54 years, but he was born in Nantucket, Massachusetts, on the 16th of April, 1818. After studying for the law and practising his profession for some time, at the age of 26 he was made a judge in the Court of Common Pleas. Seven years later, in 1851, he became a county judge. He was at first a Democrat, but when the present Republican party was formed, Mr. Folger was one of its members. In 1861, he was elected a State Senator, and held that position till 1869, when he was made Assistant U. S. Treasurer at New York. In the following year he returned to the bench as judge in the State Court of Appeals, and after a further ten years became chief justice of the same court. This office, however, he only held for one year: in 1881, on the death of President Garfield, President Arthur made him secretary of the treasury. Mr. Folger was the Republican candidate for the governorship of New York two years ago, when Mr. Cleveland defeated him by an enormous majority.