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**Doors, Window Frames and
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The Times for Job Printing

A Modern Battle

(Canadian Courier)

All over the province of Ontario, they are saying things which would cause the most sensitive of the city of Toronto. After any such conversation is finished, what is said is to the world, what is said is to the United States, Toronto is to Ontario. Every municipal and political move in the biggest city of the province is watched with the keenest interest. The Toronto City Council is no exception. It is the centre of all the news and the centre of all the news and the centre of all the news.

It was a modern battle. The two armies of seventeen thousand men and women each were drawn up in battle array under their different captains, their colonels and their generals. The preliminary skirmish as had taken place when the judges revised the voters' lists, and when the meetings were held, and when the law was made. The real battle occurred on January 1st, for Toronto is a busy town and it cannot afford an entire holiday for its municipal battle-day. The opposing armies rose early. The deadly two-horse cab and the deadlier automobile were pressed into service, and the battle of the streets was on. The position of "The Boy or the Girl" was a day or two before had been but an exhibition of strength by the Reduction army. The "Anti" had carefully concealed the strength of their army—they believed in silent and thoughtful preparation rather than praying, and shouting and parading.

And what was the real issue? In a vague way, the Reduction army felt that it was fighting for temperance, for the abolition of the bar, and the trading system. Just why they hated the trading system is hard to tell. Nearly every temperance voter practises it—treating his friends to dinners, drives, card parties, refreshments of a solid type and to a free distribution of his views on moral reform generally. As to the "Bar," there is little doubt that it has grown unpopular, especially with those who belong to the clubs and have learned how dignified it is to have their liquid refreshments served at a table. Up in Hospital, these new-made aristocrats live, the vote against the Bar was furiously heavy. In Ward Six, the Parkdale division, where there is but one room, the majority was in favor of Reduction. In the majority, the majority over the whole city. In a district which had long been against the bar, there was no other, they fought vigorously for its blood. In other words, Ward Six decided the day. It was there that the Anti-army was outfanked, crushed, and beaten.

And what will be the result? About forty hotels will lose their licenses, but they would have lost them long ago if the License Board had acted on its pretensions. They are only make-believe hotels. They are really saloons—and Toronto long ago decided against the saloon. Forty men who have been allowed to improve their promises by these same license commissioners must now lose the money which they have invested. Forty men who were told to plant at hotel-keeping, are now informed that the bill will not be accepted. Forty men, with sore hearts, depleted pocket-books, and wonder-eyed families are driven to other occupations or to engage in illicit traffic. One hundred and ten men are left to fester in whatever of the increased trade which can be gathered up from the debris of the forty destroyed businesses. That is to be the result—if the City Council pushes the victory to its logical conclusion, and the Courts do not interfere.

Was it worth while? Apparently the temperance people throughout the province think it was. They base on it an argument that the bar must go and that provincial prohibition is in sight. They say that the effect on the subsequent municipal battles throughout the province was exhilarating and that it will mean much in future out-post fighting. They boast that the temperance fire which has made the Southern States "dry," which has burned its way through the Maritime Provinces and through the Maritime Provinces and Ontario. They expect it to be all-consuming. They will not cease their efforts until they have cut off every license, every club privilege and even the package sale. They may go too fast as they did in the middle seventies, and a reaction may set in. That apparently is the only danger. Undoubtedly over-indulgence in strong drink is unpopular. Whether this is due to economic or moral forces or both working in unison is a question which is open to discussion. The young man who makes a habit of occasionally getting on a spree finds difficulty in obtaining advancement in his calling or profession. The drunkard once a member of the business community is now found only in the lower strata. Further it is becoming fashionable to boast of being a teetotaler. The methodists, Presbyterians and other "non-conformist" bodies have forced the Anglican Church to join them. They are preparing to make liquor drinking even in moderation, a not-al-sin, before they attain that success they must come in contact with the man who desires to have liquor on his table and at his club. He is a small but formidable majority.

One peculiar feature of the campaign is the utter disregard of the temperance advocate for "vested interests" and compensation. One

clergyman, since the vote was over, remarked that compensation was a subtle proposition which must be labored, then there "will be no vested rights in this business," and that it is "enough if we forgive them and tell them to go and sin no more." Men of this class cry down compensation by declaring that all licenses are annual, forgetting that the licenses are not annual, but have spent their lives in the business. However a province which uses public credit to fight private enterprises as in the case of the Hydro-Electric Commission, is not likely to hesitate at wiping out the capital of a few hundreds of hotel-keepers. In this respect, we are more American than British. Strangely enough, during the recent fight in Toronto, the license-holders themselves have not stuck out for compensation. It may be that they felt that such an appeal to such a public would have been useless. They perhaps felt that the class of the general traffic were about to be visited on them and that little was to be gained by crying or merely.

Now that the battle in Toronto in the province generally is over it might be wise for the leaders on both sides to sit down and discuss future campaigns. If the temperance people should refuse to attend such a conference, the public would be seriously affected by their intolerance. If the brewers and licensees would occupy a better strategical position with those inclined to take a moderate view. If both sides refuse, then it will probably be necessary for the Legislature to step in and abolish local option and annual licenses and substitute some system which will prevent further investment or transfer that which is now invested, and which will place all questions in connection with liquor-selling under provincial rather than local control. This would mean a more effective form of Provincial Prohibition.

THE LAST CHANCE

Up in Red Deer the girls were getting desperate at the disappearance of leap year without a husband while such eligible young men as Earl Porter and other were hanging around loose, as it were. So they addressed the following letter to Earl and four of his friends:

Of admiration
And highest estimation
After long consideration
I feel the inclination
To become a near relation
To become your wife.
I really hope you will pardon me
For making quite so bold
But this is Leap Year, as you know
At least so I've been told.
They say it is a woman's right
To court, nay even more
To ask in marriage if she will
The man whom she adores.
Of money I have little
Of talents I have few.
But, is all the love in vain
That throbs in me for you?
Then shall I be your wife or not?
Is what I want to know.
Alas for me if you return
That fatal answer "No."
Now I must stop for words do fail
My feelings to express.
Now mark if I don't get yourself
I shall expect a great
Yours While Wanted.

Spencer & Todd

29 in. English Corduroy, the ideal thing
for boy's school plants, per yd.

75c

Flannelette Sheeting 64 in. wide, extra
heavy grey only, per yard

50c

50 yds. woollen Dress Material, strong
and warm, for the school misses, 40
ins. wide, special, per yd.

47½c

400 yards Flannelette, striped, 38 in.
wide. This is an extra quality, special
per yard

12½c

We have a few dress lengths to
clear reasonably in Venetians,
Wool Taffetas, Crepe Tartans,
Black Serge, etc.

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