

THE VANGUARD.

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THE NORTH-WEST EXPERIMENT IN PROHIBITION LAW.

The history of Prohibition in the Canadian Northwest is instructive. From the earliest time of that region's control by the Dominion Parliament, down to 1892, there was in our national statute books, a clearly worded enactment for the protection of natives and settlers from the dangerous and aggressive liquor traffic. The law relating to the subject was in the following terms :

"No intoxicating liquor or intoxicant shall be manufactured, compounded or made in the territories except by the special permission of the Governor in Council ; nor shall any intoxicating liquor or intoxicant be imported or sold, exchanged, traded, or bartered, or had in possession therein except by special permission, in writing, of the Lieut-Governor."

The results of the operation of this legislation were incalculably good. As long as it was enforced there was among the Northwest Indians comparatively little of the drunkenness that is so fatal to the aboriginal race. Statesmen have vied with each other in testifying to its benefits. Well-posted officials in high positions have spoken strongly of its advantages. A few examples might be quoted. Sir Charles Tupper, present High Commissioner, at a complimentary breakfast in Westminster Hotel, in London, Eng., on July 29th, 1880, delivered an address, from a report of which are taken the following extracts :