

PUBLIC OPINION. ON THE ANTI SCOTT ACT VICTORIES. What Our Leading Journals Say—The Views of Tories, Grits and Independents—Many Theories and Deductions—BUT ALL POINT TO PROHIBITION.

Irish Canadian. Let the CANADA CITIZEN be not down-hearted. Who knows that this defeat may not be a blessing in disguise? The Scott Act at best was a patched job; and should its repeal hasten prohibition, the country and the people will have great cause to rejoice.

Stouffville Tribune. It is now evident that local prohibition is a failure and that the only remedy for the evils of intemperance is to have entire prohibition of the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating drink. And this measure must be waited for patiently until the people of Canada are ready for it.

Barricade Gazette. The attention of the people has been turned afresh to the evils and power of the liquor traffic in our land. They have been made aware of the readiness of the men engaged in it to use any means, however wrong, to foist it on the people. And these lessons are not lost: They will doubtless bear fruit in days to come. The future is with the prohibitionists, and the whisky traffickers would do well to recognize this and set their houses in order preparatory to the extinction of their business.

Georgetown Herald. The Scott Act has given us more prohibition than any act we have ever had, and it will now be useless to desire anything between Scott Act and prohibition. Prohibitionists should now prepare to ask for a law prohibiting the manufacture and sale, for beverage purposes, of all kinds of intoxicants. Until this is secured all temperance legislation with any other object in view, won't amount to anything.

Orange Sentinel. Tax time may be coming, as our temperance friends claim it is, when public sentiment will run so strongly in favor of prohibition that it must become law everywhere. When that time comes the law would certainly be susceptible of enforcement, which it is not now; and, therefore, more real benefit can be done the cause of true temperance by educating public opinion than by attempting through the exigencies of political parties, to force upon an unwilling people sumptuary laws which evidently they are not educated up to the point of obeying.

Northern Advance. More dependence can be placed on educating the moral nature of the rising generation, to advance the cause of temperance, than on Acts of Parliament. We are fully convinced that the wave which engulfed the Scott Act last Thursday is no evidence of the decadence of the temperance sentiment of the country, but simply an evidence that the Act swept away was wrong in principle, oppressive in practice and an utter failure to do away with the traffic in intoxicating drinks.

Dundas True Banner. The Act was wrong in principle and was not enforced in any one county in which it was carried one-tenth part as effectually as it could have been in its incomplete state, and not anything like as well as the license law, and in fact was practically a dead letter. Its most ardent supporters left it to work out its own salvation once they induced the people to vote for it.

Let every temperance man now work for higher license, fewer licenses and the thorough enforcing of the Crooks Act, and more good will result than the most sanguine friend of temperance can hope for.

Kinsardine Reporter. There is no mistaking the expression of opinion on Thursday, the 19th of April, not only in this county but in the others in which the vote was taken on the same day. They all declared against the working of the measure after the trial it had during the last three years. The Act was adopted here by a large majority, but those who assisted in having it carried were not at all prepared to help the officers in the enforcement. There is no change in the minds of the community, or with ourselves, regarding the question of temperance, or regarding the complete and total prohibition of the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquor.

Chatham Weekly Planet. It has been a terrible surprise and disappointment to those who worked so hard to carry and enforce it. The Reform journals, with their usual animosity, blame the Dominion Government for the failure of the Act to satisfy the people. How the Dominion franchise could affect the result is difficult to imagine, except to increase the number of those who are entitled to vote on the question. Then as to the Government amending it, it is not a matter for the Government any more than of any private member of Parliament; it is not a party question. It is one for which the members of Parliament, Grit or Tory, must take equal responsibility.

Anyhow, the measure was a piece of Grit legislation, done in Mackenzie's time, and like most Grit legislation, has proved defective. Grit-like, its framers are endeavoring to unload its defects on the head of the Government.

London Advertiser. PERHAPS the most valuable lesson of all to be learned is that local option, within the narrow limits of a county which may be surrounded with other counties in which the traffic is legalized, labors under such disadvantages as to make success almost hopeless. There is, moreover, the ever present absurdity of forbidding the sale of an article of manufacture in one county, while in the next it is not only permitted but encouraged. The friends of temperance in Canada, instead of becoming discouraged, must pluck victory from the hands of defeat by consolidating their forces and aiming higher. Nothing short of complete prohibition of manufacture as well as sale throughout the whole Dominion can bring complete success.

Politics as diplomacy, the curse of the present day, have cast their blight over the law itself, and the people have become disheartened with it. Temperance sentiment has in no sense diminished, on the contrary it has increased under the influence of the temperance agitation which has been carried on. A feeling in general that time enough has been spent in preparing the way for prohibition, that the country is now ready for it, that the people desire it, and that the Government must give it.

South Simcoe News. The total vote against the Act shows that at least a very large part of the disinterested population have for the present lost confidence in it as an effective remedy for the evils of the liquor traffic. It has been this divided sentiment among those who favor prohibition that has given the party actually engaged or desiring to be engaged in the liquor trade the balance of power. The judgment of the counties on the disastrous moral and social characteristics of the liquor traffic is just as solid as it was three years ago, and the need of controlling, abating and finally abolishing said traffic just as generally admitted, even by those who have reversed their vote, and by those who have always opposed the Act because they believed it unworkable.

Canadian Reptist. Prohibition, pure and simple and universal, is the only measure that gives promise of ultimate success. High license, restricted license, and local option, have now been sufficiently proved useless. The grand measure must be in view henceforward as the only thing that can give the country security against its most crying evil. Temperance men—and we hope that by this time the term includes most of those who have professed to give their lives to Christ and His kingdom—should now move forward with a single aim. There is no longer any use in waiting for the time that is ripe for the movement. That time will never come. It is the myth of the "convenient season." The only hope for prohibition is to go right at prohibition, and leave all side issues such as options and educating processes as sufficiently proved worthless.

Therbury News. It has only been the death-knell of the Scott Act, and an earnest of something far better in the near future. All temperance effort will now be concentrated upon the one great question—total prohibition—and the Dominion Government should take warning that ere long a peremptory demand will be made for some such simple and effectual method of dealing with so giant an evil. That should be, and can easily be made, the great political issue of the next general election, and we mistake the temper of leading temperance men if that will not be the outcome of the recent defeats. There is really no other great political question now before the country and the time is most opportune for its introduction.

Fort Hope Weekly Guide. We are not disappointed, and believe the same result will follow at any subsequent election that may take place. The reason is not far to seek. Everything possible has been thrown in the way of its proper enforcement. The temperance people have for years past been begging the Dominion Parliament to give such amendments as would make the Act more workable, but without avail. What the country wants and needs is a Total Prohibitory Liquor Law, and what we must have in the near future.

Orillia Packet. What is true of this riding appears to have been true of most others. Whatever other influences may have contributed to the repeal of the Act, the chief cause was that little honest effort was made to enforce it. Friends of temperance are naturally much disappointed; but there is no reason why they should be disheartened. Ultimately the right will triumph, and in that faith let them still press forward.

Whitby Chronicle. It is simply a question of whisky or no whisky, and, when submitted to a vote, the people marked their ballots for whisky by large majorities. As long as people are so fond of liquor there is little use in passing a Scott Act or any other kind of prohibitory law. Mostly everybody one meets likes a glass, and mostly everybody will mark a ballot that way when they get behind the curtain, no matter what they profess outside.

The Peterborough Review. As the people in these counties gave large majorities in favor of the Act, it seems certain that they favored the principle of the measure. Their action now indicates that they are dissatisfied with it because it has not been carried out in these counties, and their verdict is that the Ontario Government, which assumed the duty of enforcing it, failed in its duty. Mr. Mowat and his colleagues preferred to see the law as a machine for making votes for their party.

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