

The Canadian Home Guard

SUPPLEMENT TO DAILY ADVERTISER---SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1894.

Thomas A. Edison, probably the most wonderful and ingenious of all the scientific investigators and inventors of this age, is a total abstainer. He has enormous capacity for brain work and wants to keep his brains clear, as every sensible man should. Asked by Miss Frances Willard if it was because of home influence that he was a total abstainer, he made the characteristic reply, "No, I think it was because I always felt that I had better use for my head."

A unique method of temperance reform has just been inaugurated at Stillwater, O. T. The city council has passed an ordinance prohibiting saloon-keepers and liquor dealers from selling liquors of any kind to four confirmed drinkers named in the ordinance. Any man selling to these parties is liable to arrest and imprisonment and will have his license revoked. The council will keep a list of all confirmed drinkers reported and revise the ordinance monthly.

Whoever has taken much pains to analyze the recent plebiscite vote will notice that the largest majorities for prohibition were rolled up in those counties where the Scott Act was in force years ago. In many such municipalities the people were disappointed at the time with the working of the act, and got an impression, after all, that "a well enforced license law" would be better. Subsequent experience, however, has convinced a good many that they were honestly mistaken. In many localities where the Scott Act was repealed by a popular vote, it has been asserted that it could be easily carried again if once submitted to the people. The majorities on New Year's Day clearly indicate that. The liquor traffic all over Canada is getting most significant notices to quit.

Temperance influence seems to have been felt more in the municipal elections in Hamilton this year than for some years past. There are more tavern licenses granted there in proportion to the population than in any other city in the Province, and they have been out of all proportion to the needs of houses for public accommodation. The council, for years, has refused to reduce the number by bylaw. Last year but three aldermen supported any such reduction. This year it is said that fourteen are pledged to a large reduction. Six or seven men who were known as "saloon candidates" were defeated. The probabilities are that the number will be reduced from 95 to 50 or 60. For a time past more shop licenses have also been granted than there was even paying custom for. There ought to be a reduction of them, too.

The Ontario License Act gives authority to any municipal council to pass a bylaw before the 1st of March reducing the number of licenses in that municipality. The councils now ought to take steps to carry out the well-understood wishes of the people, as expressed on New Year's Day. The majority of the electors in nearly every municipality declared for total prohibition. The municipal councils have not the authority to enact a prohibition law, but they certainly have the authority to put a good deal more prohibition, in their locality, in the existing license law. Let bylaws be enacted still farther limiting the number of licenses and limiting the hours during which licensed bar-rooms may be kept open. Much good can be done in that way. There is scarcely a municipality anywhere where the existing number of licensed houses is not greater than the demands for houses of actual public accommodation call for.

The Wine and Spirit Gazette, one of the most interesting of our exchanges, does not contend that prohibition is such a "dead letter" as some of the smaller fry of liquor advocates assert. Its strong objection is that so far as the respectability of the traffic is concerned prohibition pretty effectually destroys that. Even that is not an unimportant point gained. In a recent issue it puts its objections in this way: "Our position has been that while prohibition everywhere notoriously fails to prohibit, it has nevertheless created a sentiment hostile to the liquor trade and tending to degrade liquor dealers. We contend, and have always contended that prohibition can never be successful in this

country in suppressing the liquor trade. The most it has accomplished or can accomplish, is to drive decent men out of the liquor trade and relegate it to a class of men who do not object to being branded as criminals and are willing to ply their trade in dark corners and hidden places."

Mrs. May Thornley, of this city, the provincial president of the W. C. T. U., has just been setting a London editor right about his confused ideas of prohibition and the Scott Act. She wrote:

"There may be doubt as to the degree of complacency with which the city of London would regard the Scott Act (which is not prohibition, as it makes no interference with the importation and manufacture), but there is no doubt whatever as to the attitude of the 'prohibition mind' towards this or any other form of local option. We want none of it. Closed bars, with breweries in full blast and a fringe of taverns all round our suburbs, is too weak a form of the article to interest us when total provincial prohibition is in sight. While the provisions of the License Act remain as at present this sort of exemption in spots, except in small places and rural communities, is only a travesty on genuine prohibition."

Those who are now talking of the Marter Bill as a "prohibition measure" are subject to a similar correction. Localities that recently gave large majorities for threefold prohibition might give quite a different verdict for either the Scott Act or the Marter Bill, for the simple reason that neither of them pretend to interfere with the brewers, or distillers, or importers.

At the late plebiscite in Toronto there was 3,719 women's names on the list as entitled to vote who did not vote at all. Thereupon quite a number of newspapers jump to the conclusion that women, as a whole, don't want to vote anyway, and, therefore, ought not to be given the legal right to vote. Even the Globe, which is usually in better company on that important reform, seems inclined to join in the cry. At the same election, in the same city, there were 22,077 men's names on the voters' lists who did not vote one way or other. That is two or three times as many as all the women electors of the city, including all who did or did not vote. If logic is logic is it not demonstrated beyond all doubt that men don't want to vote any way, and ought not, therefore, to be entitled to vote? Let some of these great anti-logicians rise and explain. As a matter of fact the very class of women who are now entitled to vote, by our present vote, are those least likely to exercise the franchise. They are the widows and unmarried women, very few of whom have families, and many have not even households of their own. The women of Canada with husbands and sons and daughters around them are those, of all others, interested, not only in the existence of the liquor traffic, but in the laws and law-makers of the country. Why should not they all be given a voice in the councils of the country?

The best men have their failings, and an honest Christian may be a weak one; but weak as he may be, the goodness and the sincerity of his heart may entitle him to put the petition which no hypocrite or cunning deceiver can ever make use of.—[THOMAS SHEPLOCK.]

Are Licenses a Public Nuisance?

There is a good deal of interest in many parts of the States just now over the fact that the Supreme Court of Indiana has just decided that a saloon is a public nuisance, and where a license established near the residence of a citizen and said residence is depreciated in value thereby, the license holder is responsible for the amount of damages thus sustained. It is thought, under such a decision, that a large number of proprietors in residential districts will take steps to rid themselves of saloons in their immediate proximity.

In the case in which this decision is given, two Indianapolis ladies, Mary E. Haggart and Sarah C. Rathwell, brought evidence to show that their residences had been depreciated in value \$2,000 by the fact that a licensed saloon had recently been established alongside.

There is no doubt that many a comfortable residence in Canada has been made less desirable and less valuable because of the establishment of a bar-room close beside. If the courts are inclined to take a similar view here no doubt many would apply to them for

redress. There is one other fact, however, a good deal more important than that. The existence of a saloon is often attended with far more damage and destruction to the inmates of the home—the fathers and sons—than to the actual house itself. The "depreciation in value" in this case is far more serious, and the need of redress is far more urgent. It does not matter whether the saloon happens to be located next door or at the opposite side of the town or the ward, it too often puts in its terribly injurious work. There ought to be a remedy in all such cases, and the only sure remedy seems to be to close up the saloon altogether. The idea is all the time gaining ground that society needs prohibition for its own self-protection. Those who do not drink cannot be safely protected against those who do drink until the whole traffic is cut off. In regard to the right of the State to legalize liquor-selling by license the following quite recent judgment of the United States Supreme Court seems very reasonable, and, at the same time, very important: "No legislature can bargain away the public health or the public morals. The people themselves cannot do it, much less their servants. Government is organized with a view to their preservation, and cannot divest itself of the power to provide for them." That ought to be good law in Canada also. The first great duty of Government is to protect all its citizens in their lives, homes, liberties and the pursuit of happiness. The saloon, though licensed by law, is a serious source of danger, not only to those who happen to drink, but to those who always abstain.

their business. There are also yet some very stupid men who keep on saying, "If you leave the drink alone it will leave you alone."

If we would bring a holy life to Christ we must mind our fire-side duties as well as the duties of the sanctuary.—[SPURGEON.]

Reduce Licenses.

The Ontario License Act gives authority to any municipal council to reduce the number of liquor licenses in that municipality down to two, if it desires to do so. A bylaw to that effect may be adopted and go in force any year if passed before the 1st day of March. Now that the electors of so many townships have given such sweeping majorities for the abolition of the whole business it would be well for the councils to adopt more restricting by-laws. There can be no doubt but that the amount of drinking and drunkenness in any community depends considerably on the number of open bar-rooms in the place. In London, for instance, the official records of past years show that with every decrease in the number of licenses issued there has been a decrease in the number of arrests for drunkenness.

Section 20, sub-section 1, of the Ontario License Act is in the following terms:

"The council of every city, town, village or township may, by bylaw to be passed before the 1st day of March in any year, limit the number of tavern licenses to be issued therein for the then ensuing license year, beginning on the 1st day of May, or for any future license year until such bylaw is altered or repealed, providing such limit is within the limit imposed by this act."

The license commissioners have also

more regulations and restraints. The popular conviction is that a sweeping prohibition measure, including the manufacture as well as the sale, will be effectual, and nothing short of that will do. Half way measures have been condemned. A sweeping measure is now demanded, as soon as at all practical.

Progress Towards Prohibition.

Some ardent Canadian temperance workers get, at times, discouraged because progress towards successful prohibition is so slow. Great reforms move slowly, however. The liquor traffic is the growth of generations, and it has vast sums profitably invested in the business. Its roots are deep and strong, and it is not going to be uprooted easily. Slavery was never so strong either in England or the States as the liquor traffic now is, and it required years of labor and of waiting to abolish it, but it has been swept out of existence in both countries.

Sir William Harcourt, a leading spirit in the present British Government, in a recent reply to a local option deputation, said:

"It is 30 years ago since the great leader of this movement, Sir Wilfrid Lawson—(cheers)—introduced this measure into the House of Commons. Thirty years is a long time in the life of an individual, but unfortunately it is not a long time in the progress of reform. The gestation of reform is slow, and its products are great and long lived. Great causes are of slow growth. The abolition of slavery required more than 30 years. (Hear, hear.) It was 50 years from the introduction of the bill of Mr. Pitt before any measure of Parliamentary reform could be carried. We are all of us happy to think that our friend Sir Wilfrid Lawson still flourishes—(cheers)—and we hope and believe that it will be granted to him to enter upon the promised land to which he has fought so long through the wilderness."

Predictions of Progress.

Some of the Prophecies of a Good Time Coming by Leading Workers.

One of the interesting features of the New Year's number of McClure's magazine is a chapter entitled "The Marvels of the Future" in which forecasts of progress are made by a number of well-known men in different departments of the world's work. Most of the names are familiar to Canadian readers, and all the predictions will be found interesting and suggestive.

THE FUTURE IN SCIENCE.

Prof. Edwin J. Houston, who has made a specialty of the practical study of applied electricity, thanks that the electric future is bright with promise for the world. He predicts a practical method for the production of electricity directly from the burning of coal. The result will be the universal adoption of the electric motor, the throwing away of the steam engine, and the almost immediate realization of the air ship as a means of transportation. He thinks that electricity will be more applied to alleviate human sufferings and to prolong life. He also predicts some electrical apparatus for seeing through a wire, as we now speak through it, and for very long distances—a thousand miles or more. He also thinks that hard vitrified road beds may be produced by the intense heating power of enormous currents of electricity vitrifying the clay or other suitable soil, as vitrified bricks are now hardened and made durable.

WARS AND HUNGER TO CEASE.

Edward Atkinson, the well-known writer on economic subjects, thinks that in the next century soldiers in the great armies will have learned what fools men are to fight. When that time comes, hunger, now promoted by the waste of preparation for war, will cease. The barriers of hostile tariffs, now separating countries will be thrown down. Men will be free to serve each other in the supply of all their wants. The well-trained officers will become captains of industry. Peace, good-will and plenty will prevail among all nations. Science will gain control of the nitrogen of the air, the soil will then become a laboratory rather than a mine to be worked as now, and will then supply abundance of food, fuel, fibre and fabric for comfortable subsistence and great abundance. The man who possesses intelligence and industry and governed by religion, will then be so sure of material welfare that it will not pay to strive to be rich.

MEN'S LABOR CAPACITY INCREASED.

Prof. Robert H. Thurston, of Cornell University, predicts still more wonderful improvements than during the past half century, and wonderful gains in all that makes life easier and better worth living. The steamship now crosses the ocean in less than half the time it did a generation ago and it will probably make much quicker trips in the near future, possibly in four days or less. Railway trains will travel at much greater speed. The telephone

may give us power to converse with people beyond the ocean. Electric power will probably do much of the work now done with steam engines and much more conveniently and effectually. Much of the tyranny of corporations will thus be broken. New inventions in mechanism will make man's work easier, his hours of labor shorter, his necessities more easily obtained; all classes may become classes of leisure in ample degree for their best welfare. Easy lives will come to mean comfortable and happy lives, and the length of life increased. The family of the nation will, like the family of the individual, be smaller and happier as the mind, instead of the body, comes to utilize all physical powers.

APPLICATION OF CHEMISTRY.

Prof. Ira Remsen, of Johns Hopkins University, predicts, as regards the applications of chemistry: 1. That the time is not far distant when the artificial preparation of articles of food will be accomplished. 2. That the chemical study of the substances present in the animal body under normal conditions, and of those found in the body in disease, will lead to chemical methods of treating disease that will be thoroughly scientific.

ERADICATION OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASE.

Pasteur, the great French scientist, predicts that to some simple measures dictated by experimental science, we can allow ourselves to foresee the time when all great contagious scourges which have decimated humanity shall be eradicated at their sources.

MORE MERCY, JUSTICE AND RIGHTNESS.

Archbishop Ireland, the great Roman Catholic leader, says: Scarcely ever was humanity pregnant with such possibilities; scarcely ever were similar opportunities offered to accomplish great things. The future will bring no millennium. There will be no rose bush without thorns, no day without the nearness of evening shades, no life without the menace of death. But I do believe there will be more mercy in the world, more justice, more righteousness. There will be more respect for manhood, more liberty for the individual. The brotherhood of men will be more widely recognized, and its lessons more faithfully practiced. Nations will see in one another assemblies of brothers, and peaceful arbitration will, in the settlement of disagreements, take the place of the murderous sword.

ALL WILL BE WORKING.

Emile Zola, the noted Frenchman, says: "The coming century will be a century of work. Do we not see already, in the increase of socialism, the social law of the future form itself—a law of work for all—work the regulator and pacifier? How grand and healthy would be that society in which every member would share his logical part of the work! The man who works is always good. Hence I am convinced that the only faith which can save us is the belief in the efficiency of duty accomplished."

A GLOOMIER VIEW.

Pope Leo XIII. is much less hopeful in his outlook of the future. He writes: "In studying the condition of the workingman we have sought to distinguish the disastrous conflict which torments and menaces human society, over which hangs, like a black sky, the wrath of popular passions, announcing by terrible thunder-claps the breaking loose of a tempest fraught with shipwrecks."

BEGIN WITH THANKSGIVING.

Cardinal Gibbons, of Baltimore, so well known throughout the Roman Catholic world, gives this sentiment for the New Year: The blessings which as a nation we enjoy are so many and precious that our hearts should be filled with sincere gratitude; and the sentiment of grateful thanks should prompt us both to render praise to the "Giver of all good gifts," and to be more appreciative henceforth. I know of no better thought to fill our minds now than this, which will undoubtedly secure a year rich in fruitful, personal endeavor. We cannot begin the year more profitably than by giving thanks. Gratitude is at once a very essential form of divine worship, a most acceptable prayer to God, and a certain assurance of future blessings.

A Presbyterian Year Book.

A valuable Canadian Presbyterian Year Book has just been published, containing a large amount of useful and valuable information in regard to the Presbyterian Church. It is edited by Rev. W. D. Ballantyne, B.A., editor of the Canada Presbyterian, and bears the imprint of the Presbyterian Printing and Publishing Company of Toronto. Both editor and printers have done their work well. Besides a large amount of general information, there are lists of the moderators of the General Assembly, a sketch of the life and a capital portrait of Rev. Dr. Sedgwick, the present moderator, articles on the various mission works, on temperance, systematic beneficence, Formosa mission success, sketches of some leading churches, rolls of synods and presbyteries, and much other valuable reading. It is a well-printed book of about 140 pages for 15 cents.

Motto for the Week:

It is remarkable that all the diseases arising from drinking alcoholic liquors are liable to become hereditary to the third generation, increasing, if the cause be continued, till the family becomes extinct.—[Darwin.]

Forward Movement.

How It Works.

Last week we made mention in these columns of the fact that Miss Nellie Utting, a quiet young lady at Woodstock, while passing along one of the leading streets in the evening with a lady friend, was struck across the head by an intoxicated young fellow and knocked into unconsciousness. The blow was not intended for her at all, but for some young fellow against whom the assailant had some grudge. Since then the young man, John Brunesen, has been on trial for that unprovoked assault. He was convicted and sentenced to two years' imprisonment in the Kingston Penitentiary. "Justice has been done," some are saying. But who gets the justice? Not the young lady who is thus a victim of the drink traffic, though she did not drink. Not the taxpayers, temperance men included, who have another \$500 added to their burdens to meet the extra expenses of the prisoner's two years' incarceration. They have to foot the bills, no matter who sold or who drank the liquor. Nor was any justice done to whoever sold the liquor, under the influence of which such a serious crime was committed. Every such liquor dealer knows very well how much the safety of the community is every day endangered because of the business, and yet goes right on increasing these dangers.

And so it goes. Since Confederation the taxpayers of Canada have been burdened with an expense of between \$6,000,000 and \$7,000,000 to meet the expenses of our penitentiaries and the fact is beyond dispute that the drink traffic has had more to do with keeping them supplied with inmates than all other causes combined. Hundreds of innocent persons who never drank have been stricken down and wounded and sometimes maimed for life or killed outright, simply because somebody wanted to sell and somebody else bought of them and drank. The terrible work will go on this year just as it did last, and will surely continue to go on until an effectual prohibition law closes down the whole traffic.

And yet there are men, some of them claiming to be Gospel teachers, who go on maintaining that it is society, for its self-protection, demands a closing down on such a traffic; it ought, "in all justice and fairness" to compensate the men who are in it for the loss of

power to decrease the number, but in that matter they are usually governed by what the council indicates. They have also power to restrict the hours of sale and have done so in many cases to good advantage. If bar-rooms were required everywhere to be closed at 9 o'clock, or even an earlier hour, the effect would be excellent. Men who spend their time in them after such an hour are often drinking to drunkenness and are every hour becoming more and more dangerous to the whole community as well as to their own homes. The popular demand is now towards prohibition and the councils should do their share in the work.

No Half Way Measures.

One leading prohibition worker has ventured the suggestion that as the verdict was recently so unanimous for total prohibition there ought, therefore, to be an active crusade at once for the adoption of the Scott Act and local option bylaws all over the Province. The suggestion has met with little favor, however, as the answer from almost every direction is that the recent verdict was for threefold and entire prohibition, including the manufacture and importation of liquors as well as their sale, and therefore to begin a campaign merely against the sale, allowing the manufacturers and importers legal possession of the field, would be a retrograde step to take.

Another set of workers now raise the cry of, "Let us have the Marter Bill enacted at once—the recent verdict warrants and demands that." The Marter Bill only aims a blow at the retail license system, and no more interferes with the manufacturers and importers than does the Scott Act, or township local option. It is very well as far as it goes, but it does not go one-half far enough to come within the range of the recent popular verdict. It has no claims so far as the plebiscite verdict is concerned. The Marter Bill, as ably and clearly explained by Mr. Meredith in the House last session, is not a prohibition measure at all, and was not so claimed by its supporters; it is merely an amendment to our existing license laws.

As a matter of fact the people of Canada have had a long and painful experience with license laws and with