

Moderate Prohibitionists Meet.

1,000 People Attended Casino Theatre -- Report of the Royal Commission Read.

An audience of over 1,000 people attended the public meeting held in the Casino Theatre last night, when the Moderate Prohibition Committee presented the report of their work since the meeting of the Committee, opened the meeting and outlined the purpose of the gathering which was to try and do something to put a stop to the evils of excessive and indiscriminate drinking brought about by the operation of the present Prohibition Act. He indicated the failure of the Committee to secure the support of the House of Assembly and the failure of our Prohibition Law to bring about the results which the advocates anticipated. The speaker gave the following facts:

"Imported into this country for consumption during the year which ended on the 31st of last year the following quantities of intoxicating liquors which come under the headings Rum, Brandy, Whiskey and Gin:

Ready 2,679 gals.
Whisky 4,476 " "
Gin 230 " "
Rum 5,637 " "
Total 13,512 gals.

This quantity with the proper proportion of water added would make about 35,000 bottles of the wine and beer we also added we have a total of over 100,000 bottles of intoxicating liquors which may be secured, on importation by the House of Assembly, for the present fiscal year is much larger. Some of the doctors are, therefore, sharing among themselves hundreds of thousands of dollars a sum sufficient to keep all our light houses going for a year. This sum would pay the salaries of every Judge, Court Official, Policeman and Constable in the country, and also the expenses and conduct money of witnesses in all criminal cases, the charges of lawyers prosecuting on behalf of the Crown and the cost of conveying all prisoners to gaol and penitentiary during the year. It would represent as large a sum as the Government expects to get by the sale of our light houses' salaries, and would pay the total salaries of all Outport Postmasters since the beginning of the year. It certainly would pay for an army of dispensers who could supply people with alcohol who would have to stoop to hypocrisy in order to obtain it.

"In addition to this tax on hypocrisy, we are faced with a fifty per cent surtax on spirits. This means an addition of 31 cents per gallon, 30c on whiskey, and 41c on brandy -- an average on the consumption of the last fiscal year of 37 cents per bottle of spirits.

"Our committee issued forms of petition for modification of Prohibition. Petitions containing 14,800 signatures have been already presented in the House of Assembly. There are to be presented. The work was done voluntarily and expenses were paid in a couple of cases where there were special requests. The committee placed in evidence before the Royal Commission on Prohibition, copies of the proposed Act to amend the present Act. A copy of this Act is placed in evidence before the Royal Commission on Prohibition. Copies have also been sent to the House of Assembly. The following is a short synopsis of the proposed Act:

1. No person save the Controller or his agents may import, buy or sell intoxicating liquors under a permit. (Note--Penalties are more severe than those laid down in the Prohibition Act). No person shall manufacture intoxicants except by license of the Controller, to whom alone he may sell his product.

2. Supplying intoxicants knowingly to a person whose name has been refused or cancelled is forbidden.

3. The buyer is penalized as well as the seller.

4. Employees of the Controller who commit breaches of the Act are subject to fine or imprisonment, and in addition must lose their jobs.

5. Licenses will be granted to buy liquors. Such licenses shall be suspended in addition to fine or imprisonment for breach of the law. The Controller's duties: He shall keep a sufficient stock and have same tested for purity and quantity by a competent analyst.

6. He shall establish and supervise dispensaries where the Governor-in-Council may direct. Those who do not want them in their locality may petition to have them kept away. He shall exact monthly returns from such dispensaries.

7. He shall issue licenses, collect license fees and fines, keep accounts and statistics, make the business pay for itself and report annually to the Legislature.

8. Regulations for the guidance of the Controller and his deputies are laid down in Schedule "A".

9. A person of 21 years and over is entitled to a license if no protest has been made, on payment of one dollar a year. The allowance will be 24 oz. or a bottle a week. Protest may be made by any dependent, by the husband, wife, parent or child. The Magistrate may enquire where protest is made and may refuse to issue a license if he is satisfied that the applicant is an habitual drunkard or one who is given liquor, may fail to support his dependents, or if he has been granted their license has been cancelled if the licensee is proved to be an habitual drunkard, or who neglects to provide for his dependents, or who is addicted to drunkenness, vagrancy or any crime of violence.

10. Forfeiture of license or alteration made thereto or transfer of license to another made or knowingly allowed, are penalized.

11. Scripts, Doctor's prescriptions, liquor, but such quantity will be deducted from the allowance of

that or the following week. Persons not licensed are limited to 8 oz. in case of sickness.

12. Manufacturers and traders are allowed liquor for manufacturing and trade purposes, but are punishable if they use it for any other purpose. Masters of vessels may take 8 oz. per man per week for medicinal purposes.

13. Special Licenses with photos attached to bona-fide travellers and tourists. Special licensees may be allowed the doctors in case of epidemic. Free entry liquor. The duty should be collected in the price, and credited to the Controller's Department.

14. Schedule "B" lays down rules relating to licenses, coupons, etc. Schedule "B" classifies liquors as (1) Spirits, (2) Strong Ales and Wines, and (3) Light Ales and Wines.

15. Spirits are Whiskey, Brandy, Rum, Gin and all other liquors with 50% or more of alcohol.

16. Strong Ales and Wines include all between 12% and 30%.

17. Light Ales and Wines comprise those having less than 12% of alcohol.

18. The Spirit allowance is 24 oz. or 2 reputed pints per week; Strong Ales and Wines 72 oz. or 6 reputed pints; Light Ales and Wines, 144 oz. or 12 reputed pints.

Schedule "C"--Forms of Application, License, Coupon and Stub.

At the conclusion of his address, Mr. Smith called on the Secretary, Mr. J. St. John, to read the report of the Royal Commission appointed last year by the Government to enquire into the working of the Prohibition Laws. The copy of the Report as submitted to His Excellency Sir Charles Alexander Harris, is somewhat lengthy and our space only permits of a digest as follows:

The Commission held very many sessions at St. John's and also at Port Union, the evidence was in the form of sworn testimony. Enquiry into two petitions sent to the House of Assembly in 1920 satisfied the Commissioners of the existence of evils which call for adequate remedies. These evils are: (1) Sale of "dope," (2) Abuse of prescriptions, (3) Manufacture of Moonshine, (4) Increase in smuggling liquors. The police records of arrests of drunks in 1919 showed the number to be 228 or 20% more than there were in 1917 and 1918 together, due mainly to drinking of dope. The first four months of this year show a marked decline of drunkenness from this cause. The decline in the use of dope has brought another evil viz, Moonshine; during the last two months of March and April there were nine arrests for moonshine. In 1916 less than 1-3 of the arrested were disorderly. In 1920 about half were so. The report adds that it is clear that the use of dope and moonshine creates far more disorder than the use of ordinary liquor. Out of 32 places where evidence was gathered, 29 reported the manufacture of moonshine; out of the 17 places on the Southwest Coast, only one reported moonshine. The report adds that a large percentage of the evidence gathered in St. Pierre gives the clue. A campaign against this use of dope and moonshine through the medium of churches, Sunday schools, public schools, the press and by leaflets and pamphlets is suggested. The matter of prescriptions also received attention and the Commission point out that a large percentage of liquor obtained by this means is used purely as a beverage, and not as the Act provides. The following recommendations were also embodied in this Report:

1. The retention of the Department for the purpose, dispensing and distribution of liquor.

2. The abolition of the office of the Controller.

3. The placing of the sole control of the Department under a board of three members: a medical practitioner, a clergyman, and a business man, who shall retire in rotation. The medical practitioner at the end of the first year; the clergyman at the end of the second year; the business man at the end of the third year. Rating member to be eligible for re-appointment. Appointments of original members and the filling of vacancies to be made by the Governor-in-Council.

4. Grants to be made to the Board and the accounts to be audited by the Auditor General, net profits to be paid to the Treasury.

5. The power of the Board to include terms of engagements of officials and servants, and all financial arrangements.

6. A general manager to be appointed to take charge of the Department. The power of appointment, suspension, dismissal and direction of the general manager and other officials and servants to be in the Board.

7. Rules and Regulations (including penalties) after approval by the Governor-in-Council and publication in the Royal Gazette, to have the force of law.

8. The Board to be given discretion to refuse to fill any prescriptions of any medical practitioner whom they find is not acting in accordance with the Act, with a right of appeal to the Supreme Court for any person aggrieved by the action of the Board.

9. To make it an offence for any person to obtain a prescription under false pretences.

10. Prescriptions to be filled in the City of St. John's only by the Department, and the Department to be kept open at such hours on working days, Sundays and holidays as the Board may from time to time appoint.

11. The possession of a still for distillation of spirits to be an offence, and possession thereof to be presumptive evidence of possession for distillation.

12. The manufacture, possession, sale, gift of, or the treating of any person to "moonshine" to be an offence with penalties double those provided for the illicit sale of liquors.

13. The act of search and the indemnity in regard to search for illicit manufacture, importation and sale of "liquors" or of the possession, manufacture, sale or gift of, or treating persons to "moonshine" and, or of the possession of stills for distillation to be similar to the provisions of the Licensing Act, 1905.

14. The Board to be given authority to sell to the heads of households and under rules and regulations, with penalties, certain quantities of liquors, not to exceed the rate of

A. 24 oz. of Spirits.
B. 24 oz. of Wine
C. 24 oz. of Spirits
D. 24 oz. of Spirits
E. 24 oz. of Spirits
F. 24 oz. of Spirits
G. 24 oz. of Spirits
H. 24 oz. of Spirits
I. 24 oz. of Spirits
J. 24 oz. of Spirits
K. 24 oz. of Spirits
L. 24 oz. of Spirits
M. 24 oz. of Spirits
N. 24 oz. of Spirits
O. 24 oz. of Spirits
P. 24 oz. of Spirits
Q. 24 oz. of Spirits
R. 24 oz. of Spirits
S. 24 oz. of Spirits
T. 24 oz. of Spirits
U. 24 oz. of Spirits
V. 24 oz. of Spirits
W. 24 oz. of Spirits
X. 24 oz. of Spirits
Y. 24 oz. of Spirits
Z. 24 oz. of Spirits

every three months, or the same proportion monthly or half yearly as the Board may deem circumstances warrant.

15. The Board to be given authority to supply under rules and regulations with penalties, manufacturers with liquor for manufacturing purposes, provided that that where the manufacture is not of medicines, essences, food-stuffs or aerated waters, it shall be made non-potable before it leave the Department.

16. The Board to be given authority to supply under rules and regulations with penalties, vessels, and steamers, going coast-wise or foreign, with liquor for medicinal purposes.

17. The cause of proof for offences under the Act to be on the accused.

18. Imprisonment without the option of a fine to be imposed for the fourth and subsequent convictions from the date of the New Act.

19. Special rewards to be offered to police officers and Customs officers who show marked vigilance in enforcing the Act.

20. Detective force to be increased for the enforcement of the Act.

21. No liquor seized by the police to be sent out until its purity is ascertained by analysis.

22. Manufacturers to be authorized to sell to the Board of Control such beers and stout as the Board may order.

23. Provision to be made for carrying on an educational campaign on the detrimental effects of drinking "dope" and "moonshine."

24. The whole Statute Law as amended to be consolidated.

All through the reading of the Report the audience took it as a joke, and repeatedly interrupted the Secretary with laughter. Some one in the audience asked who was on the Commission, and was answered that there were five doctors on it, whereupon there was an uproar. At the conclusion of the reading of the Report, the following Resolution was adopted unanimously: Messrs. W. French, Jas. O'Conor, Earle and others speaking to the effect that this was the plan. Italian officers remarked, "It is high time they let loose on those fellows."

WHEREAS, A Petition was presented last year to the Legislature signed by some fifteen thousand electors praying for a modification of the Prohibition Act which would allow reputable citizens to obtain limited quantities of alcoholic beverages for the personal use of the household;

AND WHEREAS, A Royal Commission on Prohibition in its report recommends the stricter enforcement of the Prohibition Act with an allowance of a bottle of spirits and the equivalent in beer or wine of two bottles of wine every three months to each household in the country;

AND WHEREAS, The Moderate Prohibition Committee has drafted an Act in which the allowance of intoxicating liquor shall not exceed twenty-four ounces of spirits or its equivalent in wine or beer each week;

AND WHEREAS, this meeting is of the opinion that experience has shown the Prohibition Act to be unworkable;

AND WHEREAS, the allowance proposed by the Royal Commission is insufficient to discourage illegal import and manufacture of alcoholic beverages, but large enough to make such illegal import and manufacture less easily detected;

AND WHEREAS, the quantity proposed by the Moderate Prohibition Committee would tend to discourage both smuggling and illicit distillation and at the same time satisfy the desires of those who use alcohol without abusing it;

BE IT RESOLVED, that this meeting is of the opinion that legislation should be immediately introduced embodying the principles of the proposed Act drafted by the Moderate Prohibition Committee;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the opinion of this meeting the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Prohibition will only tend to bring the law into disrepute, and be no effective remedy against the evils of intemperance, will destroy the remaining safeguards of the home, encourage the spy and the informer, and introduce into our Courts inquisitorial methods subversive of all the principles of British jurisprudence.

A deputation was appointed to present the Resolution at the Bar of the House this afternoon.

The National Anthem then brought a most enthusiastic meeting to a close at 11.30 p.m.

At the Yarmouth Y.M.C.A. Boys' Camp, held at Tuckers Falls in August, 1920, a most beneficial for sunburn, an immediate relief for colic and toothache.

ALFRED STOKES, General Secy.

FOOTBALL BOOTS for Men. Genuine English make, "CH" Brand, White and Brown, at PARKER & MONROE'S, may 26/21

TO-DAY'S MESSAGES.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES ULTIMATUM

LONDON, May 30. (Canadian Associated Press)--The coal strike has taken a dramatic turn over the week end. Miners and owners have been given to understand that the Government has said its last say, namely they must either agree or submit their dispute to compulsory arbitration. Proposals of the Government, according to a report of the last Conference, include both a temporary and permanent settlement of the dispute. The Government's proposal is that during the temporary period, wages will be scaled down gradually to an economic level by aid of Government grants of ten million pounds, and owner's profits will be used to assist in breaking the fall. A permanent settlement is to be one of three forms, Arbitration, National Wage Board or a Tribunal of Three for single arbitrators. Terms of reference are virtually all ready, and exclude the raising of the question of a pool of wages. The Government's proposals will now go before district meetings of the Miners' Union for discussion, and the men's votes will be considered Friday. Owners meet on Wednesday.

AN EPOCHAL MEETING. LONDON, May 30. Premier Hughes of Australia arrived in Toulon to-day, on route to London where he is to attend the Conference of British Premiers. Hughes said representatives of the Dominions would meet for the first time at a Conference to mould and formulate a Foreign policy for the Empire, which had hitherto been decided by Britain alone.

SYDNEY SUPPLYING U.K. SYDNEY, N.S., May 30. Thirty nine thousand tons of coal are being loaded for the United Kingdom here this week.

VERDICT OF GUILTY. VANCOUVER, B.C., May 30. G. T. Gratton-Desmoues, described as a Sinn Féiner envoy to Australia, was found "guilty" here to-day of a seditious uttering, by an assize court jury, after forty five minutes deliberation.

ROYAL HIGHLANDERS ADVANCE GUARD. OPHEIN, Silesia, May 30. First battalion of the Black Watch arrived here to-day and was met by hundreds of children, who threw flowers at British soldiers. The people generally appeared pleased by the arrival of the Scotchmen, who were delighted with their reception. Italians appear eager to co-operate with British in driving out insurgents. They have heard that this was the plan. Italian officers remarked, "It is high time they let loose on those fellows."

CANADA'S SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES. OTTAWA, May 30. Supplementary estimates to the Budget were tabled by Sir Henry Drayton in Commons to-night, totalling twenty three million, nine hundred thousand dollars. Some twelve millions is substituted for the item of ten millions for provincial housing, and loans in the main estimates. The rest of the sum is for current capital and Demobilization purposes.

SEVEN KILLED. BURLINGTON, May 30. Seven persons were reported killed, and more than a score injured, in a head on trolley collision to-day at Roehling near here.

THE REBIRTH OF A NATION. WASHINGTON, D.C., May 30. Memorial ceremonies here took on an international character, when President Harding rededicated the Nation to the cause of freedom and civilization, and promised it never would fail to measure up to every demand presented to it on behalf of civilization. By striking across the seas in the world war, he declared, United States had sacrificed again her faith in free institutions. British Ambassador Geddes placed on the United States flag a wreath of roses "Presented by the people of the United Kingdom and her Dominions in undimmed memory of the sacrifices United States has made for individual liberty."

ULSTER PARLIAMENT COMPLETE. BELFAST, May 30. With the election of P. O'Neill, Nationalist, for Down, the Ulster Parliament is complete. It is made up of forty Unionists, six Sinn Féiners and six Nationalists. The corporation has granted Sir James Craig, the Ulster Leader, permission to use the City Hall a preliminary meeting of the New Parliament. The preliminary meeting will take place on June 7, and the opening ceremony will occur June 21st.

TEAM AND TRACTION CAR COLLISION. EDINBURGH, In, May 31. From fifty to sixty persons were injured, two of them probably fatally, and several seriously, at ten-forty last night, when a Pennsylvania freight train crashed into the Dixie Flyer a fast Indianapolis, Columbus and Southern traction car, carrying a trailer, at the track intersection here.

A.S. STEAMER ON FIRE. BALTIMORE, May 31. The passenger and freight steamer

Buckeye State, one of the largest liners plying between Baltimore, San Francisco and Pacific ports, caught fire shortly after five o'clock this morning at her pier. The steamer is one of United States Shipping Board's vessels, and is affected here by strike.

LEADERS MEETING EXPECTED. LONDON, May 31. Another meeting between Sir James Craig and Eamon De Valera is expected in Government circles, according to the London Times, which asserts that a moderate section of Sinn Féin in again trying to influence party Council in the direction of a settlement and the paper adds that the Government believes that notwithstanding the recent violence, prominence of extremists and their numerical strength have declined considerably, and that they are of comparatively small account, except in the area already under martial law.

Train Notes. An express left town at 1 p.m. for Port aux Basques. Passengers by Thursday's express will connect with the Glencoe at Humbermouth. The Carbonar local did not arrive until 1.30 p.m. The Trepassay train arrived on time. Along the line this morning the weather was calm and foggy. The temperature ranged from 48 to 50 degrees.

Fashion Plates. A POPULAR APRON STYLE.

Pattern 3596 is here shown. It is cut in 4 Sizes: Small, 36-38; Medium, 38-40; Large, 42-44; Extra Large, 46-48 inches bust measure. A Medium size will require 4 1/2 yards of 38 inch material.

Percale, gingham, chambray, lawn, drill, jean, saten and alpaca are good for this style.

A pattern of this illustration mailed to any address on receipt of 15 cents in silver or stamps.

A PLETTY PROCK FOR "PARTY" OR "BEST WEAR."

Pattern 3594 is here charmingly illustrated. It is cut in 4 Sizes: 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. A 10-year size will require 2 1/2 yards of 40 inch material. Organza, voile, dimity, lawn, dotted Swiss, silk, crepe de chine, crepe, tulle, embroidery, taffeta and pongee are attractive for this style.

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NEW THINGS At Low Prices.

Children's and Misses' GINGHAM DRESSES. To fit ages 2 to 12 years. Made of good quality Gingham in check and striped; well finished styles. See window display.

\$1.89 each.

LADIES' VESTS. Soft White Summer Vests with straps. These are the popular strafe make, at a much lower price than last year.

39c. each.

GLOVES. A sample assortment of Ladies' Gloves in Chambray, Brown, White, Navy and other colors. These Gloves are valued up to \$1.50 pair. To be had in all sizes.

69c. pair.

LADIES' STRAP SHOES. Black Patent Leather Strap Shoes, Cuban heels, pointed toes; sizes 3 to 6.

\$3.90 pair.

WHITE MUSLIN BLOUSES. A new lot of Ladies' White Muslin Blouses. These come very cheap; all new styles; sizes 38 to 46. Don't fail to see this line.

\$1.70 each.

CURTAIN SCRIMS. Curtain Scrims in White, Cream and Fancy;