

the vital fact that the Act was not backed by public opinion. It was carried by narrow majorities in every case and there were always a number who refused to vote and were passively opposed to it. The result was that while those in authority were blamed for its non-enforcement, the same persons were re-elected by the vote of the people in order that they might pursue the same policy over again. The delays and quibbles of the law, and the fact that the Act was class legislation of a very offensive kind, as was clearly shown in this city during the last years of its operation, alienated many who were once numbered among its supporters. It is hard to suppose that, if re-enacted to-morrow, better results would follow—inasmuch as the very same obstacles still exist and apparently will continue to do so. This being the case is it not wise to discuss in a practical way some step which even if not perfect in theory (which practical legislation never is) may at all events give a prospect of securing better results. Two factors seem of prime importance—eliminating the money element from the traffic, and providing a substitute for the saloon. The first will be readily conceded—the second may be disputed; but not, it seems to us, by sober minded men who will think calmly over the whole subject. In the limits of an article like this we cannot go into the discussion of this point.

We suggest for consideration: That in Charlottetown liquor be sold only by the Government; there are obvious reasons why this is preferable to sale by the City officials. That this sale be conducted under whatever restrictions be deemed advisable; of these there are many that at once present themselves. The seller to be a salaried officer of the Government under heavy pecuniary bonds. The equipment and accessories of the place of sale to be of such a character as to