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HEAD OFFICE: TORONTO

### VOTE KEEPS COUNTING UP

Continued From Page 1.

In North Toronto, in the last election Mr. Marter was defeated by a majority of 232, and prohibition carried by a majority of 177. Mr. Marter, who was elected to the House every amendment to the Liquor Act which was proposed by the prohibition party, and on that account had a special claim upon the support of the prohibitionists. Yet he was defeated. When the vote was taken on prohibition there was a large majority on a measure not even quite as favorable to the prohibitionists as the one Mr. Marter advocated. How is this? Did the prohibitionists vote against Mr. Marter, or has there been an extraordinary change of heart since the general election?

Opinions changed since May. Another feature of the campaign quite conspicuous is that so many cities, and I have no doubt when we get the full returns, many constituencies also, that supported Mr. Whitney's candidature rejected entirely Mr. Whitney's views on the question of prohibition. Take Toronto and Hamilton as illustrations. The four Toronto voters who went out in detail in some of the other cities, similar results are apparent. If Stratford had given the prohibitionist a vote, the decision in North Perth would have been very much changed. The same may be said of Guelph and some other cities, and certainly for a large number of towns in the province. It is quite evident therefore that a great many people in their zeal for the party candidate supported him as against their views on the question of prohibition. Of course, if the same aggregation of vote had been polled in the general election as was polled in the general election a more accurate deduction could

be drawn from the situation as it now appears. But with such illustrations as Toronto, Hamilton, Stratford, Guelph and some of the large towns the inference I shall be able to speak with greater confidence as to the situation.

When full returns are received I shall be able to speak with greater confidence as to the situation. Speaking of the general outlook J. S. Robertson, president of the Canadian Temperance League, said yesterday: "The majority is so decisive that this expression of public opinion cannot be ignored by our legislators. It is an important advance in temperance legislation at an early day. The large majorities given in many of the important towns and cities are an emphatic protest against the open barroom and treatment system, which were the distinctive issues of the campaign, and it is in the larger centres of population where the evils of the barroom are most felt. A total majority of at least 50,000 for the act is clear notice to the trade that the barroom must go. It is not prepared to say at this moment just what shape new legislation may be expected to take, but it is certain that the people who are not actively identified with the temperance movement, but who are a party near it, are not prepared to support the barroom system in the Province to solve in some practical way this menace of our country and home."

Parties None Too Strong. J. A. Austin, Grand Councilor of the Royal Templars, said: "We have got the legislation in a nice position. Neither party is any too strong, and they are both bound to ignore the temperance sentiment."

The Task Too Great. James Hartney, Manitoba government agent, is one of those who were not in the least surprised at the result of the referendum vote. He never expected to see the Liquor Act carried from the first. The temperance people in his opinion, were given an absolute impossibility to accomplish. In Manitoba, last spring, the temperance people had a fighting chance, as, in having a two-thirds majority to obtain, they knew exactly where they were at, while here, it was not a matter of a majority over the liquor men, but of obtaining such a number as it was well-nigh impossible to do. The liquor men will now put up the argument that they made no effort to secure a vote on their side of the question, an argument that may go in some quarters.

Charges of Crooked Work. There is a good deal of talk going around about the charges of crooked work made by the temperance people after the voting on Thursday. In some subdivisions there was a remarkably heavy vote polled, and the temperance people are asking where they all came from. In one of the downtown business sections, where few live, there were two subdivisions in which every vote on the list was polled. This is an unusual happening, but my own eyes saw the evidence, and a good deal more will be heard concerning the conduct of the referendum.

Were Christian Brothers. Further inquiry into the reported personation of three priests in the polling on Thursday revealed the fact that the parties personated were not priests at all. Christian Brothers of the order of the Holy Ghost, who are in the service of the Roman Catholic Church, were the ones who were personated. Some of the men at the polling division mistook the members of the order for priests, and reported them as such to Alexander Mills, barrister, who is interested in the referendum, and who is interested in the referendum.

Conservatives Stood Off. The Central Conservative organization's office repudiated the charge that a concerted and organized attempt was made by the party to carry the Liquor Act with the object of "killing the Ross government in the hole." No circulars or letters were sent out, and no steps were taken to influence voters, it is affirmed.

A. W. Wright, Conservative organizer, when seen on Friday said he had heard it frequently stated that the Conservative organization had been used to carry the act, but this he stoutly denied. There was no truth whatever in the statement.

OPINION IN MONTREAL. Montreal, Dec. 5.—The World secured today the opinion of a representative liquor man, as well as that of a leading champion of prohibition on the vote on the Liquor Act. John Douglas, of the Witness said: "The reason for this, in my judgment, is that the people are growing tired of nagatory votes. Nothing is done on either side of the street, and they felt that it would be the same time, so they stayed at home. The fact of the negative side is quite as noticeable as the other. The liquor men exerted themselves to the utmost, and the prohibitionists did nothing. As to what effect the vote will have on legislation, I do not know. The liquor men are not so sure as they are in estimating the wants of the people, and any efficient demand on them is sure to meet with attention. The situation, as a whole, strikes me as being encouraging for the temperance element. They have done pretty well, under all circumstances."

Mr. Lawrence Wilson, President of the Licensed Victuallers' Association of Montreal and Quebec, said: "When

the prohibitionists requested a referendum, they assured the government that they could prove that the sentiment of the Province was strongly in their favor. They were given a chance to prove this. The terms of the referendum to the people were not unfair, and they have not received half the number of votes they were required to get. In the Provincial elections of 1898, 425,000 votes were cast. The prohibitionists were required to get half this number, or nearly 212,500. They have actually fallen short of this by more than 100,000. It must also be remembered that in a matter of this kind the men who do not vote are fairly to be counted in the negative. This would add another 200,000 to the number who have shown themselves opposed to prohibition. The figures, therefore, prove that prohibition has been emphatically condemned, and the emphasis of the condemnation is increased by the fact that the vote has greatly fallen off, as compared with other occasions on which the matter has been submitted to the people. The prohibitionist sentiment has been declining, and now may be regarded as dead forever in Ontario. Now, that this result has been achieved, men who furnish accommodation to the people will feel at liberty to go ahead and improve their premises, which they were naturally somewhat afraid to do, so long as there was any possibility of doubt as to the result."

Hamilton Times: The Liquor Act of 1902 will not go into force on May 1, 1904, because there were not enough votes polled in its favor yesterday. There might have been less if certain Tories, who have no love for prohibition, had not voted yesterday with the hope of embarrassing and perhaps securing the defeat of that same Ross government. But these are speculations. The fact is that the vote polled does not indicate a sufficient preponderance of public opinion in favor of prohibition to justify the application of that drastic and doubtful remedy for temperance. A renewed campaign of education is in order. The more temperance and the less prohibition there is in it, the better will be its effect upon the conduct and temper of the people.

Toronto Telegram: Prohibition in the concrete should not be enacted and could not be enforced on the strength of yesterday's vote. Yet the fact is a great fact in Ontario politics. The result means not that the people are in favor of applied prohibition, but that the prohibitionists believe that the ideal is still attainable there. If the prohibitionists believe that the ideal is still attainable there, they must either be strong enough to create a prohibition party that can elect and support a government, or they must be wise enough to move with the non-prohibitionists who voted with them yesterday in the direction of a reform that will not attempt to keep liquor away from veterans who want liquor, but will deprive the liquor trade of large chances to gain recruits for the drink habit.

Ottawa Citizen: The increased vote in many localities, especially in the cities, in favor of prohibition no doubt resulted from the nature of the measure which did not provide for a total prohibition of the use of liquor. While stopping its sale in bars or shops, the importation of liquor into the province for private use was permitted. The liquor men, and with them the trade, are not so sure as they were yesterday that they can keep liquor in their homes, while, on the other hand, the act abolished the bar, and with this the treating system, and kindred evils, which go far to encourage the drinking habit, more especially among the young.

Guelph Mercury: The general result of the vote fairly well shows that advanced restrictive measures would have the support of the majority of the people of Ontario. We believe the temperance people would gain more from the standpoint of law, however, if they insisted on more effective enforcement of the present

law. Hamilton Herald: The Ross government has not received its mandate from the people to put into effect the Liquor Act of 1902, and that act it seems to us that the very large majority given in favor of the act should be a mandate to the government's officials and to municipal au-

thorities throughout the Province to more stringently enforce the provisions of the present License Act, and to make an advance in the direction of further restriction and curtailment of the traffic. In Hamilton, certainly, the substantial majority in favor of prohibition should have this effect. We shall have more to say on this phase of the subject to-morrow.

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Brantford Express: It is not likely that the work done by the prohibitionists yesterday will count for naught. The new legislature may not take the responsibility of placing the act on the statute books, regardless of the decision given under the terms of the referendum, but an amount of temperance strength has been revealed which must be reckoned with. If the

large majority given for the act yesterday means anything at all, it means a strong popular protest against the bar-room and the treating system, and for this the licensed victuallers, by their disregard of the license laws, have themselves very much to blame. What the next advance step will be it is not easy to prophesy, but there is no doubt that the people will continue to demand that the act should be a mandate to the government's officials and to municipal au-

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