

THE ADVOCATE

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Comment.

In Pitcairn Island fails Bro. Spence he has still the North Pole to fall back upon.

HOTEL-KEEPERS should remember that THE ADVOCATE is the only paper published in their interest in Canada. They should, therefore, never cease their efforts to further its interests by inducing their friends to subscribe and advertise.

MR. NICHOLAS AWREY OF WHITWORTH, evidently has not an abiding faith in prohibitionists. In a speech at Saltfleet recently he said: "Prohibitionists have been praying and proscribing Prohibition for years, and I do believe that many who have been doing so will vote the old way and trust to praying still." We gently try Mr. Awrey is a scoffer.

Once more the brethren fail to agree. Bro. Spence in the *Vanguard* quotes pages to prove the benefits of the Gethsemane system. Bro. Casey in the *Homesford* says it is a "spice tree," and proscriber of all evil. Axel Gustafson, who should know about it says the whole scheme is a fraud. Perhaps our friends had better hold another convention.

The *Montreal Witness* in a see-sawing article says: "What prohibitionists have done to do is to see that as far as possible none but genuine prohibitionists are sent to the legislature." Let our friends take up this note of defiance. Let them, too, vote for principle, not for party. Ignoring the disgraceful numbered ballot, let them vote as their conscience dictates. Let them vote as their conscience dictates.

"WHAT do I think of Sir Oliver's promise to give effect to the prohibitive vote if the Courts decide that he has the power," said a leading representative of the people the other day. I think that if it weren't for the development of business that would follow it wouldn't be a bad idea, as it would surely make Prohibition for the Dominion impossible. "How so?" "People would get so sick of the taste that they would never consent to swallow the bile."

The value of organization was never better shown than in the case of the Kingston liquor cases. The L.H.P.A. promptly took up the defence of the Kingston members, sent its solicitor Mr. J. H. Haverson, from Toronto, who not only made an able defence, but on appeal quashed every conviction, and in so doing put an end for good to the rascally work of the informers Caddick and White. On the other hand, the Kingston druggists, without an organization and with no concerted means of defence, have been fined and have had to pay their fines and suffer in silence.

SIR JOHN ASTLEY, who is known in England as the jolly baronet, relates an amusing story in the "Fifty Years of my Life" just published by him. As a parliamentary candidate for North Lincolnshire he was "heckled" by a stalwart Radical, who wished to know Sir John's opinion of Sir Wilfred Lawson's Liquor Bill. "I was completely non-plussed," writes Sir John, "but pulled myself together and promptly stated that I did not know much about Sir W. Lawson's Liquor Bill, but that mine was a scheme just too high for that year! My questioner, who had a long list of interrogations ready for use, was advised on all sides to shut up, which he did."

The Executive Committee of the Dominion Alliance are carrying the war into Africa with a vengeance. Judge Dugas, of Montreal, granted a license that they were opposed to in Victoria Town, and they straightway appealed against the judge's action to the Dominion Government, and asked for his dismissal. The Executive of the Dominion Alliance would perhaps like to have the appointment of license commissioners; they might also like to possess the full reins of government. Fortunately, however infatuated some people may be with the Prohibition falley, a majority have not yet gone to the extent of idly such an absolute surrender of their liberties would imply.

The burglar has just as much right to ask the Government to pay him for his tools, as the brewers have to ask the Government to compensate them for their breweries.

The above, taken from *The Templer* is a fair specimen of what some prohibition-

ists dignify by the name of argument. Was burglary ever permitted by the law of the land? Were particular burglars ever licensed to carry on the business of burglary? Did the government ever go into partnership with the burglars and take the big end of the profits? Did—but what is the use of discussing such a senseless proposition as *The Templer's* Burglary is a crime and brewing is a business, and misrepresentation is made a business of by our prohibition friends.

How lightly and how carelessly your prohibitionists impute motives to people! For instance, that non-polit of virtues, the *Montreal Witness*, says that those who believe that a Prohibition (we should say prohibitory) law cannot be enforced, are, as a rule, opposed not only to Prohibition but to temperance, and are for the most part supporters of the liquor traffic. We could wish that our contemporary was correct in its imputation, for then we could the better recognize both friend and foe. Your straight-out and unyielding prohibitionist is far less dangerous than the man who would, but doesn't like to, or affects to believe a scheme is impossible. It is he who does the harassing. It is he who advocates high license, state trade and worrying regulations and restrictions that don't restrict. Depend upon it, the uncompromising prohibitionist is much easier to deal with than the man who would but doesn't know how.

The man who reads is the intelligent man who merits and gets the most support. Hotel-keepers remember this and subscribe for the only straight-out advocate you have got—THE ADVOCATE.

A subscriber in sending in three subscriptions for friends says: "I did not think \$4 too much for your paper, but I do think you were wise in reducing the price fifty per cent, because it will make the paper more popular and thus prove to the public that there are two sides to this Prohibition question, a fact that it rather appears to me many people have lost sight of. Every hotel-keeper should now take two copies instead of a single copy of THE ADVOCATE, while the brewers, distillers and wholesale merchants should aid its circulation in every way. Its tone is wholesome and its reasoning correct. Keep up the fight. We need some logic to counteract the fallacies of the pro-

hibitionists, who at least are generous in two things—with their voices and in the distribution of literature. We are deficient in both these elements. Our people rely too much on silent evidence. Let them from this out support THE ADVOCATE and see to its generous circulation. It should be in the hands of every thinking man and woman."

The prohibitionists of Maine are agitating for more amendments to the law. A law that takes a lifetime to perfect must indeed be full of defects. It is now chained by the Dowites that the system in Maine amounts to high license and is no Prohibition at all. Such a contention is a sad reflection on their own abilities as legislators. The *Rockland Tribune*, a journal of the most extreme views, says: "Waldo county court has already collected \$3000 from the liquor sellers, and the session has just begun. Maine's license law has got down to a very smooth working condition." Another paper states that the only trouble about the act as it stands is that it comes high to enforce, the working expenses amounting to infinitely more than the fines. Thus the poor people are hit with both ends of the stick. The way the thing is done in Maine is to make seizures enough to bring the fine of each liquor seller up to the required high-license point. It is said this system is now practically in force in the counties of Penobscot, Kennebec, Washington, Waldo and in Ansonia, with Cumberland falling into line. Better evidence that Prohibition is impracticable we could not possibly have than is furnished here. After nearly half a century's test the law has been found unworkable. As has been the experience of Maine, so will be the experience of Canada if Prohibition should ever be enacted. While there will be huge deficits in federal, provincial and municipal budgets and a ruinous decline in values, increased taxes will have to be levied to meet the funds that will be necessary to enforce a law in itself opposed to every principle of right, light and liberty.

CHARLES STEVENS' hotel on East Sandwich Street, Windsor, Ont., was burglarized last week. Jewelry belonging to Mrs. Stevens to the value of \$150 was carried off.

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