

THE PRAIRIE.

(ILLUSTRATED)

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF INTEREST TO ALL.

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ERNEST BEALFORD, Manager.

 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1891.

THE Prohibition question will naturally be a burning one for the Northwest members of Parliament to deal with this session. We believe that 90 per cent of the intelligent portion of the dwellers in the Northwest Territories are dead against the law. It is openly broken in every town where there is an hotel or saloon, and it is broken by nearly all our citizens from members of Parliament downwards. Outside hotels throughout the Territories one can see signs put up "So-and-So's beer for sale"—and yet we are forbidden to increase our wealth, to add to the country's resources by the making of pure beer, which a large quantity of that imported most distinctly is *not*. You may import as much bad and unwholesome beer as you like, but you may not manufacture good honest and cheap beer; so in effect say our rulers.

This thread-bare subject presented itself to us again, owing to reading a report in the *Regina Leader* of a meeting of the Northwest branch of the Dominion Alliance, held last week. One crank believed prohibition would carry in the country, because a temperance motion had once been carried in "the mock parliament." We are sorry to have to admit our ignorance as to the character of that no doubt important assembly. However the "mock parliament" idea was soon knocked sky-high. The Rev. Dr. McLean is reported to have said that "the nine years he had spent in the west had given him some idea of the sentiment there on this question. In Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge, there would not be ten per cent of the votes cast for prohibition. In MacLeod there would not be more than two and one of those would be the Methodist Minister. (Laughter.) At Pincher Creek there would be about five votes. Taking

Alberta as a whole prohibition would lose by about ninety-five per cent. In Saskatchewan it would lose by seventy-five per cent." That is the opinion of a well-known temperance advocate, who has spent a number of years in the country. Let the Dominion Alliance take a hint from this, and not attempt to continue forcing a law upon the people of the Northwest, which is hateful and obnoxious to them. Surely 90 per cent majority should convince the veriest crank of the people's general disgust of the law as it stands, and their contempt for it as it is executed, and we trust Dr. McLean's remarks will bear good fruit, and that an alteration of our liquor laws will soon be brought about.



AT LAST the lips of the Premier have been opened and the date of the general election fixed. For some time past Sir John has been absolutely Sphinx-like, neither entreaties from his friends nor the hoots and growls from his enemies had the desired effect, of making him give away the grand secret which for a long while back has been known to only the Premier and our Familiar. Many journalists will claim that they were on to the racket, and nothing but the promptings of courtesy and their fine perception of "the proper thing" induced them to let Canada's G. O. M. have the first crack at announcing the date. The country was fairly non-plussed at the stony mystery that enveloped the opening of the great fight, and now that the question is solved and hostilities declared, the big guns of both parties are starting to belch forth tales of unutterable disaster, if the "other fellow" gets there. Things are quiet in the Territories just now, although the announcement is quite stale by this time, but whisperings on the street corners and secret caucus' in places of liquid refreshment, give a pretty safe assurance that the elephant will shortly go forth with all his pristine vigor.

Our Illustrations.

We have to apologize this week for the scarcity of our cuts; but owing to our artist having had considerable sickness in his family, he has been unable to attend to his work as closely as usual. We feel sure our readers will make allowances for this. We will make up for it next week—please the pigs.