

GREAT BRITAIN.

A BIG FIGHT GOING ON.

The Local Government Bill Before the House of Commons and Before the Country—Nobody is Pleased with It—Even the Whisky Party Can't Agree with Its Friends in Parliament—Local Option for Scotland—Great Britain's Drink Bill.

AN INTERESTING RESUME.

The Baptists Ahead.

The fourteenth annual meeting of the British Baptist Total Abstinence Association was held recently, presided over by W. S. Caine, Esq., M.P. The annual report stated that the society had a membership of 1,212, which was a majority of 227 out of all the Baptist pastors in the country, and it was believed that many of the ministers who had not sent in their names were also abstainers. The total number of students in the different Church institutions was 235, and 216 of these were pledged abstainers. The society petitioned against the license clauses of the Local Government Bill.

A Noted Divine.

Archdeacon Farrar has come to the front in a forcible sermon against the iniquitous compensation proposition. His utterances are referred to by Manchester Evening News as follows: "The debate on the licensing question was practically continued by Archdeacon Farrar in the annual sermon of the Church of England Temperance Society, which he preached on Sunday in his church at Westminster. Dr. Farrar is a strong opponent of the principle of compensation to publicans, and his sermon on Sunday was a passionate pleading against the creation of a vested interest in the liquor traffic. He spoke with the full consciousness that he numbered amongst his listeners the First Lord of the Admiralty and many prominent members of Parliament." Many other pupils have spoken and in similarly forcible terms.

The Leader Speaks.

The Pall Mall Gazette publishes a lengthy interview with Sir Wilfrid Lawson, in which that leader of the Temperance forces declares himself in determined opposition to the licensing provisions of the Local Government Bill. Sir Wilfrid pitches into the compensation proposal in lively style. In answer to the question, "Are you quite determined to oppose compensation in any shape or form?" he says: "Absolutely. We take our stand upon the principle, and we are determined to fight it out on these lines, even if we have to fight like tigers, and carry the war into the enemy's camp all over the country."

The Compensation Question.

This statement of the Temperance leader, well represents the attitude of British moral reform workers. The Government proposal will have done good in calling attention to this compensation question, and securing for it a more thorough discussion than it has ever had, and will probably settle it once for all, just as it was practically settled in Canada a few years ago, by the discussion that took over place the question of Scott Act adoption. The hackneyed sophistries with which we are familiar are being used by the whisky-favoring party on the other side of the water. For example, the Pall Mall Gazette's representative urged that the action of the Imperial Parliament at the time of the abolition of West Indian slavery, was a precedent for compensation to whisky a liers, and Sir Wilfrid replied:

"But you forget we did not pay a farthing when we put down the slave trade. Just imagine what an admirable plea might have been made on behalf of the slave-trading interest. When the Bill was introduced for its suppression the owners of the ships that were engaged in the slave trade could have appealed to the Legislature and said, 'Behold the great and flourishing industry which at the beginning was fostered by the State and regarded all these years as a great and legitimate source of lawful industry, which enabled us further to extend British commerce and to establish on a wider and broader basis the sovereignty of the seas and the colonial empire of Great Britain. You are never going to confiscate all our invested capital and destroy the prospects of our crews without paying us compensation!' Quite an unanswerable plea, according to Mr. Ritchie, and yet what did Parliament do? Parliament passed the bill suppressing the slave trade without voting a penny of compensation to these traders in flesh and blood, and just as much and as little compensation should Parliament award to the men who have grown rich in demoralizing and corrupting the community. Compensation, indeed! When they have compensated us for the poorhouses they have filled and the goals they have crammed, for the wreck and ruin they have wrought by selling their drink, then we may begin to consider what stands on the other side of the account."

How Far Does the Principle Apply?

We have often called attention to the fact that if the principle of compensation were admitted, it can be argued for as

forcibly in its relation to any liquor traffic restriction, and in regard to prohibition, and this point was also well expressed by the intemperate gentleman who went on to say:

"But what amuses me is that these good and great moralists who cannot listen to our proposal that the monopoly enjoyed by the publicans should be terminated at the people's will, are themselves in this very bill proposing to give the representatives of the people power and authority to confiscate one seventh of the profits of the publicans without paying a penny of compensation. The question of principle is not affected by the difference between one day and seven days. At present the publicans can keep their houses open seven days in the week. Mr. Ritchie proposes that the local authorities shall have absolute power to close these public houses without any compensation whatever upon one day in the week—Sunday—which is often the day upon which the publican makes the greatest profit. If you can confiscate the most profitable day in the week, with what consistency can you pretend that you have no moral right to the profits of one or all of the remaining six?"

Our History and Position.

Our friends in Great Britain expect to win. They are making progress, and are fast winning to their side by their persistence and their judicious lines of policy the sentiment of the best and most advanced politicians. It is probable that the fight in which they are at present engaged will give them new strength, and largely increase the numbers of their allies. In the interview to which we refer, the situation at the present time and the recent history of the Temperance Reformers are well expressed in those forcible statements:

"If you look back over only 25 years you will see that we have revolutionized the whole feeling of English statesmen on the subject. Thirty or forty years ago the House of Commons' Committee reported on what was in effect a system of free licensing of free trade in drink. There are not twelve men in the House of Commons to-day who would dare to lift up their voice in favor of any such experiment. We have won our way slowly but steadily, point by point. We have rescued the Sunday from the publican in Wales, in Ireland, in Scotland, and under the new bill the whole question of suppressing the sale of drink on Sunday in England will be left in the hands of the representatives of the people, and we have little fear that they will not follow the example of the democracies of other countries. The whole question is, in fact, so far advanced that if we win this fight of compensation, our progress thereafter must be steady and assured. One thing I expect, and that is that we shall carry the Liberal party solid for no compensation. You have already noticed Sir William Harcourt's speech, and as for any utterances in the past which may seem to have been hostile to the principles of prohibition without compensation, you may be sure that the Liberal party in this will not look back at a battle cry which promises them an opportunity of beating the Tories, merely because they have in past times expressed themselves unwisely on the question at issue. There is a great difference between questions when they are purely hypothetical and when they come within the pale of practical politics. I should like to see the Liberal member who at next election dare face his constituents and admit that he has voted for compensation or has stayed away from the division which will be taken on the subject."

The Liberal Position.

The statements of Sir William Harcourt, referred to, were made by him in a recent speech at a great Liberal demonstration in the Exhibition Buildings, at York. He is reported as saying:—"Then there is the licensing question. The Bill has this merit, that it offers the principle of Local Option—(hear, hear)—the principle for which we have long contended and which the Tories have equally long opposed. But it bears the alms of the Tory track. (Laughter.) You never see the Tories concede a really good Liberal principle without devising some means with which they accompany it by which they think they will be able to defeat it—(hear, hear); and so they have done with Local Option. They have introduced the compensation clauses, they have endeavored to build up a system by which the locality will have a pecuniary interest, not diminishing, but in increasing the facilities for drinking. (Hoar, hoar.) I believe that to be an entirely false principle. (Cheers.) There is no vested interest in law in licenses at all—(renewed cheers); with the exception of a limited class of licenses, there is no restraint upon the discretion of the magistrates; and as regards these clauses I for one—and I speak for myself personally—think them totally objectionable. (Cheers.)"

A Co-servative Warning

It is pretty clear that the Government looks for the support of the liquor traffic in carrying through the measure under discussion. The traffic is fighting the bill bitterly, because it loathes localities to decide as to whether or not, public houses shall be closed on Sunday. It is probable however that the whisky party will ultimately accept this as the alternative to general Sunday closing. In fact Lord Salisbury has already warned them of danger to their own cause, in this respect. In a recent speech at Carnarvon, he said: "To my great surprise I see that the licensed victuallers, for whom I have a very great respect, are proposing to resist with the utmost of their power this provision in the bill. They object to its being left to the locality to decide whether public houses should be closed on Sunday or not. If it is not left to the locality, it must be left to Parliament; and I beg with great respect to warn the licensed

victuallers of the great imprudence of the step they are taking. The public houses have been closed Scotland by Act of Parliament; they have been closed in Ireland by Act of Parliament; they have been closed in Wales by Act of Parliament. But mark this, those who have desired to close them in those countries desired to close them—they have recently avowed it—in England by Act of Parliament. They tried it with respect to one or two counties; they tried it with respect to Cornwall and Durham. In each of those cases a measure for closing public houses on Sunday passed the House of Commons, and it was only put aside by the House of Lords on the ground that a measure of this kind was impending, and therefore, that the matter must not be prematurely judged. But if, owing to the action of the licensed victuallers, this power is not granted to the local authorities, they may depend upon it that in a very brief time Parliament will take up the matter again, and the House of Commons will probably, or almost certainly, vote against them, and the question of local government being put aside, I do not think they will meet with any support in the House of Lords."

An Independent View.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson's speech in the House of Commons on the Local Government Bill was a noble effort, being to some extent a fuller statement of the doctrines laid down in the interview from which we have quoted. The opinion grows that the Government never expect to carry this proposal through the House, and that in all probability the Local Government Bill as a whole will evoke such bitter opposition as to result in its being defeated, with the acquiescence in all probability of a change of Government, followed perhaps by a general election.

The most satisfactory feature of the complicated situation is that politicians are recognizing temperance sentiment as well as the wishes of the liquor party, and that both Conservatives and Liberals realize that something must be done to bring law more nearly abreast of right public sentiment.

This much is certain that the British people will not stand much more legislation and administration for the glorification and buttressing up of the unwholesome liquor traffic. It is an outrage upon common decency, that there should be held up the reward of the peerage for men who long and successfully continue in the liquor business, and compensation for those who, for some reason or other, are compelled to give it up. The whisky traffic does not yet entirely own Great Britain, although its representatives seem to believe that it does, and the present Government seems quite ready to recognize the claim.

Another Temperance Victory.

The Direct Veto Bill for Scotland which Mr. McLagan has been pushing for a long time has passed its second reading in the House of Commons. It came up at an unusually favorable time. When the speaker took the chair, the Liberal party with an immense number of Irish members was well represented, while the Conservatives hardly expecting any business to be done, were absent. The Direct Veto Bill was the second measure that came before the House, and it received its second reading practically without opposition.

Irish Sunday Closing.

A select committee has been appointed by the House of Commons to take evidence on the working of the Irish Sunday Closing Act. This law has now been in operation for ten years; it affects the whole of Ireland except the five largest towns. The inquiry is being made at the instance of those who are desirous of the repeal of the Act, and the evidence collected by the committee will be looked for and studied with a great deal of interest.

The Annual Drink Bill.

Dr. Dawson Burns has published his annual letter on the National Drink Bill of Great Britain which he estimates as follows.

Liquors Consumed.	Quantities consumed in 1887.	Expenditure in 1887.	Expenditure in 1886.
Wet-staple spirits per gallon.	25,900,778	25,608,774	25,854,251
Foreign and Colonial spirits 20s per gallon.	8,581,967	10,238,500	10,282,173
Beer, 1s 6d per gallon.	34,551,743	36,264,138	36,216,424
Wine, 12s per gallon.	908,140,212	74,809,516	73,222,108
Whisky, 12s per gallon.	13,024,478	12,325,028	11,927,233
Distilled wine, cider, etc. (estimated).	15,000,000	1,200,000	1,500,000
		124,905,680	127,905,785

The figures given above are sufficiently forcible in themselves without further comment. The increase in the expenditure upon strong drink may well be looked upon with alarm by moral reform advocates. The real magnitude of it will be more fully realized after a perusal of the following paragraph from Dr. Burns' letter: "There is no reason to suppose that the Temperance movement has been losing any of its influence, the value of which in checking the tendency to increased indulgence in alcoholic liquors will be frankly acknowledged by all political economists and social reformers. Still the expenditure per head upon these drinks, including the many millions who do not use them at all, is startling. Accepting the Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the United Kingdom on July 1 as 37 millions, the cost of strong drink was at the rate of £3 7s. 8d. for each person, or £16 17s. 8d. for every family of five. As, in fact, the Drink Bill of 1887 was paid by probably not more than two-thirds of the entire population, the average expenditure must be raised to more than £6 per head.

SOUTH OF THE LINE.

NOTES OF NEWS AND PROGRESS.

organizing for the Fall Campaign—Prohibition Party Conventions—Local Option Going Into Operation—Two Great Gatherings.

Governor Hill has vetoed the Crosby High License Bill.

The New York State Assembly has rejected a Local Option Bill by a majority of one vote.

Francis Murphy has pledged and blue-ribboned six thousand people in New Albany, Indiana.

Louisville, Kentucky, has had a Temperance revival, and twenty-five hundred persons have taken the total abstinence pledge.

Florida has a new industry in the shape of an Orange Wine Factory at Clayton Springs. Oranges are pressed and from the juice a wine is manufactured.

Mrs. Henrietta Skelton, who some years ago did a good deal of campaign work, and has lately been acting as organizer of the W.C.T.U. among the Germans, is a delegate from California to the Indianapolis Convention.

More States Organized.

Virginia held a State Nomination Convention of Prohibitionists on Thursday 3rd inst. The Chairman of the National Convention was on hand. There was a good turnout of representatives. A platform was adopted and delegates elected to the National Convention.

A Convention has been called for South Carolina to meet in Columbus on the 22nd.

Dry! Dry!! Dry!!!

On Monday of last week the new Local Option Law went into effect in the thirty-six Michigan counties that voted in its favor. The Detroit Tribune publishes a series of reports from different parts of the State, all of which go to show that the law was being pretty generally obeyed, and no liquor was sold openly in any place heard from.

Mississippi Legislation.

The Mississippi Legislature has recently done a lot of law-making on Temperance lines. A great many bills have been passed relating to different counties in the State. Most of these prohibit the sale or giving away of any kind of intoxicating liquor within five miles of any College, High School or Church, and this is to be the county law whether the locality votes for Prohibition or not. A bill has also been passed providing for the study of scientific Temperance in the Public Schools.

A Good Grand Lodge.

The proceedings of the twentieth annual session of the Grand Lodge of the I. O. G. T. of Virginia makes up a handsome pamphlet of about 150 pages, and shows a year's good work in the jurisdiction that it represents. From the Grand Secretary's report we find that the membership during the year has made a net gain of over 2,270, numbering now, on the whole, 13,849, in 300 subordinate lodges. J. H. Miller, of Snowville, is G. C. T., and E. W. Hawkhurst, of Richmond, is Grand Secretary.

Anti-Saloon Republicans.

The National Anti-Saloon Republican Convention held a couple of weeks ago at New York, from which so much was expected, turned out almost a failure. Albert Griffin was chairman, and strong speeches were made by some active Republican Prohibitionists. There were, however, only about eighty delegates present, and the mass meeting held in the evening at Cooper's Union was a small affair, numbering less than three hundred. The principal speaker was Mrs. J. Ellen Foster. The Anti-Saloon Republican Party movement has evidently no hold upon the public.

The Crosby Bill Goes Through.

The Crosby High License Bill passed the New York Legislature, but very much changed in form from what it was originally. The Senate adopted it by a bare majority of one. That vote was given by a man who is generally looked upon as being in favor of the liquor party. As amended the bill fixes license fees for selling all kinds of spirituous liquors at \$1,000 maximum, and \$500 to \$300 minimum, the exact amount to be fixed by the Excise Commissioners. Fees for selling beer and ale alone are \$400 maximum and \$100 minimum. There is a good deal of doubt as to whether or not Governor Hill will give his sanction to the Bill as it stands.

And That is All.

The friends of high license, having utterly failed to show any decrease in the number of saloons in the city of Chicago under the \$500 beer and whisky fee, now hurray because the numbers are no greater. "If the population had not increased, the saloons would not have increased," say they—like the man who held the branch of a tree as he walked along, and then suddenly let go, so that in its rebound it hit his companion square in the breast and knocked him over. "What would it have done if I hadn't held it? It might have killed you," he exclaimed. To this have the champions of high license come in places where it has had several years' trial. But high license has produced \$2,000,000 "revenue." This is not denied by anybody, but this is all. A man said to a boy who did not show much respect for him, "Young man, I want you to understand I am worth a hundred thousand dollars," and he applied up to enormous proportions. "Yes," said the boy, "and that it all you are worth." That is about the size of it.—National Temperance Advocate.

A Significant Declaration.

There is a movement at present among Catholic Temperance workers, which, if it progresses, will be of much importance to the Prohibition Party of the United States. We referred last week to the touching utterances of the Catholic Advocate, the organ of the Catholic Total Abstinence Society of North America, which were out and out in favor of Third Party action. This week we learn from one of our American exchanges, that, after a speech by J. Lloyd Thomas in New York recently, Mr. Thomas Dougherty, an old Democratic politician and a prominent leader of the Irish Catholic Temperance societies of the city, came out squarely for the Prohibition Party, and declared his intention to try to swing into line nearly 40,000 members of those societies. He denounced in words of burning eloquence the treachery of the old parties, and challenged the Protestants to come to the polls with as many Prohibition votes as his associates would bring. The break has commenced.

Worse Than Before.

There is not very much encouragement for High License advocates in the following strong statements made in a recent issue of the St. Louis Times:—"High License is a ridiculous failure in every respect in St. Louis, except that it has increased the revenues of the city from dram-drinking and drunkenness. It has not decreased the number of dram-shops; it has not improved the character of the saloons; it has not made the business more respectable, it has not prevented minors and habitual drunkards from getting liquor; it has not decreased intemperance. The consumption of liquors has increased under it. The amount of crime has increased in a greater ratio than the population, and the crimes have become more terrible—murders and other like crimes having become more frequent. The hospitals, work-houses, and asylums are all overworked, and the amount of vice and pauperism is rather increasing than decreasing. The license here is \$550 per annum. The revenue from the liquor business is nearly one million dollars, which great sum acts as a sort of quieting influence upon many citizens who would insist upon the abolition of saloons but for fear of increased taxation."

National Temperance Society.

The twenty-third anniversary of the National Temperance Society and Publication House was held at 68 Roade Street New York, Tuesday afternoon, May 8th. Rev. Dr. T. L. Cuyler, President, in the chair. The annual report was presented by J. N. Stearns, Corresponding Secretary, showing the work of the Society and the progress of the cause of Temperance in all branches of the work during the last year. The review was of the most encouraging nature. Great work has been done in the circulation of Temperance literature. Eight colored men have been employed in the Southern States, and a large amount of Temperance literature has been circulated among the colored people of South. The Society has passed its measures before Congress, held several hearings before important committees, and has secured two passages of the Commission of Inquiry through the Senate. A strong effort has been made to secure action by Congress to aid in suppressing the traffic in intoxicating liquor in Africa and the Western Pacific islands. The Society has spent more than ten thousand dollars in its work in Congress, and proposes to continue its work until right measures are secured. The report gives a condensed summary of the legislation of 19 States in relation to the liquor traffic. It also reviews "The Action of Religious Bodies," "Supreme Court Decisions," "Liquor Organizations," "Internal Revenue Tax," "High License," "Results of Prohibition," "Personal Liberty Issue," "Beer Brewers' Congress," "The Saloon in Politics," and gives a summary of the work of all the national Temperance organizations. It is a complete history of the most important events in the Temperance world during the last year.

For "God in the Government."

The National Reform Association held its annual meeting last month in Association Hall, Philadelphia, continuing in session for three days. Probably not many Canadian readers know much of the work of this organization, which is growing rapidly in the United States, having branches in different parts of the country. It was formed a number of years ago for the purpose of securing a better recognition of the principles of Christianity, in the forms and operation of civil government. Some of the objects for which it labors are—better Sabbath observance, the development of closer relationship between the missionary enterprises of the Church and Government action in relation to other nationalities whether in their native country or America, the suppression of the liquor traffic, and in every way the recognition of religion by the nation in all its undertakings. A great Convention was held under the auspices of the Association at Cincinnati in 1872, another in New York in 1873, at Pittsburg in 1874, and the movement being fairly before the public, many similar gatherings have since taken place; few probably of more interest than that to which reference has just been made. The Executive Committee reported the results of a busy year's efforts. Summer assemblies had been held at different points, notably Ocean Grove and Saratoga Springs. Literature had been freely circulated, many addresses had been delivered. The organ of the Association is the Christian Statesman, a very ably conducted journal published weekly at 1,620 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, under the editorship of Mr. T. P. Stevenson. We hope to be able at a later date to give readers of the CANADA CITIZEN some interesting items in connection with this great Convention.

Read our Great Offer on Pages 7 and 8