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At the recent meeting of the Grand Orange Lodge of Eastern Ontario, an incident occurred that well shows the rapid advancement temperance sentiment is making. The body named, by an overwhelming majority, passed a resolution memorializing the Grand Lodge of British North America to prohibit everyone engaged in the sale of intoxicating liquors from holding office in the association. The ball keeps rolling!

THE COMPENSATION QUESTION.

The Dominion Parliament has heartlessly refused to accede to the last request of the dying liquor traffic. There never can come a time in this history of Canada when there will be any stronger grounds than there are to-day for entertaining the liquor sellers claims for compensation. Tavern licenses and shop licenses are being swept out of existence; brewers and distillers are having their business rapidly curtailed; in fact, the Scott Act will probably destroy more of that business than will be left in the remnant that total prohibition will finally abolish: yet in the face of all this, even the ultra advocates of liquorism did not venture even a suggestion for immediate compensation, but by way of conciliating their friends, they brought forward an indefinite resolution in reference to future legislation, and even this diluted dose of the compensation principle, Parliament utterly refused to swallow. The amendment of Mr. Fisher, which he moved in an unusually able speech, merely stated that the time had not come for discussing the question; but every member of Parliament knew that if the time had not come, the time never would come. The debate actually took the shape of a discussion on the merits of the liquor-sellers claim, and no one even ventured to reply to Mr. Fester's masterly statement of the case. It was ably presented in the ringing statement and query—"The traffic was a tyranny. Did any one ever hear of the tyrant being compensated because the people had come to the conclusion

to throw off his yoke." We strongly commend a perusal of his whole address to any of our friends who are not already satisfied in regard to this matter.

THE OTTAWA DEPUTATION.

One of the strongest documents laid before the government by the liquor deputation was the memorial from "managers and officers of the banks, and loan and insurance companies." This memorial contains two statements, the first of which must cause surprise, and cannot be allowed to pass unquestioned, and the second is so meaningless that it looks like the complete failure of an effort to induce the signers to say something in condemnation of the Scott Act. These statements are as follows:—

"The institutions with which your memorialists are connected have large interests in property situated in counties in which the Scott Act has been passed. Banks hold promissory notes and other commercial paper against persons whose ability to pay is greatly diminished, and in some instances entirely destroyed, by the passage of the Act, and the consequent stoppage of their business. Loan companies have advanced moneys on hotel property, and the value of their securities has been seriously reduced by the passage of the Act."

"Your memorialists are informed that so far from the expectations entertained by the advocates of the Act of beneficial effects of a moral nature having been realized, the quantities of ardent spirits sent into counties where the Act is in force, and consumed therein, have been greatly increased; but your memorialists are not themselves in possession of sufficient official information to enable them to vouch for the correctness of this statement."

It will be noticed that the first grievance complained of is, that the banks hold notes signed "by persons whose ability to pay is greatly diminished, and in some instances entirely destroyed by the passage of the Act and consequent stoppage of their business." It must be borne in mind that the Scott Act has as yet gone into operation in only one county in Ontario—the county of Halton. It is now nearly three years since it went into operation there. Business has already adjusted itself to the new state of things, and it is well known that the paying ability of many persons has been largely increased. The statement is not made specifically in reference to Halton; it is a statement evidently meant to be understood as applying to "counties;" it is unsupported by any attempt at evidence. It is altogether too indefinite, and is utterly out of harmony with the facts of the case.

Another grievance is that of the loan companies. This is also indefinite and unsupported. Loan companies do not generally advance money upon such securities as good-will, prospective profits, etc. They lend money on real estate valued at its actual material worth. They know that a license is not a part of an hotel, and that its renewal may be refused at the end of any license year. We have yet to learn of any instance in which more money could be borrowed upon an hotel simply because it was an hotel, than upon an adjoining building of equal actual cost and worth. Loan companies usually make themselves safe against contingencies, and some case in which a real estate security ceases to be a security through the operation of the Scott Act, must be cited before the theory advanced can be entertained. Indeed, it is well known that hotel property is not considered a safe risk either by insurance or loan companies.