

THE PROHIBITION DEBATE.

From three o'clock in the afternoon on July 28th, to three o'clock a.m. of the following day, the House of Commons in Canada discussed the question of prohibition.

Mr. T. B. Flint began the discussion by moving the series of resolutions that he had placed on the Order Paper on May 10th. He sketched the history of the prohibition movement in Canada, declared himself to be a prohibitionist from principle, expressed his confidence that prohibition could be successfully enforced in Ontario, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, and Prince Edward Island, and argued in favor of the method which he proposed.

Sir Chas. Tupper attacked the Government for their course in relation to the Plebiscite. He declined to support Mr. Flint's proposition, but spoke in favor of the enforcement of prohibition by counties upon a favorable vote of the people.

Mr. Charlton defended the Government and argued that the vote was not sufficiently large to warrant the introduction of prohibition legislation.

Dr. Christie took strong ground in favor of the resolution which he was willing to accept as an instalment of prohibition, though he favored a more thorough-going measure.

Mr. A. H. Moore declared in favor of total prohibition, and opposed Mr. Flint's resolution. He believed the large majority against prohibition in Quebec was partly the result of fraudulent voting.

Mr. F. McClure also opposed Mr. Flint's resolution. He blamed the Government for offering no prohibitory legislation. He favored national prohibition and moved an amendment in favor of such an enactment.

Mr. Parmelee defended the Quebec vote, which he said was fairly representative of the sentiment in the province. He moved an amendment declaring that a prohibitory law should not be passed.

MR. FLINT'S RESOLUTION.

That inasmuch as it is desirable that legislation be enacted having in view the further restriction of the liquor traffic in Canada, and that such legislation should be uniform in all the provinces and territories of the Dominion, it is expedient, in the opinion of this House, to enact:—

1. That subject and except as herein-after mentioned, the sale of intoxicating liquors in every province and territory of Canada should be prohibited.

2. That the Act prohibiting such sale should not come into force in any province or territory unless and until a majority of the qualified electors therein, voting at an election, shall have voted in favor of such Act.

3. That upon such vote in favor of said Act being duly certified to by the Governor General in Council, such Act shall be brought into force in said province or territory, and shall remain in force therein for four years and thereafter until the same shall have been repealed in such province or territory, such repeal shall not take effect therein until a majority of the qualified electors of such province or territory, voting at an election shall have voted for the repeal thereof; the proceedings for such repeal to be similar in all respects to those bringing the Act into force.

4. That in order to avoid unnecessary expense and to secure the largest possible vote, the voting provided for in the said Act shall take place at a General Federal Election.

5. That this Act shall, on coming into force, suspend the operation of the Canada Temperance Act in any

part of the province or territory where the same may be in force at the time, and such suspension shall continue so long as this Act is in force in such province or territory.

6. That while the said Act is in force in any province or territory, the sale of such liquors may be permitted for medicinal or sacramental purposes or for bona fide use in any art, trade or manufacture; such sales to be made only by vendors appointed for that purpose, and to be subject to such regulations as will secure the due observance of the Act.

7. That while said Act is in force in any province or territory, no brewer or distiller therein shall be permitted to sell his products except to vendors for the purposes of the said Act or for export from the said province or territory to some place beyond the same, where the said Act is not in force—such manufacture, sale and export to be subject to stringent regulations.

8. That while the said Act is in force in any province or territory, no such liquor shall be permitted to be imported or brought into such province or territory from any other province or territory in Canada or from abroad, except for sale for the purposes of the said Act—such importation and sale to be subject to such conditions and restrictions as will ensure the due observance of the Act.

9. That due provision be made in said Act for the enforcement of the same, and for the proper application of all fines and penalties imposed thereby.

MR. McCLURE'S AMENDMENT.

That in the opinion of the House, the time has arrived when it is expedient to prohibit the importation, manufacture, and sale of intoxicating liquor as a beverage.

MR. PARMELEE'S AMENDMENT.

That the vote on the Plebiscite has shown that there is not an active prohibition sentiment sufficiently pronounced to justify the expectation that a prohibitory law would be successfully enforced, and that therefore such a prohibitory law should not be passed.

TELLING TESTIMONIES.

Drink stupefies and besots.—*Bismarck.*

The evil is the drink.—*David Lewis, J. P.*

The devil in solution.—*Sir Wilfrid Lawson.*

That beverage, the mother of sins.—*Southey.*

Liquid fire and distilled damnation.—*R. Hall.*

I consider all spirits bad spirits.—*Sir Astley Cooper.*

The dynamite of modern civilization.—*Hon. John D. Long.*

Grape juice has killed more than grape shot.—*C. H. Spurgeon.*

He has paid dear, very dear, for his whistle.—*Benjamin Franklin.*

Drink is the mother of want and the nurse of crime.—*Lord Brougham.*

Every crime has its origin more or less in drinking.—*Judge Gurney.*

Drink is the great obstacle to the diffusion of education.—*John Bright.*

While you have the drink, you will have the drunkard.—*George W. Bain.*

Ninety-nine crimes out of every hundred are caused by drinking.—*Judge Erskine.*

Nine tenths of the cases to be tried are caused by drink.—*Chief Justice Bovill.*

Choose rather to punish your appetites than to be punished by them.—*Epictetus.*

Alcohol is the mother of sin.—*Mahomet.*

Every crime has its origin more or less in drunkenness.—*The late Chief Justice Coleridge.*

The only terrible enemy Britain has to fear is strong drink.—*H. R. H., the Duke of Albany.*

Its ravages are greater than pestilence, war, and famine combined.—*Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone.*

Strong drink is not only man's way to the devil, but the devil's way to man.—*Dr. Adam Clarke.*

Wine is the most powerful of all agents for exciting and inflaming the passions.—*Lord Bacon.*

Ninety per cent of the crime in the army is through strong drink.—*Lord Wolseley (Commander in Chief).*

I dread the white man's drink more than all the assegais of my enemies.—*King Khama (African chief).*

I never suffer ardent spirits in my house, thinking them evil spirits.—*Sir Astley Cooper (the great surgeon).*

Intoxicating drink is the greatest factor of crime, pauperism, orphanhood, disease, and insanity.—*Prof. F. W. Newman.*

The struggle of the school, the library, and the church, all united, against the beer house and the gin palace, is but the development of the war between heaven and hell.—*Charles Burton.*

PROGRESS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

A STIRRING SPEECH ON THE DIRECT VETO.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson Bart, M.P., President of the United Kingdom Alliance, and thus the leader of the prohibitionists in the Imperial Parliament, is one of the most entertaining and effective platform speakers of the day. The following is an extract from one of his recent speeches, as reported in the *Alliance News*:

PUBLIC OPINION INVINCIBLE.

He (Sir Wilfrid) was now a pretty old stager, and had seen all sorts of reforms carried out which at one time looked very hopeless. Having enumerated some of these measures, he remarked that dreadful things were prophesied as the results of passing these laws, and it was a pleasure to him to look back and think that he had helped to pass some of them. (Applause.) It was no use saying things were hopeless—a determined and enlightened public opinion was invincible. They would overcome the drink traffic, which Lord Wolseley had called "the most pressing enemy," as they had overcome other abuses, so soon as they were united and earnest in making an attack upon it.

ALL SORTS HELPING THEM.

People were coming round, notably the doctors. Sir William Gull said alcohol was the most destructive agent known to the faculty. That got rid of the adulteration talk. A great many people said it was not the good drink, it was the bad that made the mischief. Bad couldn't be worse than the worst. (Hear, hear.) The policeman was simply a member of an ambulance corps, for the assistance of the publican. The publican knocked a man down, and the policeman carried him off. (Laughter.) The ministers of religion were also with them. The publicans were also for Temperance. If they read their speeches as he did, they would find that the great point they laid stress on was that they hated a drunken man. They looked upon him as an enemy. He supposed they said, "If mine enemy thirst, give him drink." (Laughter.)

ABOUT REMEDIES.

As to the remedies for drunkenness, there was an old distich, which said:—

"For every evil under the sun

There is a remedy or there is none;

If there be one seek it and find it,

If there be none, then never mind it."

He believed there was a remedy, and a simple one. Superior persons—philosophers, statesmen, and members of Parliament—however, disliked anything simple; there was no opportunity to exhibit their skill and ingenuity. (Laughter.) But it was like Mr. Cobden's remedy for starvation. There was a picture of an old horse, just skin and bone, its ribs standing out, and nearly at death's door. Various people standing round made suggestions. One man said, "Put him in a warm stable," another, "Give him gentle exercise," another, "Curry-comb him well." (Laughter.) Then up came Cobden, and said, "Suppose you try corn." (Applause and laughter.) Absence of food was injuring the people then, and the presence of drink was injuring them now. They must drive the enemy out of the country. These superior folk, however, said that was not the way. And who were they who said that? The very people who had been trying a scheme for 400 years, and had failed totally and hopelessly. Lord Randolph Churchill, who was a good Tory, and therefore worth listening to, said the drink traffic was devilish and destructive. If that was so, he hoped the people would, sooner or later, rise up against it, and in the sweet by-and-bye there would be a Government which would no more think of encouraging drink than hydrophobia or rinderpest in this country. (Applause and laughter.) The people should have the same right to prohibit the public-house as landlords. Lord Cairns, another good

Tory—he loved to quote Tories—(laughter) called inns traps and pitfalls for the working man. Why should magistrates be allowed to set traps and pitfalls for the working man?

A VETO ACT AT WORK: A FANCY PICTURE.

Once a year the justices met, for the purpose of apportioning the number of traps to be set in the district over which they ruled, and during the rest of the year the police went and emptied the traps, and brought the victims before them, and they fined them 5s. and costs. (Laughter.) He wanted them to bear with him while he drew a little picture of what might happen if they had the Local Veto in Wigton district.

The licensing day would come, and they would all be on the bench—all distinguished men—Sir Musgrave Bisco, Mr. Banks, Mr. Samuel Foster, Mr. Parkin Moore, Alderman Mitchell, and Sir Wilfrid Lawson, all looking as wise as they could—(laughter)—possibly wiser than they were (laughter) and there would be Mr. Rigg, their excellent clerk, a great deal wiser than any of them. (Laughter.) And Sir Musgrave would say, "Oh, by-the-bye, Mr. Rigg, is it not a fact that since we met last there has been an Act of Parliament passed, saying that the people in Wigton district may prevent any public-houses being licensed?" "Oh, yes," says Mr. Rigg, "there has been such an Act passed." "Well, what has happened? Have they voted that they won't have any public-houses?" Mr. Rigg would then reply, "Oh, no; they like paupers, criminals, and lunatics at Wigton, and they are determined to have them. They will have public-houses, and all the drunken men in Wigton are outside singing 'Britons never shall be slaves'—(laughter) before they are locked up; and the publicans are going to have a thanksgiving service to-night, for the great escape which the Almighty has granted to them. (Laughter.) And so, gentlemen, you may go on licensing them as before."

He did not know whether this would be so in Wigton, though, as a magistrate, he was supposed to know what their wants were. Sir Musgrave Bisco might ask if the Act had been adopted, and Mr. Rigg replied, "Yes, strange to say, they have adopted that Act promoted by that fanatical Sir Wilfrid Lawson, and have voted that they will have no public-houses. All I have to say now is that you have no work to do—none all the year, or very little—and you may retire from the bench, and apply for old age pensions." (Laughter.)

The great objection of the wise men to the Local Veto was that it might be adopted at one place and not at another. All he could say was—all the worse for the other place. Because one place was inhabited by fools, it was ridiculous to think another locality should be deprived of what it considered would be to its benefit.

HOW MY BOY WENT DOWN

It was not in the field of battle,  
It was not with a ship at sea,  
But a fate far worse than either  
That stole him away from me.  
'Twas the death in the tempting dram  
That the reason and senses drown:  
He drank the alluring poison,  
And thus my boy went down.

Down from the heights of manhood  
To the depths of disgrace and sin;  
Down to a worthless being,  
From the hope of what might have been.  
For the brand of a beast beotted  
He battered his manhood's crown;  
Through the gate of a sinful pleasure  
My poor, weak boy went down.

'Tis only the same old story  
That mothers so often tell,  
With accents of infinite sadness,  
Like the tones of a funeral bell;  
But I never thought, once, when I heard it,  
I should learn all its meaning myself;  
I thought he'd be true to his mother,  
I thought he'd be true to himself.

But alas for my hopes, all delusion!  
Alas for his youthful pride!  
Alas! who are safe when danger  
Is open on every side?  
Oh, can nothing destroy this great evil?  
No bar in its pathway be thrown,  
To save from the terrible maelstrom  
The thousands of boys going down?

—Selected.