

# The Canada Citizen

## AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

A Journal devoted to the advocacy of Prohibition, and the promotion of social progress and moral reform.

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**F. S. SPENCE, - - - MANAGER.**

TORONTO FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7th, 1883.

### FEMALE INTEMPERANCE.

On another page we publish a somewhat lengthy extract from an English paper bearing a most emphatic testimony to the terrible evils of the Grocer's License system. In addition, the following clipping from *The Coffee Public-House News* is worthy of thoughtful consideration:—

"When the Act for allowing grocers and shopkeepers to possess licenses for the sale of wines and spirits was first introduced to Parliament, legislators little suspected the evil effects the passing of such an Act would have upon the country at large, and especially upon the female portion.

"The Women's Union of the Church of England Temperance Society has just issued a pamphlet giving the evidence of medical men, coroners, clergymen, and others, upon this subject; and those who would know more of the means whereby their wives, sisters and female relations obtain surreptitiously so much drink will do well to glance over it, if only for this reason. The chief questions put by the Society to those willing to give evidence were as follows:—(1) Do you attribute the increase of female intemperance in any degree to the facilities given by the grocers' and shopkeepers' licenses? (2) If so, can you supply evidence? Answers to (1) are:—I do, most emphatically. Female intemperance has increased tenfold to my knowledge since the Act came into force. A worse Act was never introduced to the country, Most certainly I do; Most decidedly; and so on, each and every witness agreeing that female intemperance of the present day is largely caused by the facilities given by grocers' and shopkeepers' licenses.

"The numerous and terrible instances given in answer to question (2) are simply appalling, and there is unfortunately no reason to doubt the fact of their being true."

It may be true that in Canada a state of affairs as appalling as this has not yet been developed, but there are unmistakable indications of progress towards it, and we have in full operation the deadly agency for its production. Taken as a whole our Canadian women stand on the very highest attained platform of social morality and purity. In relation to the evils of strong drink, they are doing noble work for the purification of home-life and the conservation of the virtue of our boys and girls; and when a righteous

law puts the ballot in their hands they will sweep away the whole accursed system of a legalized drink-traffic. But though this is true of Canadian women generally, we grieve to be compelled to admit that there are cases, and not a few, where ladies—sometimes in the highest walks of social life—are disgracing their sex, and breaking the hearts of humiliated friends, by disgusting inebriety, and the grocers' license system is often the first cause and nearly always the perpetuating agency of their degradation and shame. It is a well-known fact that women are supplied with drink that the grocer charges in his bill as something else to prevent the head of the house who settles the account from knowing the full magnitude of the evil. We have been assured by a medical man of high standing and extensive practice that among his patients are a large number of women passing in society for confirmed invalids, who are simply confirmed inebriates, and this fact accounts for the frequent seclusion that is stated to be on account of some other affliction. Surely it is time we woke up to some decided action in view of this terrible evil. The grocers' license curse is the evil form of the drink-traffic that every municipal council either sanctions or prohibits. No solid reason or even excuse for its continuance has yet been advanced. Let us make it distinctly understood that any man who would have our votes at the coming municipal elections must pledge himself to work and vote for a by-law putting an end to this infamous and outrageous system.

### THE TORONTO COFFEE-HOUSE ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Report of the Toronto Coffee-House Association is a very interesting document. It shows that the success of the movement has been equal to the expectations of its most sanguine advocates. A vast benefit has been conferred upon the community by an institution that has proved an unusually profitable investment for its promoters. The providing of good and cheap meals for the public, without the accompanying temptations to drink that restaurants usually present, cannot have been without great benefit to many of those who have patronized it, and the very large patronage it has received from all classes strongly evidences a high appreciation, on the part of the public of the provision made for supplying their necessities and wishes. Apart, however, from this very important consideration, the undertaking has been an exceedingly profitable one, the company's report showing a gross profit for the past year of over thirty-nine per cent. upon the paid-up stock. Even after making a liberal allowance for depreciation in the value of furniture in consideration of a year's wear, there is still a profit shown of over twenty-six per cent. The total amount of stock paid up is \$8,576, and the gross profit for the year was \$3,375. The company has done wisely in declaring only a comparatively small dividend and establishing a Reserve Fund for any future contingency. We cordially congratulate the Coffee-House Association, on what it has accomplished, and earnestly hope that its success will lead to the establishment of similar institutions in other cities and towns. We are pleased to learn that the Toronto Company is making arrangements for extending its operations by opening more Coffee-Houses here.

We want to say to our friends, however, that they have not yet fully accomplished the work of establishing a thoroughly equipped counter-attraction to the dangerous saloon. Our Coffee Houses are excellent dining-rooms, but we want something more than mere dining-rooms. The appeal to the social instincts and the love of cheerfulness and rest is the strongest feature of the tavern attractiveness. This must be made a feature of the Coffee House if it is to take the place of the saloon. Let it have conversation-rooms, reading-rooms, games-rooms, bright attractive cosy places where a man can spend an hour or an evening as pleasantly as he could in a hotel sitting-room or bar-room, and it will vastly augment both its usefulness and profits.