

THE ADVOCATE

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Comment.

Scrutinize your trade paper and it will support you.

If one-half the rumors about the streets of the old Lamb build do well to bring in a by-law compelling Toronto salaried bootlickers to cease operations after nine o'clock at night.

Again the *Templar* rises to wonder why the local press is so obstinately silent upon the subject of Prohibition. Possibly it is because the local press is occupied in discussing living and practical issues.

While the Prohibitionists are making a great noise our friends must remember that success in disposing of the wood-pile is attained not by sitting on the fence and raising clamor, but by quietly and persistently oscillating the cross-cut saw. Push *THE ADVOCATE* wherever you can in one good way to help.

"Sixty pledged Prohibitionists to Parliament" is the watchword of our opponents. Are there not two sides to that matter. Evidently the candidates think so, for very few pledged prohibitionists do reach the House. And from those who do reach the House very little is heard about Prohibition.

Don't be afraid of forcing a municipal contest on the issue of license reduction. Remember that a large number of women are on the lists of municipal electors and their can be depended upon to vote on such a moral issue. — *The Templar*.

A moral issue that must depend on what means for success has not much to do with backbones to it.

The Prohibitionists of Iowa are making another grand effort. They have put all tickets in the field and are fighting Prohibitions, Democrats and Populists. They will probably poll ten or fifteen thousand votes out of some four hundred thousand that will be cast. Iowa had Prohibition for eleven years and knows all about it.

The Quebec W.C.T.U. have prohibited its members from the use of spruce nos, root beer, ginger beer, or any beverage which contains alcohol. This about keeps them down to water, and as they wish to eat grass for fear it might

ferment, it would seem probable that copulence will not be especially noticeable among the members of the association in a short time.

MR. J. D. ANDREWS, of Hamilton, G.C.F. of the Good Templars, has written Hon. Mr. Laurier asking him explicitly if he was correctly reported as saying that the Liberal party, in the event of being returned to power, would give a Dominion plebiscite, and if the result was a majority for prohibition would they then feel bound to enact a prohibitory law and stand by it. Mr. Laurier has replied that such is their position before the country.

A WRITER in *Outing* shows that Roman Catholics are not the only Christians who may be criticized for favoring the saloon. He says that vestrymen in fourteen Philadelphia Episcopal churches have endorsed applications for saloons. An elder in the Bethany Presbyterian church was a signer. And several members of the Methodist church and two Baptists are recorded as signers. Of the school trustees of Philadelphia, 145 are reported as signing applications for licenses.

FROM the annual report of the Quebec W.C.T.U., made public a few days since, it would appear that there are 91 unions in the province and fifty places where unions had existed but had died out. The work would not seem of a very permanent or enthusiastic character, would it? Nor does the membership of 2,385 out of the total female population of say 200,285 between an indiscriminate rush to avail themselves of the privilege of not tasting the deadly ginger beer or the light and festive spruce beverage.

BRO. CANNEN DENY from the Prohibition propaganda in favor of a reduction in the number of licenses. In the last issue of his paper he says:

Canada has had its experience in attempting to stop sales merely, and allowing the manufacture and importation to go on, and it was by no means satisfactory. The intelligence of the country now demands something more than merely limiting the number of licensed places, or even that merely cutting off all licenses and still allowing the other two slices to remain wide open.

This is about the most sensible utterance we have seen in a Prohibition paper this month.

ONE of the truly good has complacently figured it out that the Williams' murder, of which MacWherrell has been found guilty, was the outcome of the Ontario License law. He says: "If there had been no license law there would have been no Fitzgerald bar-room; if there had been no bar-room MacWherrell would not have met Cory, and if he had not met Cory he would not have heard of the Williams', and there would have been no murder." Our friend, to be fully and completely absurd, should go back a little further. If the race of man had not been created Jacques Cartier would not have sailed up the St. Lawrence, Frontenac would not have peopled the country, civilization would not have discovered fruits that suit men's tastes and appetites; hence there would have been no license law, etc., etc. As Sir Matthew Begbie said to the Royal Commission, "if the heavens should fall it would kill a lot of rooks."

THE Gold Cure Institutes in Nova Scotia are proving very successful in reclaiming drunkards. Dr. Black, of Anheist, has treated over 90 cases with very good results, only a very few of his patients having fallen back to their old habits. The Murphy Institutes at Halifax and Truro are also largely patronized, and though somewhat later in coming into the field, have effected many almost miraculous cures. To take the Gold Cure in becoming quite the fashion. — *The Templar*.

But, bless us, this cannot be true. Anheist is the county town of Cumberland, while Truro occupies the same position in Coderchester, and both counties have been under Prohibition for years and years. In Halifax the law does not permit laws, and the inspector must be a member in full standing of a temperance lodge, so of course there will be no general drinking there. Then whence the cause for Gold Cure institutes and this flocking of the people to their portals? Strange! Strange!

TEMPERANCE journals are claiming that Mr. Gladstone has not, as we stated, changed front on the Local Option question. Here are the words of his letter, as read by the Bishop of Chester at the famous Aberdeen meeting:

For many years I have been strongly of opinion that the principle of selling liquors for the public profit only offered the sole chance of escape from the present miserable and almost contemptible predicament, which is a disgrace to the coun-

try. I am friendly to Local Option, but it can be no more than a partial and occasional remedy. The mere limitation of numbers—the idol of Parliament for the last 20 years—is, if pretending to the honor of a remedy, little better than an imposture. The growth of the system of tied houses continually aggravates the prevailing mischief. Of details I do not speak, but in principle you are working on the only lines either promising or tenable. I am glad to see that Mr. Chamberlain is active in your cause.

If it is not a change of front to refer to Local Option, even though still friendly to it in a way, as "little better than an imposture," and this by a man who made Local Option a plank of his political platform, we do not know what a change of front is.

THE *Citizen and Home Guard* says in reference to the publication of the report that Miss Willard had changed her views regarding Prohibition:—"Wenotice, too, that *THE ADVOCATE*, the new liquor interests organ—which has generally been reliable—followed suit." *THE ADVOCATE* has generally been reliable because it has tried to be, and it still tries to be. Even in this matter of Miss Willard we do not admit unreliability. As the case stands, so far as we can get at the facts, Miss Willard stated that she had been for some months closely studying the effects of laws, and was convinced that Prohibition could not be effectually enforced except in a community where there was an overwhelming public sentiment in its favor. Further, that she intended to devote more time to persuading people not to drink and less towards compelling them to abstain by act of parliament. Later Miss Willard wrote to a friend, in answer to the hubub the above created, "concerning Total Abstinence, Prohibition and Woman's Ballot, my opinions are fixed as the laws of gravitation." Now then, there is no denial that the former statement was made, and there is no conflict between the two statements. Miss Willard's views as to the value of Prohibition may be fixed as the laws of gravitation, or the laws of the Medes and Persians, but Miss Willard's views as to the possibility of Prohibition in an ordinary community are quite another thing. We still believe the lady has changed, and materially changed her views on the latter subject, and, with all respect, we do not believe she can cover over that change by the use of high-sounding and mouth-filling words.

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