

THE CANADA CITIZEN

AND TEMPERANCE HERALD

Freedom for the Right Means Suppression of the Wrong.

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The Canada Citizen

AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

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TORONTO, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15th, 1884.

SUSTAINED.

At last we have had a vote taken on the question of repealing the Scott Act in a county where it has been in operation. Prince County, P. E. I., carried the Scott Act on December 28th, 1878, the vote standing 2,062 to 271. A desperate effort to repeal the Act has just been defeated by one of the grandest majorities that has yet been recorded in favor of this valuable and growingly popular law. The overwhelming verdict of the people is that they have found the Scott Act a grand success, and they have most emphatically proclaimed their determination to stand by the prohibition that it gives them until they can get a law that will give them more. In view of the other contests that are impending, and of the proposed action all along the line, the news from Prince County comes opportunely to inspire our loyal workers with renewed faith in their holy cause. The liquor traffic is doomed, and the day of a brighter and purer national life is drawing nigh.

THE ALLIANCE NEWS BLACK LIST.

The Alliance News recently published a list of casualties and crimes, that had been reported in newspapers as the direct result of drinking. The list contains only the record for Great Britain and Ireland, and only for TWO WEEKS, namely, the last week of 1883 and the first week of 1884.

The publication of a similar list two years ago created intense excitement, and many have been looking anxiously for this, earnestly hoping that it would be impossible to compile as ghastly a record as that which had before been published. There seems to have been a general impression that the evils of intemperance were

being lessened, and that the late holiday season had been unusually free from drunkenness and violence; but there has been a sad and terrible awaking from this pleasant dream. The list is appalling and heartrending. It is closely printed in minion type; every item is condensed from the form in which it originally appeared; and yet it fills SEVENTEEN PAGES larger than those of THE CANADA CITIZEN.

It must be borne in mind that terrible as is the misery recorded in this awful catalogue, it is really but an indication of the untold wretchedness and sin that lie behind it. It is little more than the index to an unrea volume. Nearly every crime that drink has caused is the culmination of a career of depravity and vice. Every victim of intemperance has steeped his own life in unutterable suffering and shame, and wrecked the happiness of loving friends as well. The figures do not show the bleeding hearts, the blighted hopes, the ruined homes, and all the train of attendant evils that are as much the result of the liquor-traffic as are the actually described occurrences that—comparatively speaking—are really only a small fraction of the dreadful whole.

This is a British record only, but the drink traffic is not a British traffic only. It exists everywhere, and it is the same wherever it exists. Drink is the curse of Canada as well as the curse of other lands. With us, however, the consumption of drink is increasing so rapidly that we may well feel terrified at the fruits elsewhere of a *per capita* consumption of liquor towards which we are making rapid strides. The annual liquor bill of Canada is now almost twice as much as it was fifteen years ago, and our newspapers furnish materials from which an awful *black list* might be compiled.

From the Alliance News of January 26th we clip the subjoined remarks upon, and summary, of the record to which we have alluded:

"Of course, no reader will suppose that anything like an exhaustive haul has been made of the cases which occurred all over the three kingdoms. Much effort has been made, and many newspapers have been examined; but the number of those not seen by coadjutors must be very greatly in excess of those that have been seen; so that the old proverb, that there are more fish in the sea than ever came out of it, may on this melancholy occasion be once more made use of.

"It needs also to be said, that at a holiday time, like that of Christmas and the New Year, there is apt to be a good-humored laxity in the proceedings of policemen and police courts in relation to drink cases. The "festivities of the season" are accepted in excuse of many escapades that would be marked and punished at other times; much indulgence is shown to drunken disturbers of the public peace, who would find things made hotter for them at more serious seasons; tipsy offences are hushed up, and awkward matters are made comfortable.

"And besides this, it must be borne in mind that the reporters for the press are by no means always disposed or enabled to record the part which strong drink has manifestly had in the cases which they chronicle. A Scottish correspondent, in sending in his contributions to the Black List, writes that "There were nearly as many cases which we might have legitimately inferred were equally due to drink, but as liquor was not directly charged with the evil we had to do without the record." No doubt a similar remark might have been made by all our coadjutors.