

speaking of Ontario's now), and the Legislature was appealed to to take the matter in hand by the temperance community; and, as the result of its session last winter, though not legally bound, as it thought, to enforce a Dominion Act, provided a means by which all counties might more readily enforce the law.

Since then, the Act in many counties has been more or less satisfactorily carried out. In respect to the difficulties of its enforcement the *Toronto Globe* of a recent date says:

"Probably no law ever placed upon the statute book of Canada has been so weakened and harassed in its operation by technical objections as the Scott Act. Ever since it became law the most petty, absurd and vexatious technicalities have been used to destroy its effect. Too often the sympathy of the judge has seemed to be with the violator instead of the law. In the Maritime Provinces it was a common conviction that any paltry objection would prevail against the Act in the courts. It must not become so in Ontario. The people have declared for the Act, and it must be observed. If these miserable technicalities are to continue to prevail, it will simply become the duty of the Legislature to confer upon county magistrates extraordinary powers, and to make such extraordinary regulations to prevent the further embarrassment of the Act as will effect the practical outlawry of the science of technicalities as applied to temperance legislation ordered into operation by a majority of the people."

The Act when once passed cannot be repealed within three years. An effort is to be made soon by the liquor interests to repeal the law in several counties. The only hope they have is in counties where it has been but indifferently enforced; and even in these, I believe, their victories, if any there are, will be very few. No county has ever yet repealed it, though the effort has been repeatedly made. Three cities have passed the Act.

With respect to whether prohibition prohibits, or whether the Scott Act is having the desired effect, I quote from Mayor Howland, of Toronto, at the recent meeting there of the Alliance, of which he was president: "They say there is more liquor drunk under the

Scott Act than without it. I will give you a few figures. The consumption of beer, wine and spirits in Canada is $3\frac{3}{4}$ gallons per head per annum—the smallest of any country in the world. The people of British Columbia consumed $7\frac{3}{4}$ gallons—more than twice the average for the whole of Canada, because they were a rum-ridden community. In Ontario the average was $4\frac{3}{4}$ gallons. In Quebec, which was largely under parish prohibition, it was $3\frac{1}{4}$ gallons. In Manitoba and the Northwest it was $2\frac{1}{4}$ —the Northwest being subject to a prohibitory law. In New Brunswick, where 10 out of 18 counties had adopted the Scott Act, it was $1\frac{1}{2}$ gallons. In Nova Scotia, still more largely under the Scott Act, it was $1\frac{1}{4}$ gallons; and in Prince Edward Island, wholly under the Scott Act, it was a little over $\frac{3}{4}$ of a gallon." He further gave another set of figures showing the convictions for drunkenness before and after in the various counties which had adopted the Scott Act, showing that an average of 150 per cent. more convictions were made before than after, while during the same period the number of convictions in non-Scott Act counties had increased.

The position of Parliament on the temperance question was clearly defined at its last session. Two motions introduced by the liquor interests—one for the repeal of the Scott Act and one for its mutilation by the permission of the sale of wine and beer—were voted down by good majorities, showing that the House of Commons was sound on the Scott Act. But a resolution introduced by the Alliance in favor of immediate prohibition was lost by a vote of 112 to 70. It is a significant fact though that 70 members of the House of Commons were prepared for immediate prohibition. With the same advance in temperance work during the next decade that has been made in the past and prohibition will be the law of the land in many of our provinces. God grant that it may.

S. P. Z.