

### THE STAY-AT-HOME.

Who shirks his duty year by year,  
And thinks he's paying rather dear,  
And at fraternity will sneer?  
The Stay-at-Home.

Who first is sure his teeth to gnash,  
And swear the lodge has gone to smash,  
When called upon to pay his cash?  
The Stay-at-Home.

Who, when he catches cold some day,  
Gets on the sick-list right away,  
And frets until he gets his pay?  
The Stay-at-Home.

Who wriggles like an angle-worm  
If asked to serve a single term,  
And pleads his health is now infirm?  
The Stay-at-Home.

Who chews the rag with great delight,  
And says some folks ain't doing right;  
And remains away each meeting night?  
The Stay-at-Home.

### THE PLEBISCITE BILL.

The Plebiscite Bill has been introduced into the House of Commons, and has now passed its second reading. The measure was introduced by the Hon. Sydney Fisher, who is a staunch friend of thorough going prohibition. The measure is satisfactory to all friends of temperance reform. It is a simple, single issue to be answered Yes or No. "Are you in favor of the passing of an Act prohibiting the importation, manufacture or sale of spirits, wines, ale, beer, cider and all other alcoholic liquors used as beverages?" This is a plain direct and simple question that the Liberal Government proposes to submit to the people of Canada. Every effort has been made by our friends to secure the measure in this form, and it is now in order for us to express our approval and satisfaction of the same. Whatever influence you have use it now in this worthy cause. *The vote will no doubt be taken before the end of the year.*

### WAR IN CUBA.

The papers are full of it. A thrill of horror is felt throughout the whole of civilization; a shudder of apprehension passes over all who have relatives or friends who may be enlisted. Mothers weep; households are in consternation; the nation with bated breath, and with hearts sickened with the slaughter and carnage, await reports from the scene of battle. The legislators face the problem of raising means for carrying on the war, and every resource is employed to provide money by taxation. The enormous cost of millions a day appalls the people. The loss of the "Maine" with all on board, the killed and wounded in a single campaign outrages our feelings of humanity.

LET US SEE; Mulhall's statistics show the average cost of the world's wars during this century to be \$171,000,000, the average deaths

49,884. Great Britain's drink bill in 1897 exceeded \$750,000,000, and her estimated deaths directly from drink were 85,000. That country alone spends five times as much each year for drink as would pay for all the world's wars. The U. S. for 1897 spent for drink \$962,192,854, the deaths were 87,944. In Canada \$40,000,000 were thus spent, the deaths from drinking were 3,000. The world's great statesman, W. E. Gladstone, has said that "the havoc wrought by intemperance is greater than the combined ravages of war, pestilence and famine." In the light of these figures, and in view of current events how startling these statements are. They should set every one thinking. *Our Cause is truly "the cause of mankind."*

### PROVINCES MAY PROHIBIT.

It is now reported by the Hon. David Mills that Provinces may prohibit. Mr. Mills is a great constitutional authority, and has thus been recognized for many years. To-day he is Minister of Justice and his opinion must have greatest weight.

His statement is clear cut and unmitigable. It is in the form of a letter to the Premier of P. E. I., in reply to a request for his honest opinion upon the question. Prince Edward Island is overwhelmingly for prohibition. The Scott Act is in force in the whole province, except in the capital City or Charlottetown. It has been confirmed no less than three times by popular vote, but a few months ago the Act was defeated by a close vote owing to party complications. The people of Charlottetown are determined it shall not rest upon legal sanction of their Government. The feeling was so strong against the traffic that the Assembly refused to grant licenses, or to legalize the business, for it was proposed to protect the whole Province. The Premier begged the candid opinion of the Minister of Justice upon the constitutionality of these regulations, as well as upon the question of total prohibition. This was the reply:—

"Office of the Minister of Justice,  
Ottawa, April 7th, 1898.

"Dear Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th of March, and in reply beg to say that the regulations to which you refer are all within the jurisdiction of the Provincial Legislature, and it is open to the Legislature to legislate in the direction you indicate, as far as they think it in the public interest to go, to the extent of total prohibition. There is nothing to prevent any Province prohibiting the sale of intoxicants for consumption as a beverage within the limits of the Province if so disposed.

Yours truly,

DAVID MILLS."

This does not agree with the opinion previously held in this Province.

It is suggested that Mr. Mills springs his opinion upon the country, to prepare it for the

announcement of a policy to be pursued by the Dominion Government surmised, to be this, that in the event of Prohibition carrying in all the Provinces but Quebec an objection may be offered to the Dominion Law, on the grounds of invasion of provincial rights, and the coercion of a Province, and it will be pointed out that the provinces which desire Prohibition will adopt it, and that to strengthen their position, the Dominion Government will offer to pass concurrent legislation with each province taking that step. It is evident we are in times that mark development in prohibition history.

### DIVISION CONTESTS.

Most of our members are familiar with this plan of building up Divisions. Two captains are selected who choose up sides from the members. The respective sides are generally known by colors, say Red and Blue. This removes an element of personal rivalry should the contest become excessively warm. A committee of two or three is appointed who will keep the tally. Marks are given generally for attendance, musical and literary selections, speeches, essays etc., also for each new member introduced into the Division. The judges meet and fix a standard for each item and generally have a sliding scale for merit so that those who do their best will get better count. It is found best for the judges not to make known the standing of the sides till the end of the contest as this sustains the interest. The contest runs for a certain number of nights, usually a quarter, each side taking a night alternately. This plan of creating activity has been employed with great success in many Divisions. Its only drawbacks have been in certain places where the enthusiasm grew beyond bounds and a reaction followed. Properly conducted it is a good plan. To avoid personal rivalry a plan has been worked in some places to have a three cornered contest in which three captains take part.

### GAINING GROUND.

From *The Statesman* of May 4th, we clip this editorial note.

"Only nine licenses are now granted in West Durham. Prohibition will be here in a few years at this rate of decrease. Bowmanville once had 10 or 12 licensed hotels and stores, now only two. Darlington with two hotels at Hampton, Enniskillen and Tyrone and one at Kilmarnock—seven in all—now has only one. The temperance societies, Sabbath schools, public opinion and individual respect are accomplishing that for which sincere advocates of prohibition have long worked and prayed. To our mind, no man who has due regard for his family or for his own respectability will be seen tipping in a bar-room, surrounded by a lot of suckers such as are often found in such places. Business men no longer care to employ men who drink intoxicating liquors, so that the young man who quaffs his ale, gin or whiskey is barred from the best positions in life. It would be a happy day for Canada were the decline in liquor drinking as rapid in every riding as in good old West Durham."