

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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THE SCOTT ACT.

We have frequent and interesting enquiries from our many subscribers in reference to various matters connected with Scott Act work and agitation. To enable all to understand fully how to go to work, we print in the present number of the CANADA CITIZEN, (1) a complete report of the present state of the work, (2) a carefully prepared article by Prof. Foster giving valuable suggestions to workers; (3) an able and interesting report of the working of the Act in Halton, by Mr. D. L. Brethour and (4) a copy of the "order in council" respecting correct forms of documents to be used, and other details of procedure. These various articles make this number of the CANADA CITIZEN an invaluable epitome of Scott Act information.

We have made arrangements by which all needful forms, such as petitions, printed instructions to canvassers, forms of declaration for signature by witnesses, etc., etc., can be supplied at the lowest possible prices, and in proper legal form. We have also made arrangements by which we can supply to all counties CAMPAIGN SHEETS printed in the form of the CANADA CITIZEN, and adapted to the various localities where they are needed. Further particulars and terms may be obtained by application to the office of this paper.

LICENSE.

The licensing system is a double wrong. (1) It permits and sanctions what is an admitted evil. (2) It accepts a fee for this unjustifiable indulgence. Connivance at crime is rightly recog-

nized by law as criminal, acceptance of a consideration for such connivance adds the guilt of corruption to the guilt of participation. If a policeman knowingly permitted thieving to be carried on, of property he was charged to protect, he would at once, and justly, be deemed a criminal himself; but if it could be shown that he accepted money in return for his acquiescence in the wrong, he could be adjudged more criminal still. The crime of accepting a bribe would be added to the crime of participating in theft.

There is not vested to-day in any member of the community any right, any privilege, any permission to sell intoxicating liquor, except in so far as he has secured immunity for his inherently immoral business, by the payment of money to the authority that therefor permits him to carry on that business. The law adds to the crime of sanction the liquor traffic the crime of accepting a bribe for that sanction. The first is a perversion, the second a prostitution, of executive power, and the whole action is a betrayal of the confidence of a community that confined for its own protection an authority that is exercised for its corruption and hurt.

If the guardian of the peace should say to the burglar, "I will protect you in your midnight depredations on condition of receiving a share of the plunder you may carry off," he would merit and receive severer punishment than the burglar himself. This is precisely what the license law says to the liquor traffic. We are all agreed that the liquor traffic is wicked, detestable, vile. Can we not see that the licensing system is viler still?

Any common-sense man will admit that it is easier to suppress crime than to restrict and yet allow it. It is easier to kill a mad dog than to control his conduct, regulate his movements, and permit him to do just a certain amount of mischief. It is impossible to prevent unlicensed sale (only one form of the traffic) while licensed sale is carried on. This might be possible in a community of perfectly trained law-keepers, but in such a community there would never be tolerated such an order-antagonizing institution as whisky-selling. License laws are everywhere miserable failures and are everywhere violated. A community would need a long training under well enforced prohibition to enable it to successfully manage a license law. The talk that we sometimes hear about educating public sentiment, towards the enforcement of prohibition, by the operation of licensed law, is *prima facie* nonsense.

The Dominion Parliament has practically said that we cannot have prohibition now because we are not ready for it, but in the meantime the same Parliament offers us a license law. We are not strong enough yet to lift a hundred-weight, we had better try to carry a ton. It would be too hard a task to keep the vessel afloat if her hull were sound and well constructed, just let us have it strained and leaky, but keep the pumps agoing.

We protest against the liquor traffic because it is cruel, degrading and sinful; we protest against the licensing system because it is cruel, degrading, sinful and corrupt; and we protest against this anti-prohibition twaddle because it inconsistently advocates cruelty, degradation and corruption as stepping-stones to morality and sound legislation.