

Stormont, and Glengarry by large majorities shows that it has failed to secure the desired result. So long as liquor can be introduced from the large cities and towns, or from neighbouring counties where the Act is not in force, no efficient or permanent acceptance of the system can be expected anywhere. A conviction is slowly but surely fastening itself on the minds of the enemies of intemperance, that nothing but legislation applied to the whole Dominion at once and not only to the sale, but the importation and manufacture of intoxicants will accomplish the object in view. Temperance men are wasting money and time in introducing the inoperative Scott Act into separate counties which rightly directed might secure a Dominion measure infinitely more effective and far-reaching in its results.

If temperance advocates would change their formula and offer to sell good liquor to all fit to be trusted with it, and at the same time sternly forbid intoxicants to the young and to the mature who do not know where to stop, they would make better speed in their work. Prohibition is the word they use, but it is not prohibition which they advocate, or have any hope of now securing, and it would be better to abandon it. The Scott Act is defective according to their view, because it gives the sale to those who make a profit by it and who are therefore tempted to sell to drunkards, and the objection is well founded. Above all things they desire that the sale should be placed in the hands of those who do not share in the profits. It is obvious that this cannot be done except by public officials receiving salaries. To trust the appointment of such persons to municipalities, or even provinces, which would be tempted to loosen restrictions on sales, to gain commercial advantages over their neighbours, would not be advisable, and it is impossible to resist the conclusion that it is to the Dominion Government temperance men must look for a satisfactory settlement of their difficulties. Already that Government regulates the manufacture of liquor, and could easily make arrangements either to acquire the distilleries and breweries, or purchase their products. The importation of foreign liquors is but another step not presenting extraordinary difficulties.

Obstacles would doubtless be encountered in carrying this plan into effect, but none would be insurmountable. Governments carry on very large manufacturing establishments with success. They have their choice of the best men in the community as their servants. So far as the prohibitory rules were concerned, they would be closely watched by temperance advocates, and errors would be speedily and sternly exposed. Every drunkard convicted, every crime committed resulting from liquor would be set down to their account, and they would feel all the force of public opinion. It might be that there would be leakages in handling so much money and liquor, but these would be detected and punished. Against them must be set the profits of the retail sale, which would fall into the coffers of the Government. There would probably be only one selling-place in each city, town, and township, and if present prices were continued the profits would be large, though the sales would be diminished by refusal to sell to minors, to drunkards, to those known to be in danger of falling into intemperate habits.

There would be infinite gain to the temperance cause from placing the manufacture, importation, and sale of liquor in the hands of the Government. Doubtless for a time public opinion would swing to and fro, but the exclusion of private interests from the traffic would be an enormous gain, and if the majority of the people were in favour of strict regulation, that majority would in the end, secure all they wished. The Canadian population is not at present very large, and the proposed change could be much more easily introduced than in more populous countries. Once introduced no increase in numbers would injure the system.

J. GORDON BROWN.

OTTAWA LETTER.

THERE is no topic, as I write, but the sad and solemn event by which the Dominion of Canada is deprived of one of the most faithful and honourable Ministers that ever held a portfolio in her service. It would go without saying that the death of the Honourable Thomas White would cause a deep and wide depression in social and political circles here, but the peculiar and personal character of the regret that is expressed on every hand should be heard to be understood. It can have its source only in the loss of a man whose special virtues made him dear to the people, as well as honoured and admired among them. And so, on the streets and the corners of the streets, where the winter drifts still baffle the chilly sunshine and a few blades of green are disheartened looking for the spring, men stand in transient groups of twos and threes and turn over the memory of his kindly deeds, his painstaking service, his upright behaviour, hardly realizing yet that he is gone away from them for all time.

The Chamber has witnessed no more touching scene for years than that of Monday, when Parliament assembled to adjourn. The very quiet was pathetic, in this place of constant dispute and frequent upbraiding. It seemed to speak wordlessly of the one great silencer of tongues. One by one the members took their places, the little pages clustered with childish seriousness about the foot of the Speaker's chair, the galleries too were full and quiet, the purple and gold light burned in the tall windows as it shall burn when none of us shall see it, and there was the empty place. Sir John Macdonald rose to move the adjournment of the House, but could not, for the sad reason of it, and sympathy with the grief which choked the voice of the Premier was shown on rugged faces both Conservative and Liberal. Sir Hector performed the task to which his leader was unequal, and Mr. Laurier's answer was one of his most eloquent efforts. Nature has given the leader of the Opposition not only the tongue of an orator but the soul of a poet, and in his tribute to Mr. White we heard the one and saw the other.

Politically the serious nature of Mr. White's loss is shown in the blank silence or vague guessing which answers the question as to his successor.

There is no lack of ability to take his place, but the filling of it demands different qualifications. The late Minister of the Interior was a bulwark of no ordinary strength to his party. His journalistic training, with the wide information it gave him, enabled him to defend his Department in the House as it is generally acknowledged never to have been defended before; and his system of close, personal investigation of the affairs under his charge made him competent to deal with them as years of ordinary Ministerial experience would not make a man of different calibre. All sorts of speculation have arisen upon various grounds, among them the expected change by which Sir Charles Tupper's portfolio was to have been given Mr. White, and the Hon. Mr. Kirkpatrick admitted to the Cabinet, the fact that the Hon. the Secretary of State is known never to have been very well satisfied with the patronage at his command, and the rumour that the North-West will press strongly for a representative man. The varied character of the castles in the air which might be constructed upon such foundations as these by a strong political imagination will appear.

The Jamaica debate has been as interesting as anything in the House during the past week. Having dispelled any hope of Unrestricted Reciprocity that might have lingered in the Maritime bosom, the Conservatives are naturally desirous of replacing it with something at least approximately pleasing. So again they are giving visions of a rainbow stretching from Halifax to Kingston, with a pot of gold at the Kingston end, and the rainbow is subsidized. The debate upon Gen. Laurie's speech, in moving for the correspondence between our Government and the Legislative Council of Jamaica of some three years ago upon the subject of extended political and commercial relations, was not generally expected to be of much importance; but Gen. Laurie found that the Hon. Mr. Davies had also been consulting the *Hand Book of Jamaica* and other compilations of authority in the Library, and was ready to blight his Arcadian picture of unlimited bananas for Canada, and an exclusive codfish diet for 580,000 Jamaicans without the slightest regard for its value as a beautiful colour-scheme whatever. It will be remembered that a year or two after the Jamaican Commission that came to Canada with a view to negotiations of a political or commercial kind returned with such scanty results, our Government sent a Mr. Wylde to the West Indies to see what could be done toward bringing about reciprocal trade concessions, and the joint subsidizing of a line of steamers.

Mr. Wylde found the Governor on the eve of departure for England, and could get only the vaguest possible official sentiments. He sounded the Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce however, and the result was not altogether encouraging. The Society assured him that while in a general way they would be delighted to see trade stimulated between the two of Her Majesty's colonies concerned, Jamaica couldn't afford to subsidize and in fact wouldn't subsidize if she could, being much of the opinion, supported by the prosperous unsubsidized lines that ran between her ports and that of New York, that commercial opportunity would set its own steamships going. The Society also assured Mr. Wylde that fruit sent to Nova Scotia would probably spoil on the voyage of ten or twelve days necessary to take it there even by a subsidized steamer. Mr. Wylde produced other authority to show that it would take only seven days, but if the Society's statement was an exaggeration, it hardly showed a spirit of enthusiasm regarding the project. Mr. Wylde, however, seemed at liberty to suggest free fruit only to the Jamaicans. A larger concession, reducing the duties on sugar, dye woods, coffee and rum, if the Government on a reciprocal basis, are prepared to make it would doubtless alter the situation. Private capital, in that case, would probably take the responsibility of the carrying unaided. As to the subsidy method of stimulating trade, we must believe that it would be to a certain extent effectual, but the fact that out of \$2,745,257 worth of Canadian exports to the West Indies in the year 1885 Nova Scotia sent \$2,488,131, shows the very small extent to which the plan would be approved by the rest of the Dominion from a common benefit point of view.

The event of the week in non-political circles has been "Ye Fayre of Ye Olden Time," which is to be perpetrated again in Toronto, I believe. It is to be hoped that the architecture will fit the interior with you. It was very cleverly designed and painted for the Montreal "Fayre," and filled the long narrow gallery of the Art Association with pretty and quaint effect. Here however, it was put of necessity in the Drill Shed, where from the "shoppe" on one side one could hardly see the other opposite, and a vast and dreary rafter space yawned above. This was the one defect. We had pretty modern maidens in costumes that were certainly becoming, however else one might be able or unable to characterize them, and other charming anachronisms in abundance. Lord and Lady Lansdowne opened the "Fayre" on Wednesday night, and a great many people paid fifty cents to see it done. There were "merrie milkmaids" and "fair apothecaries," and junket and syllabub, curds and whey—but I will not set the Toronto public's mouth watering in advance. There would be no use in that, since if you will but possess your souls in patience all these things shall be set before you at the usual premium. But one pretty thing you shall not see at the Toronto "Fayre," a Chaucerian trifle, in which those who know his predilection for making dainty verse will recognize the pen of the Librarian of Parliament. It is sent with the express purpose of convincing you that all the sweetness and light of the Dominion does not centre in Toronto. An occasional drop, an occasional ray, escapes. For instance:

ADDRESSE

FROM YE FAYRE LADYES OF YE FAYRE.

I.

Now we that hev at herte in all gladnesse,
To save some little folk from sore distresse,
By this swete foolishnesse we here arraye
That hath been thoughten out this many a day,