

WHERE THE COUNTRY STANDS.

The Province of Ontario voted on the question of prohibition on January 1st, 1894. Leaving out the vote of the women, which was overwhelmingly for prohibition, the result of the ballot was as follows:—

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| For prohibition | 180,987 |
| Against prohibition | 108,491 |

Majority... 71,596

This Plebiscite of September 26th, 1898 was taken at a less favorable time. In 1894 the vote was taken during a municipal election when the people were at the polls. In 1898 the voting was independent and no one had any reason to go to the ballot box, except his interest in the question of prohibition. Moreover, there was among the people a feeling of disappointment that no result had come from the former Plebiscite. Everything considered, the vote of 1898 may be taken as an expression of public opinion even stronger than that given in 1894. The vote was as follows:—

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| For prohibition | 151,498 |
| Against prohibition | 115,284 |

Majority... 39,214

The Liberal Government at Ottawa, which controls the destiny of Canada to-day, has no such vote or majority in Ontario as those polled for prohibition. The Ontario Government which controls this province has not the support among the voting electorate that has been given to the prohibition movement.

It is a great vote. It is a pure vote. It represents the intelligence, the character, the independence, the unselfishness of not only the greatest, but the best part of the electorate of Ontario. Its mandate must be obeyed.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

A Growing Evil.

An English paper states that between 1897 and 1899 the consumption of beer in the United Kingdom increased from 34,000,000 to 36,000,000 barrels, and the consumption of spirits from 32,000,000 to 35,600,000 gallons.

Free Liquor.

The Ottawa correspondent of the Montreal Witness gives the following discussion of disgraceful conduct that added to the mischief done by the terrible fire at Ottawa on April 26th. "When some of the hotel keepers found that there was not much likelihood of their premises escaping the fire, they opened their bars and invited every one to come and help themselves with all they could drink, and a great many accepted the invitation, and not only drank liberally themselves, but carried off any number of bottles of the fiery stuff with which to treat their absent friends. So it came about that a great many men were so 'top heavy' that they were unable or unwilling to exert themselves in carrying even their own clothing and furniture to a place of safety."

The Drink Problem.

There is a awful leprosy upon us. There is a tyranny of one worse than the Turk, a slavery a hundred fold more savage than that which bound the negro, fastening upon our body politic. We grant the devil for a consideration absolute freedom to produce misery and profligacy, cruelty and wickedness, disgrace and social demoralization; to transform creatures from heaven into felon, the harlot, the pauper and the madman. We have permitted an organized Satanic despotism to be reared in our midst, which has boundless resources, moves forward with gigantic strides, crushes millions of victims, inflames society with all the passions of the pit. It is the school of anarchy, the breeding ground of criminals, the nursery of woe, the sworn foe of the church. Economically, politically, religiously, this is the problem.—Rev. F. D. Powers, in C.T.W.

EASY TO CRUSH THE SALOON.

There are some problems which can never be solved in the prayer meeting. The saloon problem is one of them. We may preach about it and sing about it, and resolve about it, and weep about it, and pray about it until Gabriel blows his trumpet, and if we do nothing more we shall accomplish nothing. The mill-honoree brewer and the red-faced saloonist want us to keep right at our devotions. They will meanwhile laugh in very glee.

God will not do for us what we ourselves can do. We cannot preach the saloon out. We cannot sing it out. We cannot resolve it out. We cannot weep it out. We cannot pray it out. But we can arise from our knees, and trusting in God, go forth to smite the monster, hip and thigh, by the conquering power of a citizen's ballot.

When will the Christian forces of the republic see how easy it would be to crush the saloon power if they would only move out from the churches to the ballot boxes in one great, eager, determined, united, victorious army?—Epworth Herald.

GOOD AMUNITION FOR PROHIBITIONISTS.

Under the first two and one-half years of prohibition the total number of convicts in Iowa ran down from 800 to 532. Under the first four years of the mullet law the number ran up from 694 to 1,171. This supplies pretty plain evidence concerning the merit of the mullet law as a "better prohibitory measure than the prohibition law."

But there is more. The reports from counties is equally instructive. In 1884, before prohibition was enacted, Polk county sent twenty-two convicts to the state prison. In 1888, under prohibition, it sent eight. In 1894, under the mullet law it sent seventy. Mahaska county sent eight convicts in the year before the passage of the prohibitory law; in 1888 under the law it sent none; in 1897, under the mullet law it sent fifteen. In the prohibitory year of 1888 the criminal court expenses of the county were \$5,332; in the mullet year of 1896 they were \$21,497.

Washington county, of about the same population and wealth as Mahaska, is still under prohibition. In this same year, 1896, its criminal court expenses were \$3,622.—Union Signal.

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

To-night it enters the humble home to strike the roses from a woman's cheek, and to-morrow it challenges the republic in the halls of congress.

To-day it strikes the crust from the lips of a starving child, and to-morrow leaves tribute from the government itself.

There is no cottage humble enough to escape it, no place strong enough to keep it out.

It defies the law when it cannot coerce suffrage.

It is flexible to cajole, but merciless in victory.

It is the moral enemy of peace and order, the despoiler of men and terror of women, the cloud that shadows the face of children, the demon that has dug more graves and sent more souls unshaved to judgment than all the pestilences that have wasted life since God sent the plague to Egypt, and all the wars since Joshua stood beyond Jerico.

It comes to ruin, and it shall profit mainly by the ruin of your sons and mine.

It comes to mislead human souls and to crush human hearts under its rumbling wheels.

It comes to bring gray-haired mothers down in sorrow and shame to the grave.

It comes to change the wife's love into despair, her pride into shame.

It comes to still the laughter on the lips of the little children.

It comes to stifle all the music of the home and to fill it with silence and desolation.

It comes to ruin your body and mind, to wreck your home, and it knows it must measure its prosperity by the swiftness and certainty with which it wrecks the world.

Henry W. Grady.

A GREAT OFFER.

READ CAREFULLY.

You need this paper. You will need it more and more as the prohibition fight gets hotter and hotter, and the issue of prohibition is before our Legislatures. Read carefully what is said about it in column headed "Important" on page 2.

Although the price of the CAMP FIRE—Twenty-five cents per year—is very low, we have decided to make a special offer of premiums for subscriptions received during the early part of the present year.

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Modern Entertainments.



"Modern Entertainments" is the title of a new book by Mrs. Elsie W. Mottram, describing numerous forms of entertainment for evening companies which have been successful, given by versatile hostesses in all of the countries of the continent. "How can we entertain without dancing or cards?" is the ever-recurring question of that large class who consider such amusements trivial, and this book has been written to meet this present need. Its possession will enable any hostess to entertain her friends and acquaintances in a manner thoroughly enjoyable, and so numerous and varied are the entertainments described that it will furnish all the material needed in this line for many successive seasons. The following are the titles of the entertainments described: "Entertainment as an Art," "An Inland Entertainment," "The Modern Swing Bee," "The Five Senses," "An Enjoyable Musicale," "The Round Table," "A Valentine Party," "The Bohemians," "A Book Party," "A Geography Party," "A Charade Party," "A Kindergarten for Adults," "An Evening with the Occult," "The Artists at Play," "A Spinning Party," "A Drawing Attraction," "A Halloween Party," "A New Year Party," "The Door Entertainments," "Breakfasts," "Luncheons," "Teas," "Dinners," "Working Anniversaries," "A Meeting of Celebrities," "ENTERTAINMENTS FOR CHILDREN," "An Old Fashioned Party," "A Punch and Judy Party," "A Modern Battle," "A Mystic Circle," "A Shooting Match," "A Hamlet Party," "Modern Entertainments," "A Hurly Hurly," "Modern Entertainments," "A Book of 64 large double-column pages, bound in attractive paper covers, and will be sent by mail post-paid upon receipt of only Ten Cents.