

IN THE NORTH-WEST.

How the Boys Made Out in the Prohibition Days With and Without Permits.

The writer was in the North-West Territories a short time previous to the advent of the North-West Mounted Police, and saw something of the liquor traffic by the Whoop-pipers. These men were not the desperate characters they have been painted, or did they as a matter of fact demoralize the Indians to the extent attributed to them. In many ways the writer firmly believes that the Indians became far more demoralized after the arrival of the police than they were before, but this may be put down to their becoming very hard up owing to the loss of the buffalo. The old Whoop-pipers had a very good notion of business, and it was not to their interest to sell whiskey to the Indian to the extent of making him a pauper, for as soon as they did this he was unable to get robes, and therefore became valueless to them. That they did a large liquor trade there is no doubt, but at the same time they always sold the Indian a large number of articles of food and clothing, and also numerous things that were necessary for the hunt. This mode of doing business was one of these lines, when a camp moved up to a fort after a success ful buffalo hunt, the trader gave or sold them whiskey enough for a two days' drink, then they were sobered up after a day's quiet the trading commenced in earnest. As soon as it was settled on what day the camp was to break up, they were again supplied with a small amount of liquor to take to the plains with them.

On the advent of the police little if any liquor was traded to the Indians, and the white man had to get his supply by the permit system. A system which on the face of it was a lie. You applied for and got five or ten gallons for "medicinal purposes," and if (so you always were) you were properly recommended by the officer in command of the N. W. M. T. you were never refused. The writer does not remember a single case of a permit being used for "medicinal purposes," without it could be construed as such, because the receiver of the permit and his friends (the latter included every man within a radius of twenty miles on these occasions) considered it would be beneficial for their constitutions to get blind drunk, and they would so long as the medicine lasted. One of the evils of the permit was, that it nearly in every instance caused a drink, for though the owner himself might wish to make it hang out for some time, his too numerous friends would not allow him to do so, and drinking was faster and more furious, for fear fresh ones might arrive to enjoy the festivities. The same permit often did half a dozen times, so the government was defrauded of their get his permit, another for some good cause had been refused, he came to the lucky owner, put down the price of five or ten gallons as the case might be, and said, "Send for this and we will go halves."

Whiskey was smuggled in by the hundreds of gallons, and sold at an exorbitant price, five dollars a bottle being quite common; and when you take into consideration that it was Fort Benton "forty rod," this means at least 210 a bottle for whiskey. Policemen themselves sold lots, and many a man in the band "threw some of the "contraband" for sale, and many a number of substitutes sold for it, amongst them Jamaica

ginger. This was sold at a dollar a bottle and about four or five of them would make a pint. This stuff was put up in Montreal specially for the North-West trade, and consisted of alcohol flavored with ginger. Often when there was a "great time" going on, a store keeper who was the lucky possessor of a good supply would sell a couple of hundred bottles in an evening, to police and civilians. After a time this became illegal, and on one occasion I remember a storekeeper being brought up before the head of the police force, charged with selling it. There had been a huge uproar and one of the jury men had not yet returned from the office early. While in the jury box he was constantly dozing, and would look up every now and then with one of those sudden starts and look round him with a desperate intellectual look. A witness had just stated that he had bought half a dozen bottles from the accused. The judge in a loud voice told the witness to state what the half dozen bottles contained. He answered that he had purchased six bottles of Jamaica ginger. At this moment the jury man woke up, and catching on to the fact that the witness had six bottles of the "cup cheers," remarked, in a loud key, "H—, mix her up and pass her round to the boys." The judge immediately ordered the removal of that man, but the sergeant remarked, "He's a juryman, your Honor." Numerous other deceptions were sold, amongst them pine-apple bitters and numerous other patent medicines; pain killer was a common drink, but rarely used also to be inhaled. These essences for cooking purposes were used *ad lib*, and considered fair liquor if nothing better was to be had, even red ink was said to be drunk. Though at this time the police were not as numerous, if not more so, than the white men in the district, gambling was carried on in the most open manner, day and night, and in all these places liquor could be had. The police and their officers, in many every instance, were good fellows, all wishing to enjoy life and make it as enjoyable as possible in the out of the way home they had to live in. It must be remembered that at the time of the frontier, nearly all communications with civilization was by way of the States, and all travel done on horseback or wagons. The majority of the inhabitants were either settlers, who had lived in Montana or some of the Western States or territories where little law except Lynch was rejected. Yet, in these numerous areas there was not an instance of any one being maimed or hurt with the use of any freely weapon; the most that occurred was a row with the fists, and the combatants were generally too drunk little or no damage was done.

DRINKE AND WELCOME.

Suddenly a murmur would arise from the crowd outside, and the tension that every ear had been at was relaxed as the sound of a horse's feet was heard coming at a hard gallop. "Bill had arrived," and fairly sober, not having drunk more than a quart in his three-mile ride; the lucky ones all had a pull, and the unlucky wretches of the wagon, and the ball commenced, to be kept up to the early hours in the morning. On the arrival of the wagon, two-thirds of the gentlemen were in the possession of a quart bottle, the remaining third trusted to get enough from the "dead men" to do them for the night and morning. The ball over and the ladies seen safely home, the principal inhabitants went to call on the proprietor of the wagon and also to partake of his hospitality. This generally took till mid-day, when they retired, to renew the siege at night. When the place was utterly without more of the "contraband" than the "dead men" of substitutes sold for it, amongst them Jamaica

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high price for the nutritive substance that it is induced withal, and how jealously a nurse if in general to make. But sack is the poet's favorite drink, concludes in verse:

You shall be free from disease and weakness,
From noise from care, long time of life,
— them,
— you more friendly fate attended by,
Drink sack, therefore, if you'll be rid of it.

CORKS FOR BOTTLE STOPPER.

The application of cork as a best stopper for liquid vessels is said to be of great antiquity. The earliest record of its use in Europe is that ascribed by Horace, who asserts that the Romans had cork as stoppers for their wine amphorae. Certain of the ancients were known to the ancient Greeks and Egyptians, but whether the cork for stopping the mouths of liquid vessels history does not say was not, however, until the year 1760, the Spaniards first commenced to use their cork woods with some degree of regularity for the making of corks.

Although, perhaps, corks were used or less in use from the time glass was first invented, which Beckas asserts to have been in the fifteenth century, yet it was not until two or three centuries later that the Spaniards first prepared cork for bottle stoppers, as they did in a forest situated at the northeast of the Tiguera, on the Muga. The cork industry has since gained reputation to be one of the first and most important chief centres in Spain being in Catalonia at the present a population of 40,000 persons is employed, who in the course each year turn out about 188,000,000 dried weight of cork grown in the province of 14,000 hundredweight of cork grown in other provinces, besides 47,000 hundredweight of cork exported from Alge. The revenue from the cork industry Spain amounts to £1,073,880 per annum. — Chambers Journal.

TENNYSON OVER HIS WINE.

But the first thing he did was to purchase a magnum of wonderful stuff thirty years old, which had been bought by a poetic wine dealer. Such was never before tasted. "It was meant to be drunk by Cleopatra or Catherine Russia," said Tennyson. We had the glass apiece, when he said, "Tennyson shall help me drink one of the bottles of my Waterloo-1815." Wine was brought, and after another all round, Tennyson took up "The King of the King."

Lord Tennyson was fond of a glass of port. "Upon one occasion he passed Mr. Irving to take a glass of the delicious liquid. Mr. Irving did as he desired, but not being a port drinker, he was slowly. Before he had had been automatically replaced his goblet was empty. Lord Tennyson bade the butler bring a fresh supply, turning to his guest, said, 'dryly you always drink a bottle of port before Irving, after dinner?'—Tennyson-Cuming Walter.

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