## IN THE NORTH-WEST.

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

The writer was in the North-West Ter ritories a short time previous to the advent of the North-West Mounted Police, and saw something of the liquor traffic by the Whoop-uppers. 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 Whoopuppers 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 on these lines: when a camp moved up to a fort after a successful buffalo bunt, the trader gave or sold them whiskey enough for a two days' drunk, then they were sobered upand 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 noses," and if (as you always were) 'medicinal pur were properly recommended by the officer in command of the N. W. M. T. you were never refused. The writer does not re-member a single case of a permit being used for "medicinal purposes" without 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 occasi sidered it would be beneficial for their constitutions to get blind drink, and remain so long as the medicine lasted. One of the evils of the permit was, that it nearly in every instance caused a drunk, 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 Then again a certain individual got 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

Whiskey was smuggled in by the hundreds of gallons, and sold at an exorbit-ant price, five dollars a bottle being quite common; and when you take into con-sideration that it was Fort Benton "forty rod," this means at least \$10 a bottle for whiskey. Policemen them-selves sold lots, and many a man in the earlydays hasto thank the "contraband" for nottie for winskey. Poicemen themselves sold lots, and many a man in the carlydayshactorhankthe 'contraband' for it utterly without some of the 'contraband' the comfortable 'wad' he left the force tuttes sold for it, amongst them Jamaica

with. I have known an instance of a staff sergeant who sold whiskey inside the fort at one of the police stations. He certainly had access to the medical combeing hospital sergeant, but if all he sold were comforts, the government must have been terribly liberal in their inst nave been territy mora in deal pupilies and mighty poor, judges of quor, which judging from the majority government officials certainly ought not to have been the case. The men who smuggled were well-known, and their arrival with a cargo of the "creature" was anxiously awaited by the whole community both civil and military, as the police were ity both civil and military, as the ponce were wrongly called. It could be bought at the most unlikely places and in the most extraordinary "bottles." I have seen it sold under the eyes of a superior officer of the law by another paid official, in nose bags, presumedly filled with oats. A story is told that farther north on the line of the C.P.R., an enterprising store-keeper supplied the community with fresh eggs in the depth of winter and spring at the uniform price of \$3.00 a dozen egg shells : these eggs contained whiskey and strange to say, the best piece of macadamized road in the country was his store and the quarters that between of the N.W.M.T. When the gentleman who was running a cargo in was expected. mounted men started out to meet and the anxious inhabitants were kept constantly informed as to his whereabouts and the hour of his expected arrival was by this means arrived at. As a rule a ball was got up for the occasion, and as the hour arrived for the community to lubricate, great was the excitement, grow ing more intense as the minutes flew, and no news was received. A mounted man no news was received. A mounted would be sent out with a keg, to brought back as fast as possible. T inhabitants had by this time congregated round the ball-room; policemen in their scarlet uniforms, sergeants gorgeous in their gold lace with an officer or two still more resplendent, were mixed with a motley crew of "bull whackers," "mule skinners," gamblers and the ordinary citizen, one and all discussing the probable arrival of the wagon, and many doubtful if "Bill" who had gone with the keg would keep sober enough to arrive at the ball-room with it. Should the distance be great, it was a certainty he would not While all waited in suspense the arrival of "Bill or the wagon, the ladies were discussing the approaching ball in the ball-room. To the uninitiated in a western ball-room the costumes might seem at variance with the prevailing Parisian fashion, but the ladies of . . . were fashion, but the ladies of . . . were fully persuaded that theirs, at any rate, were equal if not better than anything that could be seen elsewhere in the

country, and they were (as ladies generally are) perfectly satisfied with their really orgeous appearance. Suddenly a murmur would arise from the crowd outside, and the tension that every ear had been at was relapsed as the ound of a horse's feet was heard coming a hard gallop. "Bill had arrived," at a hard gallop. "Bill had arrived," and fairly sober, not having drank more than a quart in his three-mile ride; the lucky ones all had a pull, the unlucky waited for the wagon, and the ball com

menced, to be kept up to the early hours in the morning. On the arrival of the in the morning. On the arrival of the wagon, two-thirds of the gentlemen were wagon, two-thirds of the gentlemen were in the possession of a quart bottle, the remaining third trusting to get enough from the "dead men" to do them for the night and morning. The ball over and 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 interview him in regard to his trip, and also to partake of his hos-pitality. This generally took till mid-day, when they retired, to renew the siege at night. When the place was

ginger. This we 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 make a pint. This stuff was put 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 sel ling it. There had been a huge spree and one of the jurymen had not yet recovered from the effects. 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 with a desperate intellectual look A witness had just stated that he had bought half a dozen bottles from the ac The judge in a loud voice told the witness to state what the half dozen bottles He answered that he had contained. purchased six bottles of Jamaica ginger. At this moment the juryman woke up, and catching on to the fact that the witness had six bottles of the cup that cheers, remarked, in a loud key, "H-, mix remarked, in a loud key, "H——, m her up and pass her round to the boys The judge immediately order the removal of that man, but the sergeant remarked, He's a juryman, your Honor ous other decoctions were sold, amongst them pine-apple bitters and numerous other patent medicines; pain killer was i common drink, bay rum used also to be imbibed. 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 about 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 nearly 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 It must be remembered that at the time of which I write, nearly all communi cations with civilization was by way of the States, and all travel done on horseback or States, and an iravel 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 sprees there was not an instance of any one being maimed or hurt with the use of any deadly weapon; the most that occurred was a row with the fists, and as the combatants were generally too drunk little or no damage was done

DRINKE AND WELCOME.

THE above is the title of a quaint little ook by John Taylor, the old-English water poet," date 1637. "Syder," "water poet," date 1637. "Syder," according to the poet's account, "deserves the first place as being the most ancient. It is made of apples, and is of that anti It is made of appies, and is of that and-quity that it is thought by some to have been invented and made by Eve." After dealing with perry, mead and other drinks, he deals with ale, "with its ap-pendix beere." He observes, "Some there are that affirme that ale was first invented by Alexander the Great, and that in his conquests this liquor did infuse much vigor and valor into his souldiers. But it is knowne that it was of that singular use in the time of the Saxons, that none were allowed to brew it but such whose places were most eminent, inso much that we find that one of them had the credit to give it the name of a Saxon prince (Alla)." Taylor agrees with Anax-agoras; he says that "Ale is to be held in

high price for the nutritive subs that it is indued withal, and how pions a nurse it is in generall to manking But sack is the poet's favorite drinks concludes in verse :

Thou shalt be from disease and weakness From mean, from care, long time of h thee, shall by more friendly fate afforded be brink sack, therefore, if you'll be ruled

## CORKS FOR BOTTLE STOPPEN

The application of cork a stopper for liquid yessels is said great antiquity. The earliest recordant of its use in Europe is that tioned by Horace, who Romans had cork as stoppers for wine amphorae. Certain of the m cork were known to the ancier and Egyptians, but whether th cork for stopping the mouths liquid vessels history does not was not, however, until the year 176 the Spaniards first commenced their cork woods with some regularity for the making of

Although, perhaps, corks were or less in use from the time glass were first invented, which B Rock tury, yet it was not until two and centuries later that the Spaniard to prepare cork for bottle stoppe they did in a forest situated of the Tigueras, on the Muge

The cork industry has since g sen to be one of the first mag chief centre in Spain being in Cat where at the present a population persons is employed, who in the o ach year turn out about 188,000 dredweight of cork grown in the pr 144,000 hundredweight of cork other provinces, besides 47,000 bu weight of cork exported from A The revenue from the cork indus pain amounts to £1,073,880 per a Chambers' Journal

## TENNYSON OVER HIS WINE

But the first thing he did was to duce a magnum of wonderful thirty years old, which had been s by a poetic wine dealer. ever before tasted. be drunk by Cleopatra or Cather Russia," said Tennyson. We ha glasses apiece, when he said you shall help me drink one of the bottles of my Waterloo-1815. wine was brought, and after anothe all round, Tennyson took up "The of the King.

Lord Tennyson was fond of ound port. Upon one occasion he per Mr. Irving to take a glass of t cious liquid. Mr. Irving did as desired, but not being a sipped it very slowly. Before he finished it, the decanter from which bard had been automatically reple his goblet was empty. bade the butler bring a fresh supply turning to his guest, said, dryly you always drink a bottle of por Irving, after dinner?"—Tennys Irving, after Cuming Walter.





BREV

ONTREAL-P. L. QUEBEC N. LEVIS-

EAVY STE

In all Va



LONDON. TO