

the traffic. Nothing is said about the tears that are shed and the woes that the wife suffers in consequence of her husband tarrying late at the tavern and coming home intoxicated. We do not hear anything about that. Yet the men who are engaged in the traffic are responsible for its effects; Nobody asks them to enter into the business; they enter it simply because they can make 400 or 500 per cent. on their capital, and that is why they continue it. They never go into it with a view of promoting the interests or developing the resources of the country. I hold in my hand a work written by the celebrated Wm. B. Carpenter, the author of a prize essay on "The Use and Abuse of Intoxicating Liquors, on Health and Disease," for which a prize of 500 guineas was offered by the late Prince Consort. It cites the testimony of Judge Wrightman, who stated in his address to the Grand Jury at Liverpool, in August, 1846, that "he found, from a perusal of the depositions, that one unfailling cause of four-fifths of these crimes was, as it was in every other calendar, the besetting sin of drunkenness." Judge Alderson, when addressing the Grand Jury in 1844, at the York Assizes, said:

"Another thing he would advert to was that a great proportion of the crimes to be brought forward for their consideration arose from the vice of drunkenness alone; indeed, if they took away from the calendar all those cases with which drunkenness has any connection, they would make the large calendar a very small one."

I have also the testimony of Judge Erskine and others to the same effect. What we simply want to do is to mitigate these woes which are universally acknowledged. We think we can best accomplish that end by keeping intact the Scott Act; and I am free to say that if, after the Scott Act has a fair trial, it is shown to be inefficient and insufficient to accomplish the object arrived at, then I shall be willing to part with the law and seek for a better one. But we do ask for some fairness in our efforts to put down intemperance, which is likely in many cases to flood the land. It is doing more mischief confessedly than all other crimes and evils put together, and in the name of humanity let us try the best remedy that has been devised for the iniquity. I admit that the traffic in intoxicating liquors is one of the most difficult things which men were ever called on to deal with; but it cannot be disputed that there are engaged in the temperance reform, and have been for a quarter of a century back, some of the best elements in society, and it is a significant fact that the vast majority of the clergymen of the various sects and denominations are heartily in favor of the temperance movement, a very large percentage of them being practical abstainers. I hope the vote we shall give on this question will be such as to convey satisfaction, not only to those who have labored to retain the law on the Statute-book, but to the vast number of the friends of temperance who have been watching with intense interest to see whether the members of this House were willing that the law should have a fair trial, or whether they would countenance an insidious attempt to strike it down and render it a nullity.

Mr. BRECKEN. I intend to oppose the amendment proposed to be made to the Temperance Act. One reason I do so is that in Prince Edward Island the registration of electors has been repealed, and there is no way of ascertaining whether or not a majority of the electors in any district have voted for or against the measure. I must further state that the Scott Act has been placed before the people of Prince Edward Island, and a majority of the electors who have voted have voted in favor of it. Whether or not the majority of the people of Prince Edward Island are in favor of it or not I cannot say; but if I were to vote for the Bill, I would be practically voting for the withdrawal of that Act from Prince Edward Island. I have the most profound respect for the motives that influence hon. gentlemen to stand up here and advocate the temperance cause. But

Mr. LONGLEY.

I think the principle involved in the amendment proposed by the hon. member for East York is a sound one, because if the law is to be carried out in its integrity it must have in its favor the general sentiment of the people of the district where it is enacted. While I admire the motion of the hon. gentlemen who advocate temperance, I cannot subscribe to their machinery, where the Scott Act has been placed before the people from a hustings and there adopted, and though hundreds may not have taken the trouble to attend the meeting, it has a prior chance of being carried out honestly. The popular sentiment should be ascertained by the people's votes. Though I am in favor of the principle of this amendment, if I consider that out of respect to the wishes of the people who sent me here, I must vote against it, because there is no legislative machinery in Prince Edward Island to meet the amendment if adopted. I think injustice is inflicted by this Act on a class of people who have embarked their means in a certain class of trade. Take for instance, the brewers and distillers, whose business has been legalized as a source of revenue. It is an extreme injustice to them that this Scott Act should be sprung on them, and their business destroyed. If Prince Edward Island were in the same position as other electoral districts here, I would be prepared to vote for the amendment of my hon. friend, but under the circumstances, I must record my vote against it.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). I am the more unwilling to give a silent vote on this question this year than I was last year, from the fact that I know, from the experience of last year, that the position I take on this question is certain to be misrepresented by a portion of the press. Last year when the majority of this House chose to believe that the peculiarity of this measure rendered it necessary that a somewhat exceptional principle should apply to it, we were denounced at once as opponents of the temperance movement. I do not desire here for a moment to parade my temperance principles. That is a matter which concerns myself only. I can only say that in a horror of the drinking habits of society and the evils of intemperance which spring from them, I yield to no hon. gentleman in the House. I believe if every man in the country who professes to be in favor of a prohibitory law would do precisely what I have done, that is become a personal abstainer, we would have a very great reduction in the evils of intemperance in the community. What I feel about the measure is this: We have had experience in Canada of the Dunkin Act. It is quite true that the hon. member for West Middlesex, who is thoroughly familiar with the question, has pointed out a number of features in which this Act differs from the Dunkin Act, and which, it is hoped, will render it much more effective. We have yet to learn, by practical experience, whether that is the case or not. The Act has been passed in some counties. It remains to be seen whether, as the result of its passage, any beneficial effect is derived by those counties. Were I convinced that the passage of the Scott Act anywhere would prevent the evils of intemperance in the country, I would do everything in my power to secure its passage. In fact, so strongly do I feel on this subject that, as I informed the House last year, in any district in which the Dunkin Act was submitted and which the newspaper that I control was supposed to have any influence, I have invariably used all the influence in my power to secure its passage; but the result has been in every case, without a single exception, I believe, that practical experience has led to the repeal of the Dunkin Act even in those counties where the temperance feeling was so strong that the repeal in the first instance was defeated, such as the county of Prince Edward for instance, where, although the repeal in the first instance was defeated by a large majority, yet another year's experience led the people by a large majority to repeal the Act and return to the license system. It seems