

B. C. GOOD TEMPLAR.

"FOR GOD AND HOME AND EVERY LAND."

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*Brothers M. Bryson, E. B. Stinchcombe and A. E.
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THE FRENCH TREATY.

The opposition of prohibitionists and temperance workers all over Canada is being a good deal roused over the ratification of the new French treaty, which will come before the present session of the Dominion Parliament. According to the provisions of that treaty, which was framed between representatives of the Government of France and Sir Charles Tupper as representative for Canada, French wines may be freely imported for years to come at a very low rate of duty into this country. Of course that would stand right in the way of the enactment and enforcement of a law prohibiting the importation as well as the manufacture of alcoholic liquors notwithstanding the assurances of the Government to the contrary. The treaty was framed over a year ago and sent to this country for ratification. The Ottawa Government last year delayed to submit it to Parliament for ratification, but this year it is sure to come up for consideration, in some form. Coming as it does,

just at the time when great hopes are being raised that our Dominion Parliament may go in for advanced prohibition legislation, the question assumes very great importance, and forces every true friend of reform to oppose this foreign imposition to the bitter end.

It is known, too, that the Canadian wine producers are also united in active hostility against its ratification. They claim that the very cheap French wines, often badly adulterated, could then be imported and sold here at such low rates as to destroy an actual *honest* native wine trade. Last year these native wine producers sent a strong deputation to Ottawa with their protest. It is quite probable that still stronger opposition will come from the same source this year.

It is not often that the wine producers and the prohibitionists of the country find themselves fighting shoulder to shoulder as in this case, but extremes will meet sometimes. Time will soon tell what their united opposition may amount to. It is generally supposed that the Tupperes are bringing all their influence to bear on the Government to force them to accept this treaty and force it on their supporters in the House. That the Government will meet with some pretty strong opposition from members of their own party if the treaty is presented for adoption now seems certain. A good many temperance people are already writing letters to the members against adoption and it will be well if many others now follow the same course. All the M. P.s are now at their places in Ottawa. Let as many electors as see that they have influence there write urgent letters to their friends not to put any such obstacle in the way of the speedy enactment of a prohibition law.

The eyes of the whole community will now be on the House of Commons regarding this matter. The

Dominion Government finds itself in an awkward position by the framing of such a treaty, especially at such a time as this.

The following is a copy of the resolution now being prepared and forwarded by our Lodges throughout this Province:

WHEREAS, negotiations are in progress between the Dominion Government and France for the admission of light wines into Canada for a long term of years at fixed rates of duty; and inasmuch as such treaty, if ratified, could not be abrogated till it expired by lapse of time, thus preventing the enactment of a prohibitory law until the treaty has so lapsed; therefore be it *Resolved*, that this Lodge does enter into most solemn and earnest protest against such treaty being entered into by our Dominion Government; and that a copy of this resolution, under the seal of this Lodge, be sent to the daily press and to each of our members in the Dominion Parliament.

All Lodges that have not received other notices will please take this as official and act accordingly at once. There is no time to lose, as Parliament is now sitting and may fasten this octopus upon us before we have time to realize our position.

Canada expects every man, woman and child to do their duty.

OUR LODGES.

EDITOR B. C. GOOD TEMPLAR:— Will you allow me space in your valuable little paper for a few remarks on the subject of balloting for candidates. I have been a member of the Order for two years and during that time my mind has been more and more impressed with the injustice of our system of balloting. If a member has any objections to a candidate why should he not openly give his reasons and have them investigated. That, to my mind, would be far more just than a secret ballot, which permits a minority to exclude persons whom the majority consider worthy. It also gives an opportunity for the indulgence of narrow-mindedness, which is not in accordance with the spirit of