

speedily shall compel Parliament to free the English Sabbath from the demoralizing influences of this same traffic.

Thus the principle has been embodied in law, and the thin edge of the inevitably entering wedge has been inserted, which shall ultimately sever British Society from its worst enemy.

At present there are, in various parts of Great Britain, upwards of 1,500 parishes and towns, with a population of over 250,000 souls, in which Prohibition holds its beneficial sway through the will of the great land-owners.

In 1864 Sir Wilfrid Lawson was elected to the British Parliament for Carlisle, and carried with him, when he entered Parliament, what is more than can be said of every person who obtains a place on the floors of the Legislature, an idea; and his idea was, "The total legal suppression of the liquor traffic in Great Britain." He unfurled his banner, marshalled his scanty forces, and—sustained an overwhelming defeat. Nothing daunted, he re-introduced his idea, and argued it at every session. He headed an active agitation in the country, and gathered strength year by year, until, in June, 1880, on the anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, he carried in the British House of Commons, with a majority of 26 votes, the following significant resolution:—

"That, inasmuch as the ancient and avowed object of licensing the sale of intoxicating liquor is to supply a supposed public want, without detriment to the public welfare, this House is of opinion that the legal power of restraining the issue or renewal of licenses should be placed in the hands of the persons most deeply interested and affected—namely, the inhabitants themselves—who are entitled to protection from the injurious consequences of the present system by some efficient measure of Local Option."

In 1881 this same resolution was re-affirmed by a majority of 46 votes, and the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone replying to a question put to him, made this significant intimation:—

"I earnestly hope that at some not very distant period it may be found practicable to deal with the licensing laws, and, in dealing with the licensing laws, to include the reasonable and just measure for which my hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Lawson) pleads."

In Canada the prohibitive idea gained sufficient importance in New Brunswick to become incorporated in 1855 into a law, which, however, was burked by the Governor, and soon after repealed. In Nova Scotia it gained an effective position in the *sine qua non* of License conditions, that two-thirds of the rate payers residing in the polling district should petition in favor of the applicant before he could be licensed to sell in that district, a provision which outlawed the traffic in several counties in that province.