

THE CANADA CITIZEN

AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

Freedom for the Right means Suppression of the Wrong.

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The Canada Citizen

AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

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FOUND.

At the convention, a pocket pencil. The owner may have the same returned by proving property. Apply to THE CANADA CITIZEN office.

THE HON. J. B. FINCH,

of Nebraska, will lecture in Toronto on Friday, April 4th, in the Queen Street Methodist Church.

THE ALLIANCE MEETING.

The convention that opened at the Temperance Hall, in Toronto, on Tuesday, was one of the most successful that the Alliance has ever held. The number of delegates in attendance was unusually large, the earnest spirit that pervaded all the proceedings amounted to enthusiasm, and plans were made for work that promises to produce great results in the near future. We hope to be able to give our readers next week a full report of the proceedings.

PROHIBITION IN THE DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

Prof. Foster's resolutions have been finally disposed of by the House of Commons, and the disposal made of them will not give much satisfaction to the temperance electors of Canada. The original resolutions read as follows:—

"That the object of good government is to promote the general welfare of the people by a careful encouragement and protection of whatever makes for the public good, and by an equally careful

"discouragement and suppression of whatever tends to the public disadvantage. That the traffic in alcoholic liquors as beverages is productive of serious injury to the moral, social and industrial welfare of the people of Canada. That despite all preceding legislation the evils of intemperance remain so vast in magnitude, so wide in extent and so destructive in effect, as to constitute a serious evil and a national disgrace. That this House is of the opinion, for the reasons hereinbefore set forth, that the right and most effectual legislative remedy for these evils is to be found in the enactment and enforcement of a law prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes."

This was straightforward and outspoken. Too outspoken for our careful legislators who amended (?) it by the following addition:

"And this House is prepared, so soon as public sentiment will sufficiently sustain a stringent measure, to promote such legislation, so far as the same is within the competency of the Parliament of Canada."

This addition, made to save themselves from being even recommended to take some action, is not at all creditable to the common sense—not to speak of any higher attribute—of our parliamentary representatives. Is it an assertion that public sentiment would not now "sustain a stringent measure," and if so, what are the grounds for such an assertion? We look in vain through all the speeches for any attempt at proof that Canadian sentiment is not strongly in favor of total prohibition. The nearest approach to evidence or argument being Sir Leonard Tilley's statement that prohibition sentiment was not strong in New Brunswick in 1855. How is the House of Commons to know that public opinion will not "sustain a stringent measure" before, and without giving us such a measure to sustain? The absurdity is something like the Irishman's advice to the purchaser of a pair of new boots—"always wear them a week to stretch them before you put them on."

An attempt was made at a later stage of the debate to re-invigorate the emasculated resolutions by the following addition:

"And this House is of opinion that the public sentiment of the people of Canada calls for immediate legislation to that end."

But the attempt was in vain, the amendment being defeated by a vote of 107 to 55. Even the dilute solution of prohibitory sentiment, that was left in the well-watered resolutions, was too much for some of our rum-ruled rulers, and forty of them actually voted against the proposal to do their duty when they find out that public sentiment is too strong to let them do anything else.

THE C. E. T. S. MEETING.

The meeting at the Horticultural Garden's Pavilion on Monday night was the largest temperance meeting held in the city since the Dunkin Act contest. It marks an important era in the history of an important branch of our great reform. The immense concourse was intensely enthusiastic, and the able addresses delivered were thoroughly sound and straightforward. There was no shadow of uncertainty in the manly affirmation of the principles of total abstinence and total prohibition. The inconsistency of the licensing system and the danger of moderate drinking, were fairly and elo-