

The Planet and Local Option

The most interesting and important topic of conversation in Chatham at the present time is the subject of Local Option. The ratepayers of this city are to-day face to face with what may very reasonably be termed a crisis in the history of Chatham, and as far as the great question of temperance is concerned, and the all-important interrogation to be answered on the first of January next is "Shall Chatham, IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE TEMPERANCE CAUSE, inaugurate a system of what is termed Local Option; or shall the ratepayers consider it better to continue under the license system?"

Since the campaign started in Chatham many statements have been made. Numerous letters have been written to the newspapers, and gentlemen from Local Option districts have been brought to the city to address meetings. It is a fact that much that has been said and written on this question has been of a very conflicting nature. Certain things have been contended by one side only to be flatly denied by the supporters of opposite views, until the ratepayers, for the most part, are, to say the least, somewhat confused and in doubt as to which argument to believe. It is also noticed that some of the statements on both sides of the question strike a good many people as being greatly exaggerated. The question is one over which reason on both sides of the argument naturally become excited, and their very enthusiasm may in a measure be responsible for any extravagant views they may hold.

The Planet considers it a duty, as a reputable journal serving the public, to take every means possible to provide the people with information upon public questions of moment, and to offer such advice as may be deemed expedient, after a careful consideration of the various features in evidence. In view of the above mentioned conditions, therefore, and as a result of the important bearing that the issue will have upon the every-day life of the citizens of this community, this Great Home Journal despatched a representative to Owen Sound and Galt, where Local Option is now in force, with instructions to find out at first hand what the actual conditions are, and—with