



War Notes.

MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER 13, 1884.

PROHIBITION IN MAINE.

In the present agitation concerning the Scott Act frequent reference is made to the enforcement of the prohibitory law in Maine. The following extract from "Appleton's Annual Cyclopaedia," vol. viii, 1883, will doubtless be of interest to many readers:

"From the State and Government records these figures are gleaned:—There are no distilleries or breweries in Maine. Counting druggists as dealers, there was one dealer to about 800 inhabitants; in New York there is one to every 180, and the average number in the northern license States is one to 210.

"The internal revenue collected in 1882, on the manufacture and sale of liquors, was four cents and three mills per head; throughout the entire Union it averaged \$1.71 per head. There were 156 dealers in Portland in 1883, most of them secret. In the 14 cities, with a population of 177,863 there were 496 persons, including druggists, who paid United States tax, or one to 300 inhabitants. In 60 license cities of other States there was one dealer to 155 inhabitants. In 470 towns and plantations in the State there were but 220 dealers, or one to about every 2,000 inhabitants. In 355 towns and plantations not a single dealer was found. In two cities and 15 towns the law is not enforced, and these reported 179 dealers; while in 12 cities and 142 towns, where the law is enforced, 473 secret or suspected places were reported, making in all these places, one dealer to over 1,000 inhabitants.

"Actual arrests in 60 licensed cities show an average number of 27 to every 1,000 population; in the 14 cities of Maine, during the municipal year ending in 1883, the average number was 17 to every 1,000; in all the cities, except Bangor and Portland, it was 10 per 1,000; and in Lewiston and Auburn it was but three. The State at large has one high criminal to every 1,600 inhabitants; New York one to every 690.

"A multitude of senators, governors, judges and other officials have testified that the law is a success, despite its confessed non-enforcement in certain places.

"Judge Davis said 'the Maine law even now is enforced far more than the license laws ever were.' In a letter written in 1882, Hon. James G. Blaine said: "Intemperance has steadily decreased in Maine, since the first enactment of the prohibitory law, until now it can be said with truth that there is no equal number of people in the Anglo-Saxon world, among whom so small an amount of intoxicating liquor is consumed as among the 650,000 inhabitants of Maine."

"The Cyclopaedia then gives the conclusions of the *Globe* special anti-prohibition reporter. He contends "in the cities the law has been a partial failure," but frankly admits "that this failure has been greatly exaggerated by quoting exceptional places or periods as typical of the whole State, and by the ingenious perversion of statistics; that in the rural portions

of the State the Maine law has suppressed open drinking, and reduced secret drinking to a minimum, and may, therefore, be considered as effective as any other measure on the statute book; that the class of liquor-sellers who defy the law are the same class of men who, under a license system, would sell liquor without a license.—John F. German, in *Toronto Globe*.

IT IS EXPECTED that in a week or two the Supreme Court will have decided whether or not the Dominion License Act is constitutional. The argument takes place on the 16th September. In the meantime, liquor-sellers with only Dominion licenses are being prosecuted by Provincial authorities, and *vice versa*; and judges are deciding in opposite ways.

"WHISKEY-BRAIN" ARGUMENT.—The *Toronto Tribune* has a peculiar style of reasoning on the question of prohibition. It says: "One of the evils resulting from all efforts at prohibition is, that they do tend to degrade persons who may otherwise be respectable and to make drunkards who under other circumstances might never have fallen so low." This, it strikes us, is just a little strange. All efforts to lessen vice only tend to make people vicious who would not otherwise have been so. By analogy, then, all our laws against vice and criminality have only tended to increase the evil legislated against, and to make the world worse instead of better. We see what is required now, plainly enough. Abolish all laws against wrong-doing and issue licenses to robbers, thieves and murderers. That's what the world needs, according to our contemporary.

SOME FRIENDS belonging to the Conservative party objected to a paragraph which we quoted a few weeks ago from a Liberal paper, in which the Dominion Government was blamed for granting the liquor men's petition for a repeal vote in Halton. It is surely hardly necessary for us to repeat that in this contest, on the greatest question now agitating the Dominion, we are absolutely indifferent to political party distinctions. We have nothing to do with politics. Let a man call himself Grit or Tory, Conservative or Liberal, according to the political views to which his conscience and judgment lead him. For ourselves, speaking for the proprietors as well as the editor of WAR NOTES, we do not concern ourselves, even personally, on either side. The only question we ask is—"FOR OR AGAINST THE LIQUOR TRADE?" Among our firmest friends in the House of Commons are Mr. Foster and Mr. Fisher, one a Conservative, the other a Liberal. In the county of Halton, Mr. McCraney, M.P., and Mr. Kearns, M.P., are both Prohibitionists, though opposed to each other in politics. It is not likely, then, that we should, even if personally belonging to one party or to the other, bring party spirit into the "holy war" in which we have so long been engaged. In the particular case mentioned, we expressed no opinion. But if any party makes it clear that it is purposefully working in the interests of the liquor-sellers, that party will receive our most open criticism and our strongest opposition. And if any party takes up our cause, the cause of Christianity and humanity, and works for it, that party, no matter what its name, will have our warmest gratitude and heartiest support.

PROHIBITION IN GEORGIA.

A correspondent of the *Vermont Messenger* gives the following telling description of the good effects of prohibition in Georgia. The world must not wonder at the zeal of those who work for such a reformation, "Wisdom is justified of her children." Let this salvation wave roll on fill its refreshing influence shall gladden every hill and valley of our land:

"The effect in the prohibition counties has been startling. Labor has been improved 100 per cent, and the condition of the laborers 1,000 per cent. Men who never worked but part of the week now put in six good days, and those who spent their entire wages at the grogeries, leaving their wives and children to shift for themselves, are now saving money and looking forward hopefully to the time when they shall own land for themselves. The prohibition of the sale of liquor in these counties is the proudest thing Georgia has ever done. The remaining forty-two will follow their example ere long. The prohibition counties have demonstrated the possibility of driving out the stuff, and the good that has followed will induce others to follow suit."

ONE MONTH IN IOWA.—The *Creston Monitor* of the 16th ult., in an article on the results of prohibition, says: "Its results, so beneficial, can hardly have escaped the observant's mind even here in Creston, the stronghold of saloon influences in South-western Iowa. Just a month since the law took effect, and not a single arrest for drunkenness. A better observance of the Sabbath, and more respect shown to church-goers on the Sabbath day. Prompter payment of thirty-day bills by those who have heretofore squandered a part of their earnings for drink."

RUMSELLER VS. BUTCHER.—The *Des Moines (Iowa) Register*, says: "During the first week of prohibition the sales in the meat market in Fort Madison were just double what they had been in any previous week, and the increased patronage came from men who had been regular patrons of the saloon."

OATMEAL DRINK.—One quarter of a pound of oatmeal, three quarts of water, boil together half an hour; then add one and a half ounce of sugar. Shake up before drinking. In summer take it cool, and in winter hot.

TEMPERANCE TRACTS.

The National Temperance Society's Tracts are on hand at the WITNESS Office, and will be forwarded at cost to all who remit for them. They are as follows:—

1. A miscellaneous series of 241 tracts, from two to twelve pages, by some of the best writers of the country, suitable for all classes of people, and adapted to every phase of the work, \$1.10.
 2. Seventeen four-page illustrated tracts, 10c.
 3. Teachers' series, prepared by a committee from the Woman's Christian Temperance Union; especially adapted for teachers, 5c.
 4. One-page handbill tracts, 79 kinds, 20c.
 5. Children's Illustrated Tracts, 4 pages, 122 kinds, 30c.
 6. Twenty-nine Temperance Leaflets or Envelope Tracts, neatly printed on tinted paper, 30c.
 7. Union Leaflets, especially adapted to woman's work. Prepared by a committee from the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, 77 numbers, 30c.
 8. Young People's Leaflets, by the same, especially adapted for young people, 10c.
 9. Fanny Papers.—A series of 12-page Tracts, prepared by same, 10c.
 10. Union Handbills—Cider series, 40 numbers, 10c.; Beer series, 57 numbers, 15c.
- If any money is forwarded for assorted supplies, we shall send the best assortment we can to the extent that it pays for.
- Money must invariably be in our hands in advance, as there is not even a margin to pay for answering letters.

WHAT LIQUOR COMES TO HALTON P

Dodds says liquor is sent into this county addressed to private parties, intending to impress the people with the idea that these "private parties" get it for their own use, and home drinking is thereby promoted and encouraged. What are the facts? Nearly all the liquor shipped to Halton by rail is addressed to some fictitious person whose name is adopted by a hotel-keeper. Some has been sent to Milton addressed to a man named—Smith, and there is no man of that name in this town or vicinity. Some of it comes in labelled "vinegar" and marked with the initials of a well-known brewer in Toronto. It is also hauled in waggons by midnight, and secreted about barns, stables and outhouses. But with all these means of shipment there is not a tittle of the liquor sold in the county that there would be could it be brought in openly under sanction of a license law. And the amount brought in now is very small compared with what it was a year or so ago. Why? Because many of the illegal sellers have been fined heavily, and others punished more severely still, so that the law is only now becoming a terror to the evildoers. It is now most effective, because the next conviction means imprisonment for many of them.—*Halton News*.

ADMITTED BY ALL.—Mr. W. Tindall writes to the *Bruce Telescope* giving his observations during a visit to Halton a few weeks ago. Among other noteworthy things mentioned by him, he says: "I have conversed with numbers of persons from all parts of Halton, and never met with one either friend or foe of the Scott Act, who does not admit that its adoption has destroyed or broken up the practice of public treating in that county. Thousands of parents will think if it does nothing else but this it is worthy of the greatest efforts and sacrifices to Milton." Mr. Tindall also remarks that three Milton hotel-keepers evidently did not believe the Act to be a failure, as they had fled, in order to avoid imprisonment for third offences against the Act. A curious thing in connection with these trials was the statement of Constable Bradley, on oath, that he had not seen or heard of the sale of any liquor at the Wallace hotel for the last six months. This Bradley is the very man who has been trotted out at an anti-Scott meeting to declare that liquor is sold over the Milton bars.

SCOTT ACT LITERATURE.—Twenty-one Scott Act Leaflets (on different subjects)—"The Temperance Handbook"—"The Scott Act, For and Against"—"Fifty Years' Temperance Work." Send 30 cents for sample package and price list to Mrs. A. C. Chisholm, Pres. Ont. W. C. T. U., 218 Albert Street, Ottawa, Ont.

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