

THE CANADA CITIZEN

AND TEMPERANCE HERALD

Freedom for the Right Means Suppression of the Wrong.

VOL. 5.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, AUGUST 15th, 1884.

NO. 7.

The Canada Citizen

AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

A Journal devoted to the advocacy of Prohibition, and the promotion of social progress and moral Reform.

Published every Friday by the

CITIZEN PUBLISHING COMPANY,

OFFICE, 8 KING STREET EAST, TORONTO.

Subscription, ONE DOLLAR A YEAR, strictly in advance.

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F. S. SPENCE, - - - MANAGER.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, AUGUST 15TH, 1884.

This number is sent to many friends whose names are not yet on our subscription list. Will they kindly aid our enterprise by forwarding their dollars and addresses? It is desirable to subscribe early, as we propose making every number well worth preserving for future reference and use.

APPEAL.

ELECTORS.—

The people of the Dominion of Canada are inspired with an earnest patriotic desire to see their fair land freed from the blighting curse of intemperance. They have recognized that it is impossible to abolish the evil while its potent cause, the liquor traffic, has the sanction and protection of law. There is a strong and growing conviction that the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor for beverage purposes ought to be entirely suppressed, and the best and most thoughtful Christians and statesmen have pronounced themselves in favor of

TOTAL PROHIBITION.

Our Dominion Parliament has expressed its confidence in the soundness of such a policy, and declared itself willing to enact a prohibitory law as soon as there shall be a public sentiment strong enough to sustain such a measure. The following resolution was adopted in our House of Commons on March 26th, of the present year, by a vote of 122 to 40.

"THAT THE RIGHT AND MOST EFFICIENT REMEDY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THE EVILS OF INTEMPERANCE IS TO BE FOUND IN THE ENACTMENT AND ENFORCEMENT OF A LAW PROHIBITING THE MANUFACTURE,

IMPORTATION AND SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS FOR BEVERAGE PURPOSES, and this House is prepared, so soon as public opinion will sufficiently sustain stringent measures, to promote such legislation so far as the same is within the competency of the Parliament of Canada."

The temperance workers believe that public sentiment to-day is overwhelmingly in favor of prohibitory legislation. They have stated this strong conviction, and our legislators have invited them to show what public sentiment on the liquor question really is, by polling the voters of Canada on the principle of prohibition, by means of the Temperance Act of 1878. The challenge has been accepted, and the friends of moral reform are rallying to the polls to declare themselves in favor of prohibition.

Besides being thus the agency through which we can secure the object for which we are working, the Scott Act is in itself a measure far superior to the present license law, and where it has been put into operation, it has been the means of greatly diminishing intemperance. From day to day its benefits are being shown by the strongest testimony from the most reliable sources, and the Scott Act is well worthy of your support, not only because it is a stepping-stone to a still better law, but also on account of its own inherent merits. Even its opponents must admit that in those counties where it is in force it has UTTERLY DESTROYED THE TREATING SYSTEM.

You are now asked respectfully and earnestly to give your sympathy, your support, and your active co-operation to the movement in progress for carrying the Act in your own county. The contest is one in which every member of society is deeply interested and in relation to which a serious responsibility rests upon every man who is entrusted with the privilege and power that his rights as an elector confer. We are confident that you will respond as truly patriotic citizens, loyal to your country and zealous to do your duty before God and towards your fellow-men.

HALTON.

The petition of the Anti-Temperance party in Halton has been accepted by the Government and a vote is to be taken upon the question of repealing the Scott Act in that county. There can be no doubt whatever that this is entirely contrary to the intent of the Act, the framers of which meant that in any county in which it was adopted it should have three years trial before any attempt could be made to have it repealed. It was the duty of temperance men to resist any attempt to bring on a vote even if they were absolutely certain of the most overwhelming victory. A point has now been conceded by the Government that if correct, shows a defect in the Act that ought to be removed at the earliest possible opportunity. We believe that it is quite possible that the Act has been wrongly construed in the present case, and that, even if a majority vote were polled for the repeal of the Act, the courts would hold this repeal vote as invalid and the Act still in force, but we must not allow our opponents to even poll a majority again. Such a result of the contest, would lead to the impression that the Act had not been a success in Halton, and we would be guilty of connivance at falsehood if we quietly permitted such a misrepresentation to have the seeming endorsement of the Halton electors.