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## Temperance Legislation in Ontario.

Advanced temperance legislation in some form is one of the matters with which the Ontario Legislature is expected to deal during its present session. If the Government is not prepared, on the strength of the Referendum vote of 1902 to enact prohibition to the full extent of the powers of the Province, it is evidently disposed to accept that vote as a mandate for an important step in that direction. The *Globe*, the principal organ of the Government, says: "The fact that this temperance question will not drop is proof of its importance. Its steady continuance through generation after generation is because it touches the rights, the duties, and the self-interests of men. It is moral as well as social and commercial, and every step forward reveals the necessity for still another step. The persistent recurrence of the temperance question in every political campaign proves not only the irrepresible vitality of the question, but also the inadequacy of any solution thus far presented. The present license system, with its open barrooms and organized traffic, is not the last stage of the temperance movement in Canada. That system has served an excellent purpose and was necessary in the evolution of the temperance movement. Some day it will be seen to be outgrown, and the new ideas will work through new machinery." What the Government contemplates as the next step in the way of temperance legislation is probably foreshadowed, though somewhat vaguely, in the following sentences from the *Globe's* editorial: "What should be the next step? Some say an amended license law. Others would go at once and directly to the utmost limits of prohibition allowed by the constitution to Provincial Legislatures. The referendum vote gave that alternative a strong argument. Is there between these two extremes of temperance opinion any intermediate stage which would have a more substantial force of public opinion behind it? In answer there comes a voice stronger and steadier than either of the others, calling for the closing of the barrooms and the sale of liquor only in shops under some form of public control. That proposal has gathered strength and impressiveness during the past year, and not a few ardent temperance advocates find in it the organizing idea of the legislation they regard as best suited to the conditions and needs of the present situation in Ontario. But that is a large question and claims full and serious consideration."

## Nova Scotia's Finances.

The financial statement presented to the Nova Scotia Legislature by Premier Murray on Wednesday last, indicates that the Province has enjoyed another prosperous year, and that the government revenues have been correspondingly large, yielding a very respectable surplus over expenditure. The total revenue received for the year was \$1,243,581, an increase over that of 1902 of \$103,000. The total expenditure was \$1,177,330, leaving a balance in the treasury of the Province of \$66,250. The development of Nova Scotia's mineral wealth in recent years and the royalties derived from that source have been reflected in a steadily increasing revenue. The royalties from minerals during the past year yielded the handsome sum of \$619,234, exceeding the Dominion subsidy by nearly \$190,000. The increase in royalty since 1894 indicates the rapid development of Nova Scotia's coal mining industries. The figures for the years were as follows:—1894, \$242,657; 1895, \$251,910; 1896, 274,028; 1897, \$270,387; 1898, \$277,870; 1899, \$319,150; 1900, \$413,874; 1901, \$437,726; 1902, \$487,948; 1903, \$619,234. In addition to its ordinary expenditure the Government has during the year expended nearly a million dollars on capital account made up as follows: Agricultural College, \$7,464; Larger Bridges, \$127,984; Debentures issued on first mortgage Central Railway, \$425,000; Nova Scotia Hospital improvement, \$840; Railways \$398,982; Road Making Machinery, \$403; School for Blind \$14,000; Smaller Bridges, \$17,200; Sanitarium \$4,579; Victoria General Hospital improvement, \$3,225. The two largest items in the expenditure on capital account were the sums advanced for the purchase of Nova Scotia Central Railway and the construction of the Halifax and South-Western Railway Company, in both of which cases the Government had what it considers ample and satisfactory security. In order to finance this sum of nearly a million dollars satisfactory arrangements were made in London to secure money from time to time to make these advances.

## The G. T. P. and the Eastern Section.

In connection with a reception tendered him in Moncton on Friday evening last, the new Minister of Railways and Canals made a speech which is of interest particularly for its reference to proposed Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. It has been announced that the Company is seeking some modification of its contract—a matter which Parliament will be asked to consider—and it has been surmised as probable that the Company had asked for the elimination of the eastern section of the proposed road. Mr. Emmerson's speech, however, gives no support to this supposition. On the contrary he emphasized the statement that there was no proposal to cut out the eastern section of the G. T. P. There was not, Mr. Emmerson is reported as saying, a suggestion, not even the suspicion that it is even desired by those interested in the scheme and upon whom the burden of it in a very large degree depends. It was true that certain modifications had been asked for in connection with the contract, but while he was not in a position to state just what the modifications were, he assured his hearers that they would be found to be of a very moderate character indeed. There is of course much difference of opinion as to the advisability of constructing the eastern section of the proposed G. T. P. under the terms of the contract, but whatever different opinions may be entertained in this connection, the Minister of Railway's speech would seem to make it clear that there is no proposition on the part of the Government or the Company to eliminate that part of the contract.

## The Fiscal Question in England.

According to the reports which from time to time, during the past months have reached this country in reference to the propaganda in the interests of a policy of protection and preferential tariff, in which the late British Colonial Secretary and his followers have been engaged, it has seemed difficult to resist the conviction that Mr. Chamberlain was sweeping all before him, and that free trade England was being rapidly converted to the acceptance of a fiscal policy of a very different character. There can be no doubt that the efforts of Mr. Chamberlain and of other able men associated with him have had a very considerable influence to modify British public sentiment in the direction of protection. Mr. Chamberlain himself is reported as saying that he believed the country was with him. The result of the by-elections held in England during the past few months would however, appear to indicate that such a conclusion is somewhat premature. It is true that two or three elections have been held in which the issue was Mr. Chamberlain's protection policy versus free trade, and the result was the return of the Government or "Chamberlainite" candidate. But as in these instances the Government candidate was returned by a diminished majority, the result could not reasonably be regarded as indicating a general change of public sentiment in favor of protection. On the other hand, three elections have been held within the last few weeks which seem to indicate quite the contrary. In Norwich which was considered a safe Government constituency, having returned the Conservative Candidate in 1895 with a majority of 800, a Liberal free-trade Candidate has been returned with a plurality of 1200 over the Government and protectionist candidate. In Mid-Devon and Gateshead also, Mr. Chamberlain's trade policy has been quite emphatically condemned in the election of Opposition candidates with largely increased majorities as compared with the results of the last previous elections.

## Trade Figures for 1903.

It is quite probable that the report recently published in respect to Great Britain's trade for the past year is having the effect of disposing the people of England to give very careful consideration to the subject before committing themselves fully to the support of Mr. Chamberlain's scheme of fiscal reform. The facts embodied in this report would seem to agree very poorly with Mr. Chamberlain's dismal prophecies as to the future of British trade under a free trade system. The Board of Trade returns go to show that in spite of any depression which may have existed in certain industries and branches of trade, the volume of Great Britain's trade for 1903 is registered in figures that break

all records. The total trade for 1903 reached £503,000,000, the highest by £25,000,000 in the history of the country. The *New York Evening Post* in comparing the trade returns of Great Britain and the United States recently presented some figures which are interesting and instructive. The *Post* shows that the high water mark in the export trade of the United States was the calendar year 1900 when the country exported to the value of \$1,477,946,000. Great Britain's exports for 1903 were \$1,802,235,000. The comparison with England's own former record is equally striking. In 1890 British prestige in the world's markets was at its highest, yet its exports then were only \$1,317,650,000. This is an increase of \$482,000,000 in thirteen years. The American export trade made a larger increase in the period, so that it was evident that though Great Britain was expanding its exports, the United States was expanding still more rapidly. It is to be noted, however, that during the three years since 1900, while British exports have increased by \$346,000,000, the United States export trade shows a decline of \$16,000,000.

## Schemers and the Public.

In the following paragraph, the *Montreal Witness* gives a hint to electors which is worthy of their attention. "In judging of candidates for legislative and parliamentary positions the electors should keep in mind that though sessions are growing unconscionably long, the number of public measures is comparatively small. Much of the time is taken up with measures seeking some concession at the expense of the public, or some invasion of municipal rights for the benefit of the incorporators. Especially in the case of the provincial legislature it is all important to get men who can be trusted to hold the interests of the public superior to those of schemers. Private legislation is now more important to the public than at any previous time. The Government and the Opposition may be trusted to look after public measures, but as regards incorporating bills there is an increasing necessity for vigilance on the part of private members. Companies that seek greater powers than are conferred under the Joint Stock Companies Act need particularly to be watched, but while public attention is directed to debates, which have little practical value, the far more important proceedings in committees pass unnoticed."

The situation as between Russia and Russia and Japan. Japan does not appear to have changed materially during the past week. The opinion that war will be averted is however, we judge, held with less confidence than it was a week ago. Russia has not yet replied to Japan's latest note, and there is, to say the least, reasonable doubt that when the reply is given it will be found acceptable to Japan. There is no doubt that Russia desires peace, if it can be secured on her own terms. So does Japan. But whether Russia's desire for peace is strong enough to cause her to comply with the conditions upon which Japan insists in regard to Russia's position in Manchuria is another question. It would seem evident from the news which is being received from the Far East that Japan is not putting much confidence in Russia's pacific declarations, but goes on with her preparations for war as if she believed it to be inevitable. A Japanese newspaper is quoted as saying: "Every hope of securing the legitimate demands of Japan diplomatically has been abandoned, and the government, therefore is compelled to take such steps and to reserve to itself such freedom of action as will ensure perpetual peace in the Far East."

—Rev. Ellis Fray of Jamaica in an article in the *London Baptist Times* writes, in reference to the hurricane which occurred on the Island last summer, that it not only ruined a large part of the exportable produce of the Island and of the provision fields of the people, but it also destroyed thousands of the homes of the peasantry and nearly one-third of the Baptist chapels. In nearly all the parts of Jamaica visited by the hurricane it was hoped the work of rebuilding the homes of the people would be completed by the end of the year. Then, under the leadership of their pastors, the churches will have to face the great work of rebuilding their chapels. This it would seem impossible for them to accomplish without help from their brethren in England and elsewhere.