

THE ADVOCATE

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Comment.

TAXPayers will be pleased to know that the late Henry le Caron, spy, informer, and professional sneak, was a teetotaler.

From January 1, 1888, to July 1, 1894, the United States exported 500,235 barrels of whiskey. That is not much for 11 years and 6 months. During June this year 4,000 barrels were exported.

Sir WILFRED LAWSON, M.P., was challenged the other day, when in his seat in Parliament, to say "whether more deaths are not due to bad water than to good beer." The great teetotal baronet remained silent.

It is stated that the damage done to Chicago by the railway strike is irreparable, owing to the fact that business has now diverted into other directions. Montreal's steak trade, it is thought, will never return to its former proportions.

TEMPERANCE people should take advantage of a point made by Mr. T. W. Russell, a Prohibition Anti-Home Ruler, in the Imperial House of Commons, to the effect that, "every shilling obtained by the revenue from liquor only lessens temperance legislation more difficult."

JOSEPH MADDON, a notorious illicit keeper of this city, has been sent to jail for thirty days. That is the way all such people should be served, only the term of imprisonment should be lengthened. Such people do an enormous amount of harm to the trade and it is absurd to let them off with a fine. License holders are entitled to every provision from the law.

It is interesting to note that in the opinion of Sir William Harcourt's spiritism in the Imperial House of Commons, of twelve Liberal members directly interested in the trade, seven voted with the government, 2 voted against, 2 did not vote at all and 1 retired. Mr. Samuel Whitbread, brewer, who had publicly stated he should vote against the government and then resign, recanted and followed his party leader. If the 7 had voted against the duties, and the 2 who did not vote at all had done the same, the government would only have had a majority of 2. Surely this shows that members

of the trade are capable of rising superior to their personal interests.

In this part of Canada goody-goody people object to a bar being transferred from one place on a man's property to another, as witness the protest against the selling of liquor at the race course, but in British Columbia special permits are granted to picnic parties. The other day, at Victoria, the committee of the St. Andrew's and Caledonian Society applied for and secured a license to sell liquor at the society's picnic and annual games on July 4th.

AMONG his impressions of Canada, written by a Birmingham man for *The Canadian Gazette*, of London, England, is the following statement: "One of the great charms of Canadian life is, perhaps, in the fact that English nationality so largely prevails. Another remarkable feature is the sobriety of the people. I was in Canada for three weeks, and had reached Winnipeg, some 2,000 miles or more from the coast, before I saw one instance of drunkenness. Our local government might learn a useful and practical lesson from the Canadians in the matter of licensing laws and taxes." And yet some people are not happy.

The last Legislature of Maryland passed a law providing that any habitual drunkard in the state who was also a pauper could be sent to a Keeley Institute for cure, the city of Baltimore to pay the bills for its own cases, and the other cases in the state to be looked after by the county authorities. Each drunkard treated was to be allowed \$100 for his case. Up to date three cases have been thus treated, and the bills have been sent to the city treasurer of Baltimore. That official declines to pay the charges, however, and the question is to be taken to the courts. A similar law has been declared unconstitutional in Michigan, and unless the Maryland courts follow suit it is thought the state will become the Mecca of dipsomaniacs from everywhere.

The examining committee of the Lutheran Synod, of North Carolina, has refused membership to the Rev. J. R. Sikos, formerly of the Wittenberg Synod, O., because he is the author of a book in which it is shown that there is nothing in the Bible that could properly be construed to forbid the moderate use of al-

coholic beverages. What is it St. Peter says? "Above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins." If total abstinence is a plank of the Lutheran church the Lutheran church should say so. If not it is surely strangely narrow to condemn one of its own professors for using the Bible to shed light on a controversial subject.

COUNT TOLSTOI, the famous Russian novelist, Socialist, and crank, has just written the libretto of an opera in which he gives expression to his well-known views respecting the evils resulting from the abuse of stimulants. The "book," which bears the title of "the Brandy Burner," has been set to music by a lady; and the complete work has already been performed more than once in Russia. Upon the mind of the muzhiks, for whose edification the opera is chiefly intended, the opera is said to have created a profound impression. What its effect upon the mind of the Government has been we have yet to learn. It can, however, hardly have been over favorable, inasmuch as the impetuous Russian Government, like most other governments, derives a large portion of its revenue from alcohol.

EUGENE V. DEBS, President of the American Railway Union, may have been right and may have been wrong, in the course he took in ordering a boycott of the Pullman Car Co., but, right or wrong, he was not entitled to attack on account of past private habits. It is charged that he was once a drunkard and was medically treated as such. That was more than two years ago. Since that time he has conducted himself in private life as every well-meaning man should do. Yet now his past weakness is being held up to public scorn and his enemies are exulting in the thought that "he will break down physically and probably mentally, as soon as the strain is over, if not before and will probably resolve into his former dissipated habits." There is more charity in some people's minds for the actually vicious than for the man who reforms.

The London *Economist* very severely arraigns Sir Wm. Harcourt, Chancellor of the Imperial Exchequer, for his increase of the spirit duties. It says: "He reckoned without his Irish supporters. They immediately denounced the addi-

tion to the spirit duty as a fresh injustice to Ireland, and to placate them the Chancellor of the Exchequer agreed to impose the additional duty for one year only. Thus, for no other reason than to gain votes, Sir W. Harcourt has violated his own theory of equitable taxation; he has interfered with the financial arrangements of next year, which he has no right to do; he has introduced an element of uncertainty into a most important branch of trade; and he has in all probability permanently injured the consumers of beer and spirits." All of which seems to prove that British statesmen are no more scrupulous in their methods of obtaining political capital than their Canadian contemporaries.

MR. W. W. BUCHANAN, the able editor of *The Topleur*, is coming in for some very severe criticism from his own friends for the part he took in the recent elections. The *Orillia Times* says that Mr. Buchanan overlooked one fact and that was that it was the temperance party and not the Mowat Government that was on trial in the campaign. We didn't hold that view or we might have entered into the fight a little more warmly than we did, but it appeared to us that Mr. Buchanan was clearly of that opinion and so acted. The fact is the critics of the editor of *The Topleur* are for party first and for temperance afterwards and they are mad because Mr. Buchanan is not the same. The *Times* further says that it knows the course pursued by Mr. Buchanan and his friends has been the means "of alienating from the Prohibition cause the sympathies of many persons who in January last were warm friends of the plebeian." That is terrible, indeed, but, nevertheless, accepting the statement as true, we beg to thank Mr. Buchanan and his friends for the good work they have done in opening the eyes of the public to the truth. The fact of the matter, however, is that it is the *Times* and papers holding similar views that are disgusting the people by their illiberality and turning their thoughts into a reasoning channel. The *Times* in another paragraph exposes the weakness both of the Prohibitionists and of its own position by saying: "It is doubtful if there is a constituency in the Dominion in which a straight-out Prohibitionist can be elected, independent of an alliance with either one or other of the big political parties."

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