

the news it contains has lost its value long before the paper arrives here. Under these circumstances, and with this evidence, the protest of those most vitally interested in immigration must fall to the ground.

#### IF CANADA WENT TO WAR

IF Canada went to war, the man-in-the-street would fear the deadly hail of bullets and shells. The woman-in-the-house would have the same fear. Yet the least danger which the soldier has to face in warfare is the danger caused by the enemy's shot and shell. The military records of several centuries show that of the men who die in active service, only 20 per cent. are killed in battle or die from wounds. The remaining 80 per cent. die from disease. It is sickness and disease which kill, not bullets.

In the Russo-Turkish war 20,000 men died from bullet wounds, while 80,000 died from disease. In the Crimean war, the percentage of those who died from disease was very large. Only 2,000 of the Allied Forces were killed in battle, while 50,000 succumbed to disease. In the United States war with Mexico, the proportion was three to one; in the United States civil war, the proportion was about the same. In the French expedition sent to Madagascar 29 were killed in action and 7,000 died of various diseases. In the Boer War the percentage killed in action was small. In the United States war in Cuba the number who died of disease was fourteen times the number killed. All the evidence shows that disease is a greater enemy to the soldier than the foe which he fights with bullets.

There is but one exception on record and that is the recent conflict between Japan and Russia. The Japanese were continually moving over ground rendered dangerous by Russian occupation, but their system of military hygiene and sanitation was so complete and so highly specialised that only 36 men out of every 100 were ever in sick quarters during the year and a half which the war occupied. They employed an army of men to look after the sick and wounded of the fighting army. This subsidiary corps was officered by the best-trained medical men who ever followed an army. Their hospital equipment was the most perfect that the world has ever seen. The consequence was that only one man died of disease for every four killed in action. The diet had much to do with this great accomplishment; it was based on most exhaustive researches, calculations and experiments. No soldier was allowed to drink water which was unboiled. No wounded man was left more than a few minutes before receiving the skilful care of surgeon and nurse. The details of their arrangements are admirably told by Louis L. Seaman, a United States military surgeon who was present during most of the campaign. His volume is entitled "The Real Triumph of Japan."

The lesson for Canada is that in our military system, the greatest possible attention should be paid to the medical branch of the service. Sir Frederick Borden and those associated with him have done something along this line, but much remains to be done. The medical service requires further development, and medical officers should be vested with greater authority. An army which can retain its health and strength will defeat an army double its size which is enervated by bad food, irregular meals, contaminated water, and lack of proper sanitary arrangements.

#### A MODERN BATTLE

ALL over the province of Ontario, they are saying things about the recent vote on License Reduction in the City of Toronto. After all, such conversation is natural. What London is to the world, what New York is to the United States, Toronto is to Ontario. Every municipal and political move in the biggest city of the province is watched with the keenest interest. The Toronto daily paper is the medium. It carries the names and speeches and ambitions of the pettiest city politicians into every home—and distance lends enchantment to the view. When therefore the campaign to reduce the number of hotels from 150 to 110 came on, the names of Oliver and Spence and Hales and Bosworth and Geary and Haverson and other leaders, real or supposed, were printed many times. They became familiar to the eyes of the provincial reader. The general interest in the campaign grew keen and intense.

It was a modern battle. The two armies of seventeen thousand men and women each were drawn up in battle array under their different captains, their colonels and their generals. The preliminary skirmishes had taken place when the judge revised the voters' lists, and when the meetings for and against the By-law were held. The real battle occurred on January 1st, for Toronto is a busy town and it cannot afford an extra holiday for its municipal battle-day. The opposing armies rose early. The deadly two-horse cab and the deadlier automobile were pressed into service and the battle of the ballots was on. The procession of "The Boy or the Barrel—Which?" a day or two before had been but an exhibition of strength by the

Reduction army. The "Antis" had carefully concealed the strength of their army—they believed in silent and thoughtful preparation rather than praying, and shouting and parading.

And what was the real issue? In a vague way, the Reduction army felt that it was fighting for temperance, for the abolition of the bar, and the treating system. Just why they hated the treating system is difficult to tell. Nearly every temperance voter practises it—treating his friends to dinners, drives, card-parties, refreshments of a mild type and to a free distribution of his views on moral reform generally. As to the "Bar", there is little doubt that it has grown unpopular—especially with those who belong to the clubs and have learned how dignified it is to have their liquid refreshments served at a table. Up in Rosedale, and along the Top of the Hill where these new-made aristocrats live, the vote against the Bar was furiously heavy. In Ward Six, the Parkdale division, where there is but one bar-room, the majority in favor of reduction was greater than the majority over the whole city. In a district which had less grievance against the bar than any other, they fought tigerishly for its blood. In other words Ward Six decided the day. It was there that the Antis' army was outflanked, crushed, and beaten.

And what will be the result? About forty hotels will lose their licenses, but they would have lost them long ago if the License Board had lived up to its pretensions. They are only make-believe hotels. They are really saloons—and Toronto long ago decided against the saloon. Forty men who have been advised to improve their premises by these same license commissioners must now lose the money which they have invested. Forty men who were told to bluff at hotel-keeping, are now informed that the bluff will not be accepted. Forty men, with sore hearts, depleted pocket-books and wonder-eyed families are driven to other occupations or to engage in illicit traffic. One hundred and ten men are left to garner in whatever of the increased trade which can be gathered up from the debris of the forty destroyed businesses. That is to be the result—if the City Council pushes the victory to its logical conclusion, and the Courts do not interfere.

Was it worth while? Apparently, the Temperance people throughout the province think it was. They base on it an argument that the Bar must go and that provincial prohibition is in sight. They say that the effect on the subsequent municipal battles throughout the province was exhilarating and that it will mean much in the future out-post fighting. They boast that the Temperance fire which has made the Southern States "dry," which has burned its way through the Maritime Provinces and Manitoba, has at last reached Ontario. They expect it to be all-consuming. They will not cease their efforts until they have cut off every license, every club privilege and even the package sale. They may go too fast as they did in the middle seventies, and a reaction may set in. That apparently is the only danger which besets the victorious army.

Undoubtedly over-indulgence in strong drink is unpopular. Whether this is due to economic or moral forces, or to both working in union, is a question which is open to discussion. The young man who makes a habit of occasionally getting on a "spree" finds difficulty in obtaining advancement in his calling or profession. The drunkard, once a respectable member of the business community, is now found only in the lower strata. Further, it is becoming fashionable to boast of being a teetotaller. The Methodists, Presbyterians and other "non-conformist" bodies have forced the Anglican Church to join them. They are preparing to make liquor-drinking, even in moderation, a mortal sin. Before they attain that success they must come in conflict with the man who desires to have liquor on his table and at his club. He is a small but formidable minority.

One peculiar feature of the campaign is the utter disregard of the temperance advocate for "vested interests" and "compensation." One clergyman, since the vote was over, remarked that compensation was a subtle proposition which must be tabooed, that "there will be no vested rights in this business," and that "it's enough if we forgive them and tell them to go and sin no more." Men of this class cry down compensation by declaring that all licences are annual, forgetting that the licencees are not annual, but have spent their lives in the business. However, a province which uses public credit to fight private enterprise as in the case of the Hydro-Electric Commission, is not likely to hesitate at wiping out the capital of a few hundreds of hotel-keepers. In this respect, we are more American than British. Strangely enough, during the recent fight in Toronto, the license-holders themselves have not stuck out for compensation. It may be that they felt that such an appeal to such a public would have been useless. They perhaps felt that the sins of the general traffic were about to be visited upon them and that little was to be gained by crying for mercy.

Now that the battle in Toronto and in the Province generally is over, it might be wise for the leaders on both sides to sit down and discuss future campaigns. If the Temperance people should refuse to attend such a conference, the public would be seriously affected by their intolerance. If the Brewers and Licensed Victuallers should refuse such a conference, then the Temperance people would occupy a better strategical position with those inclined to take a moderate view. If both sides refuse, then it will probably be necessary for the Legislature to step in, abolish local option and annual licenses and substitute some system which will prevent further investment in licensed property, will safeguard or transfer that which is now invested, and which will place all questions in connection with liquor-selling under provincial rather than local control. This would mean a mild but effective form of Provincial Prohibition. —C.