

North-West Prohibition

A MANITOBA PROTEST AGAINST REPEAL.

An Appeal for Help—The North-West Settlers Do Not Want a License Law.—The Agitators are Liquor Sellers.—A Terrible Danger.

In view of the effort at present being made to secure the repeal of the Prohibitory Law, now in force in the North-West Territories, our readers will be interested in the following letter from a gentleman who is familiar with that country and its needs.

Canada Citizen.—"Onward" we are moving in this great North-West, in the glorious work of reforming the drunkard and preventing the increase of the intemperate. All the branches of the great Total Abstinence Army are doing good solid work, especially the old senior order, the Sons of Temperance.

The only sadness thrown on the temperance people here, is caused by the reported attempt to place the Northwest Territories under a license law. If this is done—God help the inhabitants!

The Permit system is bad enough but it does not open these hell-gates to the young children or the Indian. Of course it is against any license act to sell to either Indians or children, but how is it that sales are made to these, and if the Indian of the N.W.T. gets a drop of liquor, he will not be as harmless as the Indian of Manitoba.

Don't forget that perhaps some of your dear ones are in this country and look to you to help in their fight "for God, Home and Native Land."

It Must Go.

O the homes that have been blighted By this monster at our door! Who would snatch our dear ones from us, Heeding not as we implore.

Vote to sustain the law that has reduced drunkenness OVER SEVENTY PER CENT.

THE PROHIBITION DEBATE.

On Monday afternoon last in the Dominion House of Commons, Mr. J. Jamieson, of North Lanark, moved the Prohibition resolution of which he had previously given notice. This resolution is in the following terms:

That in the opinion of this House it is expedient to prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors, except for sacramental, medicinal, scientific and mechanical purposes, and that the enforcement of such prohibition and the regulation of such manufacture, importation and sale as may be allowed shall be by the Dominion Government through specially appointed officers.

It is to be very much regretted that the debate following Mr. Jamieson's speech in favor of his resolution, was to a large extent made up of personal recrimination, and charges of dishonesty made by members on both sides of the House against their friends opposite.

Mr. Jamieson said the resolution with reference to the prohibition of the liquor traffic had been introduced into the House during the past two years. He was not aware that anything new had come up in the country upon the question of prohibition. He was not aware that the evils of the liquor traffic had abated to any extent.

Mr. Mills (Bothwell) said the resolution of the hon. gentlemen was different from his motion to amend the Scott Act, inasmuch as the latter introduced merely the optional principle. He recognized that any legislation affecting the customs of the people was wholly inoperative unless sustained by the sympathy of the majority of the people.

Mr. Jamieson said there was some conversation amongst the friends of temperance in reference to the matter, and they were called together to consider it.

Mr. Mackenzie—Who were they, who were called together? Mr. Jamieson said there were a number of friends of temperance in the House. The member for Broome (Mr. Fisher), a political friend of the hon. gentleman's, was among the number.

Mr. Mills said he had not prostituted his position as a member of Parliament as the hon. gentleman had done on this question. He happened though to be a member of the Government which assumed the responsibility of enacting the only measure upon the subject on the statute book, and he did not receive the support of the hon. gentlemen then.

Mr. Mackenzie—Did you invite all the temperance members of the House? Mr. Jamieson—No. Mr. Mackenzie—Who were invited? Mr. Jamieson—The member for Broome (Mr. Fisher) undertook to invite his political friends and I to invite mine.

Mr. Fisher—I am not aware of any meeting at which it was decided that we should push the temperance question as fast as we could. (Applause.) Mr. Sayer moved the adjournment of the debate, which was carried.

Dynamiters Brought to Justice.

THE justice has at length overtaken one of the gang of dynamite scoundrels, who have been tyrannizing over this Province in the interest of illicit liquor selling.

At Chatham, on Thursday of last week, James Macey was tried for dynamiting the residence of Mr. J. Evans, Inspector for East Kent. The case was one that attracted a great deal of public attention.

Justice McMahon stated that in the interests of law and order, and for the protection of society, such crimes as that at present under consideration, should be stamped out, and that those who were connected with their commission must be taught that law was still dominant.

There will be no feelings of exultation in any part of the country over the unfortunate man thus shut out from society for so long a period of his life. In all probability the worst criminals in the case are yet unpunished. Men like Macey are merely the tools used by the liquor traffickers, but there will be in many quarters a feeling of greater security and more confidence in a law, which has hitherto (notably in the Sarnia and other outrages) failed to mete out to offenders the punishment absolutely necessary to prevent recurrences of these acts of villainy.

Macey's sentence is severe, but it was not unmerited, and will no doubt act as a deterrent to the reckless gang who have hitherto defied law, and taken into their own hands the task of disciplining those who opposed their infernal methods.

It is to be hoped the vigorous method of Judge McMahon will be taken as a laudable precedent by those in other places whose duty it is to see that law, and not liquor, should rule in Canada.

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THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT, January 1st, 1888.

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