The Victoria Warder

FRIDAY, SEPT. 23, 1887.

The Scott Act.

This Act has been in operation long enough in this county, to enable the public to form some opinion as to any benefit it is likely to confer. As far as we have been able to observe the working of this somewhat irregular law, we are inclined to think it has been a complete and a decided failure. It has done no good by the way of preventing the use of alcohol, and if it has not been an injury to the country, it has certainly been an injury to the cause of temperance. It cannot be denied but we have lost the revenue from the issue of the licenses, besides a large sum for costs, and the salaries of a number of useless officials in the vain effort to enforce the law. Now what has been the advantage or returns for all this confusion, loss and expenditure? Simply nothing, or that which is perhaps worse than nothing. Public opinion which is always stronger than any law, no matter by whom it is made, has not only maintained, but justified the sale of forbidden liquor in the face of it. It has done more, it has covered the officers of the law with odium, and caused them to be regarded as spies and informers, more to be dreaded and disliked than the evils they were supposed to remedy. Besides all this, which is certainly bad enough, it has caused a great deal of suspicion and ill-will among neighbors, by enabling the evil disposed to gratify their revengeful feeling by secretly informing the Inspector of those they wished to injure in this way, creating a bad state of things, which no time can remove.

The Hotels are not kept in as good order, nor are the public as well served by them, as they were under license, the loss of which they have not now to dread, and if they are fined it will not be for any irregularity, but for selling liquor alone. The proprietors feel that they are under a law, that they are improperly interfered with, and unjustly oppressed, with no power to distinguish their friends, who may be inducing them to disregard the law, from their enemies who may be acting as spies; and not knowing whose hand may be upon them, the public are treated with distrust, indifference, or open contumely. Under the Crook's act shebeens had disappeared from the land; now they are beginning to reappear and flourish in a manner they never did before. And the places where liquor is authorized to be sold, under the conditions or restrictions of the Act, in many cases they are more dens of drunkenness, sink of iniquity, the worst kind of liquor-sellers. Then there are those whose duty it is to give certificates for the purchase of liquor exercise little caution in the discharge of duty. They are not supposed to personally investigate every case. They are in a measure compelled to take the word of every applicant, so that every one who applies for a permit, is sure to get it from some one, which will enable him to take home all the whisky, wine, or brandy he may have the means to pay for. In this way we find many, who do not what may be considered as breaking or evading the law to be, or do not like to run the risk of bringing the law into ridicule by bringing up as a witness, take some liquors in company with witnesses, take place, that scarcely any reasonable question is put instead of being put as it before. The remedy and aggravation, a remedy only in name. Many persons think the disease. Among those who joined in the cry against the Scott Act were not liquor sellers, and judging from appearance, they were not even moderate temperance men, yet they were the loudest, and most active in agitation for a prohibitory liquor law. They no doubt believed the Act would not put any material obstacle in their way of obtaining all the stimulating fluid they might desire, and such action on their part would have a tendency to increase their popularity with some particular church, or in their influence with the ministry, which might be made available, in either business or politics some future time. Such persons we have observed are the first to break, or induce others to evade the law, they seem so very anxious to obtain, and while many of the leading men are so elected and have so acted, it is folly to think a law so manipulated and carried, and so more respected, can be successfully or beneficially enforced. Such a law should be repealed as quickly as possible, and something more reasonable and more practical adopted in the stead, for as long as it remains upon the statute books so long will the cause of temperance languish.

This law we feel has had a bad effect in lessening the proper influence of the clergy, which is a matter of great importance and much to be deplored. We have heard in many quarters, among church members too, expressions of disrespect and indignation at the course pursued by their spiritual advisers, as interfering with their individual rights and privileges, where such was not required and consequently would not be tolerated in a free country like this. Now we have great respect for the clergy as the divinely appointed advocates and teachers of morals and religion, and we wish them to have all the liberty possible for them, to exercise their proper functions, that is, to infuse into the public mind by exhortation and argument, all that the individual should observe and do. But when they descend from their high and honorable profession, to that of the demagogue or politician, exerting an improper influence upon legislation, for the purpose of carrying out their own peculiar views of right and wrong, before the people have fully acquiesced in them, if is then we object, and enter our humble protest. For if they can so far get ahead of public opinion, as to be able to seriously interfere with individual right in one case, they may in another, and instead of being an advantage and a blessing as they undoubtedly have been, they may become a danger, or perhaps a curse to the community.

There is nothing so degrading, so fearfully disgusting to a right thinking person, as the glutton and the drunkard, and should be regarded as they are, the two worst specimens of human depravity, the man so perfectly sensual as to eat and drink more than is useful to him, making his body a monument of stupid inactivity, or mentally a licentious gibbering fool, or a periodically raving maniac. Let such conduct be held up to public scorn in all its frightful enormity and treated with all the abhorrence it deserves. This is right and proper, the special duty of the clergymen, and the privilege of all. But to make a law to put difficulties in the way and belittle the man that does neither eat nor drink too much, is an outrage, an insult to his intelligence and to his manhood. It is neither more nor less than a tyrannical assumption, a self asserted superiority on the part of those who invoke it. It has no justification, and has no reasonable plea for it whatever. It is simply a restriction without a right. Virtue we are told is a grace of manhood, the restraint a man puts upon his passions; but what virtue is there when all temptation is removed by force, and the only restraint is an absurd act of Parliament! as if the majority of men had neither sense, reason, or conscience, as to how much, or of what kind of food they should eat or drink, only as an officer of the law appointed by government might determine. Temperance is certainly a great moral virtue, but teetotalism is no more a virtue than a theological monomaniacy is religion. It is simply temperance gone mad, a wild fanaticism, that is as dangerous to the community as any other, once it has got beyond the bounds or control of right and reason. The professional teetotaler is a temperance crank, his intellect has become so warped and twisted, so deranged, that he sees drunkenness in every thing, the cause of every calamity, of whatever nature or description. Every man he meets he believes is far gone in alcoholic excess, and feels it to be his special duty to adopt and exercise some forcible means of restraint. Like DonQuixote he is armed and equipped, ready at any moment to invade the rights and privileges of others, in order to charge a windmill, to save the object of his special care and regard, the drunkard, —the OBJECT, we cannot say the man, that positively refuses to impose any kind of control over his depraved appetite, either for his own respectability, or for the benefit of his wife and children.

The truth is, so far from many being drunkards, there is perhaps not more than one in a hundred of all the people in the land, the drink is injured to any very serious extent by drinks, then why should nine tenths be looked upon as unreasonable and dangerous, unless they are hedged about by a law which is both aggravating and oppressive, when these very people are a law unto themselves, guided by a sense of what is due and expected of honorable manhood! been one of one man whose desire for drink is unfortunately stronger than any motive to keep sober? When men are tolerably honest We let them alone, and when they are reasonably temperate why meddle with them? It is only when their conduct has got beyond the bounds of strict propriety, and become a misdemeanor that they should be amenable to law. We cannot believe that men are any more inclined to drunkenness than they are to dishonesty, and the law would prevent or restrain one, as well as the other, if it was as vigorously applied; and there is no reason why it should not be. We do not see that the drunkard is entitled to any more sympathies than the thief, or that temptation should be removed from one, any more than the other. They are both subjects of a mean, low, selfish, and sensual desire, which should be checked by the motive to avoid some physical discomfort or punishment, which should be steadily applied, until the motive had affected a radical change. This kind of treatment we have no doubt would be sufficient for all kind of practical purposes, and one or two examples of drunkenness being dealt with as thieves, would reform all the miserable sots that infest and disgrace the country who were not incorrigible. We hope in future, the teetotaller will expend his superabundant enthusiasm in getting a law such as we have indicated, and let the temperance man alone. Let him continue his honorable exertions purely to the restraint and reformation of his friend the DRUNKARD, and not encourage him any longer in his evil course, by a maudlin sympathy, which is as misplaced, as it is mischievous and foolish.

We are fully convinced that drunkenness is no ordinary evil, but a serious crime, a moral suicide, ending in robbery. In view of this, let us come to the rescue, and do all we can to get a law that will take a firm hold of the drunkard, and make him feel that the way of the transgressor is hard, that good men have abandoned him, that he cannot carry on his shameless debaucheries with impunity, to the ruin of himself and those depending upon him. We want a law sufficiently potent to stamp it out of the land. With it would follow poverty and disease, and all that wretchedness, squalor and filth, so common in the home of the inebriate. Besides this we should have less of those inherited constitutions which render so many lives of the young, no better than a living death. We do not want a law that will only impoverish the drunkard's family by inflicting a fine; but let the penalty for intoxication be imprisonment, with prison fare, say a week for the first offence, two for the next, and so on, and we are bound to say that nineteen cases out of twenty will not require the administration of the second dose, and nine cases out of ten will not require any, so effectual will be the action of this much needed remedy. It is an insult and a vile slander to say there is not enough sobriety among the people to enforce such a law. All that is wanted is an opportunity, and in a little time there would be no more respect and sympathy for the man who would allow himself to get the worse of liquor than there is now for a common thief. As the case now stands, it is the misplaced respect and sympathy that does all the mischief. Such a law would affect no one but the evil doer, and to him it would be a terror. The wife and little ones of the drunkard, and the unfortunate father and mother of the son, who had departed from their wise and loving counsel for evil companions, for riot and dissipation, would rejoice at such a benign law. They would feel that their hands had been strengthened, that they had something to depend upon; and if at any time they were obliged to put it in force, which we are certain would be seldom, they would have the supreme satisfaction for once, and perhaps for a long time, of seeing their wayward and sinful friend return to his home, to the bosom of his sorrowing but hoping family, walking steady and erect, and that which is better still, clothed in his right mind, with a firm resolution formed never in his life to offend again. BWRRS.

"Backward, turn backward, O time in your flight,
Make me a child again, just for to-night;"

is the exclamation, in thought, of many a man who has suffered through a long life, from some distressing disease, that he might have cured with a few bottles of medicine like Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery," which cures all blood and skin diseases, as well as consumption or scrofula of the lungs. If he were "a child again," he "to-night," and in old age would not implore Father Time to "fly backward" for his special benefit. Hence, "Be wise to-day, 'tis madness to defer." Get a bottle of the nearest druggist.—92-1.

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National Pills will cure constipated bowels and regulate the liver.—59-5.

The best regulators for the stomach and bowels, the best cure for biliousness, sick headache, indigestion, all affections arising from a disordered liver, are without exception Johnson's Tonic Liver Pills. Small in size, sugar coated, mild, yet effective. 25cts. per bottle sold by A. Higinbotham, Druggist.—a-1.

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A Severe Trial.

Francis S. Smith, of Emsdale, Muskoka, writes, "I was troubled with vomiting for two years, and I have vomited as often as five times a day. One bottle of Burdock Blood Bitters cured me."—91-3.

Indispensable.

"I have used Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry for summer complaints, and have given it to my friends. It gives instant relief when all other remedies fail. I would not be without it in my house." Mrs. T. Bell, Weldman, Ont.—91.3.

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Best oak tanned leather belting,
Superior lace leather,
Rubber, Hemp, Asbestos,
Soap Stone, Italian Packing,
Copper Rivets, Jack Chain,
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Machine Oils of all kinds.
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JAS. A. McWILLIAMS,
Agent at the Lindsay Yard in place of S. Parsons.
Lindsay, Dec. 27, 1886.

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"ESTURION"

Will run daily on the following Time Table:

Leave Bobcaygeon.... 6.40 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.
Arrive Lindsay at.... 9.00 " " 5.30 p.m.
Leave Lindsay at.... 11.30 a.m. and 5.45 p.m.
Arrive Bobcaygeon.... 1.45 p.m. " 8.00 p.m.

Calling at Sturgeon Point each way.

On Saturdays leave Lindsay at 8.30 p.m. (instead of 5.45 p.m.), on arrival of Toronto train.

Single Tickets between Lindsay and Bobcaygeon, 75c. Return ditto $1 00.
Single Tickets between Lindsay and Sturgeon Point, 50c. Return ditto 50c.
Single tickets between Bobcaygeon and Sturgeon Point, 40c. Return ditto 50c.
Family Tickets and Excursion Tickets at reduced rates can be procured at the Express Office, Lindsay; at the Post Office Bobcaygeon, and on the boat.
Excursion barge PALOMA can be engaged for excursions. Address Trent Valley Nav. Co., Bobcaygeon, for particulars.—77-tf.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

Ontario and Quebec Division.

GOING WEST.

	Express.	Express.	Ex. from Vanc'ver
Leave Montreal	8.05 a.m.	8.00 p.m.	
" Ottawa	12.15 p.m.	11.20 p.m.	
" Carleton Jc.	1.35 p.m.	12.40 a.m.	5.50 a.m.
" Peterboro'	4.42 p.m.	3.51 a.m.	8.20 a.m.
Pass Port Perry	7.05 p.m.		8.38 a.m.
Reach N. Toronto	8.10 p.m.	7.05 a.m.	11.10 a.m.
" U Stat'n	8.00 p.m.	8.27 a.m.	11.45 a.m.

GOING EAST.

	Express.	Express.	Pacific Express.
Leave U Stat'n	3.30 a.m.	3.00 p.m.	5.40 p.m.
" N. Toronto	3.05 a.m.	3.32 p.m.	6.01 p.m.
Pass Port Perry	10.40 a.m.		7.40 p.m.
" Peterboro'	11.31 a.m.	10.02 p.m.	7.52 p.m.
Arr. Carleton Jc	4.20 p.m.	2.40 a.m.	10.45 a.m.
" Ottawa	5.25 p.m.	4.35 a.m.	
" Montreal	9.00 p.m.	8.20 a.m.	

NOTE.—Port Perry is only 17 miles due south from Lindsay.

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Mrs. of day.
6.00 a.m. Mixed direct to Port Hope via Bethany, from Lindsay.
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6.15 a.m. Express direct to Toronto, from Port Hope via Peterboro.
12.05 noon Mixed to Toronto, from Peterboro.
6.10 p.m. Express to Toronto from Port Hope via Peterboro.

Passengers for Port Perry and Whitby via Manilla Jc. connect on either 9.15 a.m. or 6.10 p.m. trains.

GOING NORTH-WEST.

6.50 p.m. Local for Coboconk, connecting at Lorneville with Express for Orillia and Midland City.

GOING NORTH.

8.00 p.m. Local for Fenelon Falls, Kinmount and Haliburton. On Saturdays this train leaves Lindsay at 4.30 p.m.

ARRIVALS NOT INDICATED ABOVE.

8.15 p.m. Local direct from Port Hope via Bethany.
9.55 a.m. Local from Coboconk, Midland, Orillia, and Lorneville.
10.30 a.m. Local from Haliburton, Also noon Fenelon Falls, etc.

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