CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS is with us once again. What joy it brings to millions. It is the greatest day on the world's calendar.

Who of us is so old, that he does not become young again on Christmas Morn? Santa Claus will live as long as there is PARENTAL LOVE and Human BROTHERHOOD IN THE HEART OF MAN.

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

The Merriest You Have Ever Spent

We Deem it Not Amiss to Thank Our Patrons for the Greatest Business in Our Career.

¶ Perhaps we have merited it through the exercises of our best endeavors to conduct a mercantile enterprise worthy of your heartiest commendation.

¶ Again thanking you for the liberal patronage extended to us during the past year and wishing you greetings of health and prosperity, we say once again

A Merry Christmas To All.

B. J. GOUGH

Corner Kent and William Sts. LINDSAY, Ont.

For and Against Local Option

Views and Arguments pro and con—The Case of Owen Sound from both sides—What the Business Men of Midland, Orono, Mariposa and other Local Option Towns Think of the Effect of the Law.

Probably there is no other question of so much interest at the present time as local option. Though the Watchman-Warder by its expressed policy is committed to temperance reform and to all measures that induce to greater morality and better citizenship, still there are always two sides to every question, and both sides in the interests of justice and equality should receive full consideration. In considering the question of Local Option, the real question is as to whether Local Option will increase temperance and assist in the making of better citizenship and the growth of morality as well as prosperity. Every good citizen would heartily endorse and support any and every measure that would decrease immorality and intemperance and the other evils growing from these issues. Probably the best way to discover whether Local Option would assist in the bringing of good conditions in the respects referred to, is to consider the views of both sides impartially and then arrive at a conclusion from these premises. This, at least, is the fairest way, and so the Watchman-Warder publishes the following matter.

The Watchman-Warder is in receipt of a communication enclosing a clipping from the Toronto News, with a request for publication. This clipping is headed "Would Repeal Local Option by 500. Etc., Etc." and reads as follows:

AGAINST LOCAL OPTION IN OWEN SOUND.

The article in full reads as follows:

Owen Sound, Dec. 12.—When Mayor Kennedy was asked for his opinion on local option as seen in operation in Owen Sound, he produced the following letter to which his signature was attached, and which, he declared, he intended sending to Barrie:

"To Whom It May Concern:

"Local option differs in operation very little from the Scott or Dunken Acts, which were tried some years ago. In Owen Sound there is a good capable license inspector, who does what he can to enforce the law, but public sentiment is against doing so, notwithstanding the large majority by which it was carried. Liquor is still sold in large quantities, yet there has not been a single instance of anyone having been sent to jail, although several convictions have been secured against nine hotels here. Lately some seventeen informations were laid by the license inspector, every one of which was dismissed with costs, although he had two detectives who swore that they got liquor in the cases tried (some five in number).

LIQUOR IN SIXTY-ONE PLACES.

"The writer knows places where liquor can be purchased in which it was never seen before local option came into force, and is credibly informed that there are sixty-one such places in the town.

"The corporation has four policemen, and the statutes, the by-law appointing them, a special by-law and special resolution passed by the council ilately make it the duty of these men to enforce local option. Yet, the sale goes on, and no convictions are made by them. Public sentiment is against its enforcement.

"Local trade has been injured by local option. Scores of people in the surrounding country who used to trade in Owen Sound when license was in force now go to Wiarton, Chesley, Port Elgin, Markdale, Meaford, etc. It has divided our citizens into two hostile sections, local optionists and antis, who are jealous and distrustful of each other. What one proposes the other opposes, or will have nothing to do with it. Many of one section will have no dealings with the other, and lose no opportunity to injure the other's business, and the bad feature of this is, it is done not secretly or on the side, but openly. Owen Sound is a house divided against itself in this respect.

EVILS HAVE INCREASED.

"The evils arising from drinking have not been lessened, but rather increased. Under the license law, liquors were sold in eleven hotels, and would be purchased in very few, if any, other places by the glass, outside of them. Now it is sold in many places, and drunkenness is as prevalent as ever, if not more so. There may be less open drinking at the bars, but drinking from bottles has largely increased, especially among youths and young men.

"It takes place in private rooms, in offices, in closets, in cellars, outbuildings, etc. It may be asked, Where do they get it? It comes in on the railways, in trunks, in suit cases, in valises, in satchels, in boxes, barrels, etc. It comes in on boats, wagons, carriages, etc. Friends bring it in for friends. There are those who bring it in to make money and those who get it out of friendship. It is impossible to stop it. Evidence of this can be seen in the shape of empty and broken bottles in and out of the way places in and around the town.

"The effect on the financial condition of the town is this. At the Court of Revision nine cases of appeal were heard, the appellants claiming that their properties had been lessened in value by local option. On hearing the evidence, the judge ordered that their assessment be reduced $57,750, and the corporation lost $1,357.12 in taxes. The owner of one hotel (the Coulson House) neglected to enter an appeal, or in all probability another $50,000 would have been struck off.

REVENUE CUT OFF.

"The revenue derived from hotel and shop licenses, amounting to $1,694, has been entirely cut off, making an annual loss from these sources of $3,091.12. Besides, the corporation has had to pay for legal advice, counsel fees, etc., fully $500 more defending the by-law. Our citizens who tried to quash it lost, perhaps, another $4,000, and their relations as citizens were embittered.

"It was said that, under local option, the town would require fewer policemen, and the saving to be made in that way would almost, if not altogether, offset the loss in revenue. It has been found that this cannot be done. In fact, the salaries of the policemen had to be raised very materially; and the police force should be increased.

"Some active local optionists went so far as to ask that these additional men should be put on. There are four now. No reduction in the municipal expenditure of Owen Sound can be made because of local option.

A VOICE OF AUTHORITY.

"I respectfully submit the following: The writer has liven continuously in Owen Sound for 50 years, has been in active business in Owen Sound for over 40 years, and is in business yet. He has had to do with employing men during all that time, and has a lot under his control now. He has pecuniary interests in several large manufacturing establishments here, and has occupied the position of school trustee, councillor, reeve, mayor and license commissioner, member of the Board of Trade, as one of its council and as president, and knows Owen Sound thoroughly.

"I have seen Owen Sound under indiscriminate license, under restricted license, under the Duncan Act, and under the present license Act and finally under local option, and have no hesitation in saying that local option has not lessened drunkenness, has not improved business or the financial position of the people generally. Neither has it improved the moral tone of its citizens as a whole, but on the contrary has injured local trade and lowered the moral well-being of very many.

"I deeply regret to have to say these things, but I believe it is my duty to do so, if thereby I may help to prevent others making the mistake made in Owen Sound."

(Signed) MATTHEW KENNEDY, Mayor.

POLICE COURT CASES.

In proof of the statement that the morals of the community have not been improved, Mr. Kennedy has taken figures from the official records, showing that the number of police court cases last year was 362, whereas this year the number is 510. He believes that if submitted again the by-law will be defeated by 500.

Should the Mayor's letter be used in the local option campaign in Barrie, it will certainly not be allowed to go unchallenged, as the local optionists of Owen Sound will be among those present with facts and figures which they claim to be quite as convincing on the other side. Local option, moreover, promises to be an outstanding issue in the Owen Sound municipal campaign, and Mayor Kennedy who intends to enter the field, will undoubtedly meet with active opposition.

MAYOR KENNEDY CONTRADICTED.—A REPLY TO THE ABOVE.

The above had hardly been published before it was replied to in the News. Under the heading.. "Mayor Kennedy is Contradicted. — Gratifying Results of Local Option in Owen Sound.—Brings Many Benefits, etc., etc.," there appeared the following, which was also sent to the editor of the Watchman-Warder for publication:—

To the Editor of the News:

Mayor Kennedy's letter in your issue of yesterday is a glaring contradiction of the testimonials given by other and equally competent authorities, who are perhaps less selfishly interested in what they have to say as to the results of local option in Owen Sound. After local option had been in force in that town for seven months, I was in Owen Sound, and interviewed the Mayor, who was then in office, Mr. Joyce. He said "If you want to see what local option has done already for Owen Sound go down our business streets and look in at the store windows and you will see what we have never seen before in this town. You will find that in almost every window there advertisements reading, "Men Wanted."" And this was in the winter when it is usual for men to be dismissed by hundreds because of the slackness of business.

WHAT MR. MACKAY SAID.

He told me also that Hon. A. C. MacKay, M.P.P., had recently been in his store, and had said to him "I now see my mistake in opposing local option, I confess, since seeing what local option has done for Owen Sound that the bar-rooms must go all over this Province." He also said: "Right across the street from my store is a butcher's shop, and the butcher told me the other day that poor women, the wives of drunkards, used to come to his store with five or ten cents in their hands on Saturday night to buy a bone with a little meat on it so that they might get a taste of meat one day in the week, but since local option came into force these very same women came to him with five-dollar bills in their hands to buy nice joints of meat."

The Rev. Mr. McAlpine told me that the Chief of Police had said that there was not one drunk in a hundred compared with license conditions. This same Chief also said that there used to be a string of women coming to him begging him to protect them from their drunken husbands, but since local option had been enforced he had not received one such caller. Bankers, dry-goods merchants, grocers and boot and shoe men, jewelers, and all classes of business men declared that business was marvellously improved by the change.

LARGELY THE SAME TO-DAY.

I have not space to tell all that was then said, and from the testimony of disinterested parties the bettered conditions are largely the same to-day. If there has been any change for the worse since then, who is to blame? Who but the violators of the law? Liquor men have made Owen Sound their Waterloo, knowing that if they could discredit local option there they would discredit it in many another place. They have left no stone unturned to make local option a failure, and then they point to the results of their conduct and say: "There is local option for you." But notwithstanding all their nefarious conduct it is evident to every impartial observer that even in Owen Sound local option is still a great blessing to all law-abiding citizens.

In nearly all towns and cities it has been difficult to enforce prohibition at first, such as, for instance, Kansas City, Portland and Grand Forks, but after a while the recalcitrant citizens have been hunted to earth and now prohibition in these very towns is a glorious success. And so it will be in Owen Sound. Let the friends of local option stand by their guns. Let them fearlessly fight the traffic that mothers nine-tenths of the crime and poverty and misery of civilized nations, according to the testimony of Lord Coleridge, Baron Fitzgerald and others, and there will be a reward such as those only who fight for the uplifting of their race can ever attain.

NATHANIEL SMITH.

Toronto, Dec. 14, 1907.

ORONO BUSINESS MEN ON LOCAL OPTION.

About the same date there appeared the following in the Newcastle Independent:—

As it has been currently reported amongst the people of Newcastle that local option has greatly injured business in Orono and ruined the accommodation for the public, a number of leading business men in that village were asked to secure a statement from Orono business men and leading citizens as to whether these reports were true. From the following statement it will readily be seen that the aforesaid reports have never had any foundation in fact. The business men whose names are not on this statement were absent when the committee called to see them. Reliable men acted on this committee, and every signature is genuine, and was obtained when the statement was circulated, Dec. 12th, 1907.

Having been asked for our opinion as to the effect of local option on the trade of Orono since the passing and enforcement of the act, we the undersigned business men of Orono hereby assert that in our experience the trade of the village has not in any way been injured, neither do we believe that the trade formerly done here has been diverted to other places where liquor is sold. We further believe that our hotel accommodation is as good as it was under license, and is furnished at the rates usually charged in similar places:

A. W. Carveth, miller.
C. G. Armstrong, merchant.
J. Henry & Son, merchants.
T. Smith, jns. agent.
J.R. Cooper, merchant.
Jas. Campbell, tinsmith.
Wm. Cornish, baker.
F. W. Williamson, grocer.
J. J. Gilfillan, druggist.
T. W. Jackson, exp. agent.
C. Awde, grocer.
N.F. Hall, tailor.
R. Z. Hall, tailor.
R. Knox, tailor.
W. E. Davey, harness maker.
R. Hill, shoemaker.
Weston Andrus, pedlar.
J. E. Richards, barber.
D. T. Allen, wagonmaker.
E. Pinder, blacksmith.
L. Edwards, cooper.
R. Beer, agent.
Len. Gamsby, painter.
Mrs. H. Doncaster, milliner.
M. L. Travelle, tailor.
S. Cuttell, printer.
R. Moment, P. M.
H. Hooper, shoemaker.
C. Staples, imp. and hardware.
W. S. Gamsby, gardener.

The honest thinking man who desires light and facts instead of darkness and rumor has the information above. Surely these are the men to settle this question as to Orono.

A. V. Brown, Sec. Temp. Com.

MARIPOSA PLEASED WITH LOCAL OPTION.

The following statement was published several weeks ago by the Independent:—

Oakwood, Oct. 30, 1907

To the Secretary of the Dominion Alliance:

Do men gather grapes off thorns or figs off thistles? A corrupt tree cannot bring forth good fruit, neither can a good tree bring forth corrupt fruit."

Hence local option, being a good tree, its fruit is good. In the township of Mariposa, where such a law has been in operation for 15 years, most excellent results are being enjoyed. Certainly a little drinking is done in that there are those who would go to the ends of the earth in order to get a drink, but they do not have to go so far, as the town of Lindsay is only a few miles away. But there is very little to be obtained in the township itself. Inspector Thornbury, a live man and a faithful official, has impressed the three hotelkeepers in the township with the fact that it's at their peril that they dispose of the goods. And yet hotel accommodation throughout the township is No. 1. No complaints are made, and general business was never better than it is today, and the residents in very large part are well-to-do. And a drunken man is rarely ever seen, and our young men, the class most exposed and who sufier most, are in considerable numbers identified with the church and her work. There can be but one judgment to local option in Mariposa, and that is, it's a decided success. So fully is this the case that only the merest handful could be got to vote for the open bar.

Jesse B. Weldon, Township Clerk.
Pascoe Bros., J. P., general merchants.
A. Cameron, general merchant.
L. McPherson, general merchant.
L. McPherson, general merchant.
J. M. Dale, M.D.
F. J. Wherry, furniture dealer.
John Raymer, blacksmith.
G. B. Kennie, principal public school.
A. O. Hogg, postmaster, president Hogg & Lytle, Ltd., grain and seed merchants.
E. G. Lytle, secretary Hogg & Lytle, Ltd., grain and seed merchants.
Thos. Brown, Methodist minister.

LOCAL OPTION IN MIDLAND.

According to a fair, well written statement contributed to a Toronto daily, local option has improved the town of Midland, and the business men agree in the majority that it has benefitted them. The police court cases have been few, the hotel accommodation excellent, and the town assumed a greater aspect of respectability. At Midland an elegant and well appointed temperance hotel has been very satisfactorily catering to the public. The article referred to concludes: "There are three other hotels at Midland besides the one purchased by the syndicate. When local option was put in force last spring and the revenue from the bars was cut off it became necessary to cater more seriously to the entertainment and accommodation of the guests. There was a good deal of painting and papering done for this purpose, and one of the furniture dealers also did a remarkably good business for a while. There is a large boarding house business to be done here, besides the trade with the farmers.

The net result, therefore, of passing the local option by-law last May, it was carried by a vote of two to one, is much better hotel accommodation in the town, a marked decrease of disorderly conduct and cases coming before the police magistrate, and a gain to the retail merchants, the employers and the working men and their families. But the most important point about the whole situation is that alluded to by Magistrate Jeffery when he spoke of the necessity of strong and determined efforts to prevent the violation and practical nullification of the by-law by the illicit selling of liquor by those who were opposed to local option."

INDUSTRY AND THE BAR.

In the editorial columns of the Toronto News last week appeared the following:

Mr. John R. Booth, of Ottawa, is one of those men whom Carlyle calls Captains of industry. Thousands of men are in his employ, in the woods and at his great lumber mills beside the Chaudiere. Mr. Booth knows that the proximity of several drinking bars to these mills is not a good thing for his business. Accordingly he has asked the Ottawa City Council to do what it can to have the licenses of these hotels withheld. At the same time he has offered to pay over to the Council $2,000 to recoup the city for any financial loss it may suffer by the cessation of the license fees. The proposal is as interesting as it is original. Mr. Booth estimates that it is worth two thousand dollars to maintain the efficiency of his men. No tippler can be as efficient as if he were a sober man, therefore the open drinving bar is a foe to all industry. No revenue received from any liquor licenses can recoup a community for the loss to industry which the bar entails. Moreover, experience has shown that the expense of administering justice is greatly lessened when a municipality is freed of its bars. Those townships, towns and villages which will vote on local option by-laws at the first of the year should bear these facts in mind.

ON THE OTHER HAND.

The Barrie Advance publishes the following poser:—"According to the reports of the Department of Inland Revenue, just published, far more whiskey was consumed in Canada during the past year than during the previous one, though the number of municipalities under local option exceeded by a large number that of the former year. If that doesn't show that local option increases the sale of liquor what does it show?"

THE TREASURER OF TECUMSEH AGAINST.

Mr. Wm. McDermott, ex-warden of Simcoe County, and now treasurer of Tecumseh, writes in part as follows, to the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance:—

Gentlemen: * * * I have always advocated temperance and sobriety * * * However, I differ with you entirely as to the best means of combatting this "hideous monster." * * I am fully persuaded that local option, like the former acts, will be shorter lived and prove a dismal failure, and instead of increasing drunkenness will only intensify it, and for every licensed bar closed two or three dives or dens will be opened. For, as long as intoxicating liquors are manufactured, if not sold legally they will be illegally.

Have you ever considered the vast amount of capital invested in this country to provide accommodation in cities, villages and country places for the travelling public? This great amount of money would never have been spent by capitalists, and no such comfortable and commodious hotels would have been erected but for the incentive that their profits from the sale of liquors under license would assist in recouping the heavy expenses of erecting and maintaining them. Nevertheless, if local option would in some measure lessen the use of intoxicating liquor, it could be in some degree justified on the plea that the few should suffer for the good of the many.

But all history proves that prohibitory liquor laws are the offspring of foolish parents. For, there is something in human nature that resents coercion, and the old adage, namely, "The subject who is truly loyal will neither advise or submit to arbitrary measures," is an indisputable truism. The writer has yet to see the first man or woman reclaimed from drunkenness or debauchery by prohibitory liquor laws, but can point to many who through moral suasion by ministers, teachers, and laymen are now living godly, righteous and sober lives.

And if your organization would expend one tithe of the money and energy you are now wasting on the utopian and impracticable scheme, by sending even occasionally good, God-fearing, reasonable men to assist our ministers and others in pointing out and impressing on the masses the dire results of drunkenness, not only for time but for all eternity, you would then be doing a work well pleasing to God, and your fellow men.

You would then, not so now, be observing the Golden Rule, and doing unto others as you would they should do unto you. You would not then be injuring your neighbor and despoiling his property; you would not then be driving high-minded and honorable men out of the hotel business, and paving the way for an immoral and lawless class to take their place."

THE CONCLUSION OF THE WHOLE MATTER.

To an unprejudiced observer it would appear to be a matter of "which side of the fence you happen to be on," as to the view taken. This much, however, seems plain, that if there be sufficient public opinion behind local option it will be found to be beneficial to the community. If any community by a big majority show their desire for local option, and then honestly assist in helping carry out the observance of the law—then local option is a successful beneficial measure. It rests very largely with the temperance people and the moral citizens of the place by their assistance or lack of assistance to make or mar the working of the by-law.

DEATH OF MRS. McTAVISH

WIFE OF REV. DR. McTAVISH, FORMERLY PASTOR OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, LINDSAY

Rev. Dr. McTavish and Mrs. McTavish were for many years respected and beloved residents of Lindsay. Rev. Dr. McTavish had charge of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church for several years. They left here 15 or 16 years ago, and since that time have kept up the friendly connection and association with Lindsay people. The Toronto Globe of Monday publishes the following:—

Mrs. McTavish, wife of Rev. D. McTavish, D.Sc., pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, passed away yesterday morning in Baltimore hospital, after months of suffering, from cancer.

Her disease had been pronounced inoperable by physicians here, but the congregation of Central Church resolved to give their beloved friend every chance possible, and insisted on her going to Baltimore, in the hope that Dr. Halstead, the professor of surgery in John Hopkins University, and recognized as the foremost in the treatment of that ailment, might be able to cure her. The operation was successful, the wound healed perfectly, and the patient was doing well, but her heart failed, and during the past few days she gradually sank. When the end came she was surrounded by her family and other relatives.

Touching reference to her life and death was made in the church yesterday morning by the assistant pastor, Rev. John McNicol. Mrs. McTavish was a lady of most estimable and charming personality, her character enriched with many virtues, and she was particularly loved for her kindliness in all sorts of church work, and did a great deal of good in visiting.

Dr. McTavish's usual Christmas message to the children of the church was prepared even in the midst of his sorrow, and was read yesterday morning by Dr. McNicol.

Mrs. McTavish was the daughter of the late Rev. Dr. James Bayne of Pictou, Nova Scotia. Her brother, Herbert, was a professor for some years in the Royal Military College, Kingston. It was while she was living there that she met her future husband, then a student at Queen's University. She is survived by her husband and children, her sister, Mrs. (Rev. Dr. John) Neil and an unmarried sister of this city and a married sister in Winnipeg.

The remains will be brought home for interment, the family arriving in Toronto this morning. The funeral will take place from Central church to-morrow afternoon at 2.30 o'clock, Rev. John McNeil conducting.