

THE ACTON FREE PRESS

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The Liquor Business.

It is useless for any one to try to disguise the fact that the question of the legal prohibition of the liquor traffic is fast gaining strength throughout the whole country. As defective as the Dunkin Act admittedly is, the bare fact of its having received such very large support in places where the people have had an opportunity of expressing their views upon it at the polls, is such evidence of the unpopularity of the liquor business as to make the question of its entire abolition a matter of very serious consideration to those engaged in it. The prohibitory leagues have evidently been working so some purpose, and they are now beginning to see the good fruits of their labors. Last week an alliance was formed between the Ontario and Dominion Temperance Leagues, at a meeting of representatives in Toronto, for the more effectual promotion of prohibitory legislation. The adopted platform of principles adopted by the alliance evinces a determined disposition to urge forward the work until the desired end has been gained. While we sincerely hope that the accused traffic may be speedily abolished, we must confess that our faith in the practical working of a prohibitory law is not very strong. We fancy a little further tightening of the screws in connection with the present License Act would be nearly as effectual in limiting the actual traffic as an Act entirely prohibiting the granting of licenses. An illicit trade would be almost sure to be carried on, the effects of which would perhaps be fully as evil and as much to be deplored as the selling of liquor under a restricted license system. The rising generation are fast being educated to look upon drinking habits with aversion, and as the license restrictions become more and more stringent, and the facilities for procuring liquor more and more difficult, the drinking habits will rapidly disappear. Even within the past several years, it has been quite noticeable, especially in the rural districts, that a very small proportion of the bar-room drinking is done by young men; it is principally done by old toppers whose habits are so confirmed that no legislation on earth could prevent them getting their regular drams.

The following are the principles adopted by the Temperance Alliance, referred to above:

- 1. That it is neither right nor politic for the Government to afford legal protection and sanction to any traffic or system that tends to increase crime, to waste the resources of the Dominion, to corrupt the social habits and to destroy the health and lives of the people.
2. That the traffic in intoxicating liquors as common beverages is inimical to the true interests of individuals, and destructive of the order and welfare of society, and ought therefore to be prohibited.
3. That the history and results of all license laws in regard to the liquor traffic abundantly prove that it is impossible satisfactorily to limit or regulate by such means a system so essentially mischievous in its tendencies.
4. That no consideration of private gain or public revenue can justify the upholding of a system as utterly wrong in principle, suicidal in policy, and disastrous in results, as the traffic in intoxicating liquors.
5. That the legislative prohibition of the liquor traffic is perfectly compatible with national liberty, and with the claims of justice and legitimate commerce.
6. That the legislative prohibition of the liquor traffic would be highly conducive to the development of a progressive civilization.
7. That, rising above sectarian and party considerations, all good citizens should combine to procure an enactment prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating beverages, as affording most efficient aid in removing the appalling evils of intemperance.

Right Hon. Sir Hugh E. Childers was in London on Friday. He and his party whirled from Whitby to London, 110 miles, in 135 minutes. There were four stops and a delay of 10 minutes at Jettette Creek, which made the actual running time about a mile a minute.

PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITION EVER HELD IN CANADA.

OVER 75,000 PAID ADMISSION DURING THE WEEK.

The London Advertiser of Friday, says: Today the Provincial Exhibition of 1877 formally closed, and it is now in order to remark that it has been the most successful ever held in the Dominion of Canada, and, with the exception of the Centennial and some of the Great Western Fairs at St. Louis, the best on the continent. From every point of view is this remark true, whether we consider the number, variety and excellence of the staff shows, the amount of money taken at the gates, or the general order and completeness of the arrangements. During the week no less than 75,104 persons paid for admission, representing \$16,776, which is nearly three thousand dollars more than was taken at the second best fair, and this latter was also held at London. In speaking thus we are merely re-echoing the views of the newspapers all over the Province, even the Toronto press being compelled to admit that London "took the cake." The large numbers of visitors were fed and provided for in an excellent way. During a couple of nights there were more people in the centre of the city than there could find beds, but there was room for them if they had only known where to look for it. However, the authorities permitted the hotel bars to be kept open all night, and thus none were left without sleeping quarters. It is a congratulatory circumstance that there was so little drunkenness. Within the grounds we did not on any day see a person under the influence of liquor, and on the streets there was very few, comparatively, as the police records show. This shows the sobriety of the thrifty class, and is a feather in the cap of the people of Ontario. The various railroads centring in London were taxed to their utmost capacity in the carrying of passengers, and it is very fortunate that, owing to the completeness of the arrangements, no accidents of any moment happened. The wonder is that hundreds were not killed or wounded.

War Notes.

The hull at the seat of war in Bulgaria continues, and the attentions of the Russian commanders now are concentrated on the important preparations for going into winter quarters. It seems to have been a most questionable whether the winter quarters should be established to the north or the south of the Danube, the Czarvitch advocating the former position, but judging from the orders given for the construction of nearly two hundred miles of railway in Bulgaria, it is evident that the Russians will endeavor to maintain the advantages they have already gained to the South of the Danube, merely reserving the winter quarters to the north bank. Huts for a quarter of a million of men have been ordered, and hospitals for fifteen thousand.

The Russian left wing in Bulgaria have advanced their positions at Papanovo, on the left bank of the Kara Lom. Two hundred Turks have crossed from Silistria to Kalarash.

On Monday last the Russian force engaged in watching Kuchuk Pasad's army attacking the little near Kura, but was repulsed after five hours fighting with a loss of four hundred killed. An attack on the Russian right, towards Bayazid, was also repulsed. In this neighborhood the Cossacks are said to have killed forty-five Kurd chieftains in an Armenian convent, and to have burnt the dependencies of the monks, and ignominiously treated the Patriarch of Bayazid. The stories of Cossack atrocities in Bulgaria are confirmed by Mr. Ashbury, M. P. for Brighton, who is at Shumla.

Why Pay in Advance.

An exchange says: "Compare the publisher of newspapers, who has to go all over the country to collect his pay, to a farmer who sells his wheat on credit, and not more than a bushel to any one person. If any farmer will try the experiment of distributing the bulk of his wheat over two or three counties, with an additional bushel or two here and there in a dozen States, for one year, we will guarantee that he will never, after that year's experience, ask a publisher to supply him with a paper a year or two without paying for it in advance."

MANITOWA GRAIN.—Mr. Wm. Dredge, President of the Manassaw Agricultural Society, has just returned from a trip to Manitoba. He speaks very favorably of what he saw in the Prairie Province, and considers it in every respect exceedingly fertile and a desirable farming country. He brought home with him samples of fall wheat and barley, both of which are good.

The eight letters in the missing registered mail bag from Toronto to Montreal are said to have contained \$275.

The Harvest of 1877.

The harvest reports prepared by the Statisticians along the line of the Grand Trunk Railway confirm the already prevalent impression that the harvest of 1877 has been far more abundant than any enjoyed by Canada for many years past.

This is especially the case with wheat, of which both the acreage sown and the yield per acre were far above the average. Over 150 places in Canada are included in the report, and from nearly all of these, whether in the east, the west, or the centre of the Dominion, comes the same monotone but pleasant story of splendid yield and great breadth of sown. Even those places which do not specify the wheat crop in particular are fortunately able to report that other crops, both of grain and roots, are excellent.

The Montreal Gazette in a comparison of the crop reports of 1877 with those of the two previous years, shows that in 1875 out of a total of 69 places 32 reported the fall wheat crop as up to the average, 16 below, and 21 above; that in 1876 not one out of a total of 71 reported more than an average crop, while only nine were up to the average and 62 below it; and in 1877, out of a total of 75 not one fell below the average, while there were 26 up to it and 49 above it. The difference between this year and last is very marked, and that between 1877 and 1876 is also considerable, though the wheat crop of the latter year was on the whole not a bad one. Out of 107 places reporting in 1875, only 42 had a spring wheat crop above the average, while 55 came up to it and 10 fell below it. In 1876, out of a total of 105 only 6 showed more than an average crop, while the number below was 51. In 1877 only 8 out of 167 fell below the average, while 69 came up to it and 98 exceeded it. The contrast is not quite so striking in the case of oats, peas and barley as it is in the case of wheat, but even of these there appears to be this year a rather unusually abundant crop. As a rule, the returns show that grain of all kinds has been harvested in good condition, and that the sample will be as good as the yield is large.

Between Montreal and Toronto the number of places reporting an average yield of wheat and of those reporting more than an average is the same, and a similar state of affairs prevails in this district with respect to spring wheat. Between Toronto and Sarnia, and from Goddick to London, the fall wheat rose above an average in 22 places, and to an average in 14, while the spring wheat fell below an average crop in 5 places, came up to it in 20, and exceeded it in 10. Along the line of the Buffalo and Lake Huron branch of the Grand Trunk 17 out of 26 places report a fall wheat crop above the average, while the returns for spring wheat are scarcely, if at all, less favorable.

The aggregate amount of barley will probably fall short of what it was last year or the year before, notwithstanding the extraordinary yield, as the amount of land sown was very much less. The crop, however, it was grown, was uniformly good, there being no failures at all reported, and not very much damage from the wet weather, which in some districts has seriously injured peas. Of the latter the most favorable returns are from central Canada, and the least from Toronto and Sarnia. Hay is in Quebec a fair crop, from Montreal to Toronto, light, and west of Toronto a good average. Potatoes have been largely planted everywhere, and are represented as being an abundant crop, and as having suffered very little from the ravages of the beetle. The recent heat after heavy rains seems to have caused the appearance of rot in some districts, which what effect on the total yield remains to be seen. Root crops everywhere are abundant and of excellent quality, and so are fruits of nearly every kind except apples, which are reported almost a total failure in Western Ontario, below the average between Montreal and Toronto, and only a fair crop in the Eastern Townships.

On the whole the tendency of the returns is, as we have already said, to confirm previous estimates with respect to the general abundance of agricultural products of almost every kind. The farmers of the Dominion never had better reason to congratulate themselves on the return derived from their labor and outlay, and scarcely ever had they more need of an unusually abundant crop. The partial failure of last year, coupled with the effect of the prevailing commercial stringency, had brought to the verge of bankruptcy many who will now be able to recover themselves, while all classes of the community will share in the returning prosperity.

James Smith, of Galt, has been sentenced to three years imprisonment in the Penitentiary, having been convicted of stealing a steer belonging to Mr. Armstrong, of Beverly. The prisoner Smith is the same person who, in company with McCredon, was sent to the Penitentiary seven years ago on a conviction for rape committed in Galt.

Chief Joseph, of the Nez Perces, is believed to have made his way across the frontier into Canada. The Sitting Bull Commissioners were, at latest advices, at Fort Benton, waiting for an escort into Canada. Fresh measures by Indians are reported to have occurred on the Gill River in New Mexico.

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Pen and Scissors Selects.

The tax in Stratford this year is 18 mills.

The rule to quash the Dunkin by-law in Proulx was discharged.

The Premier is expected to pay either Montreal or Owen Sound a visit soon.

The public debt of the United States decreased during September \$3,882,524.80.

The number of fares collected on the street cars during the fair week in London was 30,000.

A Kennesawville man, Hector Robinson, got married on a Thursday and died the following Monday.

The "Rim" movement is meeting with much success in Ottawa, one thousand persons have signed the pledge so far.

The peace rumors in Cuba are said to be assuming a more definite form, and an early cessation of hostilities is anticipated.

The mortality in the Presidency of Mexico since the beginning of the year has been 2,000 persons, authorities at three-quarters of a million.

The yellow fever is still carrying off its victims daily at Fernandina, and Port Royal, South Carolina, is now visited by the disease.

Extensive forgeries on certain bank notes, similar to those recently committed in the Western States, have been discovered in Montreal.

The Dunkin by-law was submitted to the electors of Perth, the County town of Lauriat, last week, and defeated by a vote of 249 nays to 97 yeas.

The mail bag containing registered letters from Toronto and which was left for Montreal last Friday night has gone astray or been stolen.

The Montreal City Council has decided by a strictly party vote of 14 to 10 not to pay the volunteers for their services on the occasion of Hackett's funeral.

Mr. Rine held the first of his series of gospel temperance meetings in Ottawa on Saturday night. There were present 2,000 persons, present, about 175 of whom signed the pledge.

A well-to-do farmer's wife at Burford was recently caught tapping at a grocery store. On refunding about \$200, which she admitted to have stolen at various times, she was let go.

The large and thriving village of Putnam, in Eastern Connecticut, was nearly destroyed by fire on Sunday morning. The business portion is all gone, except the National Bank, and the new hotel. Loss about \$200,000.

The "iron horse" was in Millerton on Saturday, and will be in Listowel in a few weeks. The rapidity with which the road has been made in the face of not a little bad weather, is an example in railway making in Canada.

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The Guelph Abductor Case.

DISCOVERY OF A PLAN FOR STURDY'S ESCAPE.

GUELPH, Sept. 29.—The gnat authorities have discovered a well devised scheme for the escape of F. Sturdy, who is awaiting his trial for the abduction of Miss Carr. The gnat recently received information that something was afoot, and on Friday removed from Sturdy's cell Jeffrey, a prisoner who was confined with him on account of the crowded state of the gaol. After the removal the gnat spoke to Jeffrey, whom he suspected of complicity, and after a little conversation, the latter divulged the whole scheme. Sturdy offered him \$500 to aid in the escape. The offer was accepted, and Jeffrey got some of the hard labor prisoners to receive packages thrown into the yard. These were tied on a string let down by Sturdy from his cell, and by means of them he obtained ten small saws, putty, paint, brushes, charcoal, etc. Taking down from his corridor the board on which the prison rules were posted, he fastened it with pins so as to form a shelf under the dining table, and placed most of the things on the shelf, securing the saws in some dust near the hot air register. With the saws he started to work, but he was discovered by the warden, and he fled, but he was captured through the bars in one night, he would have filled up the cut with putty, and painted it over to escape detection. In case of failure he intended to put a blanket over the cell door, set fire to the charcoal, and die by its effects. Since his incarceration he has sent out a number of accounts to be collected. These were written on foolscap, the lines of writing being wide apart, and between he wrote to his friends, using joints from the cushions given him at his meals. Had the plot not been discovered Sturdy would undoubtedly have been a free man. He has been removed to a safer cell, and is now closely watched.

NARROW ESCAPE.—On Wednesday last Mr. Thos. Gowdy, of Guelph, had a narrow escape from losing his life at the Georgetown station. He, in company with Mrs. Gowdy, had just got into Clark's car, when a train of heavy freight cars, which was turning around, nearly round to speak to a gentleman sitting on the front seat, a dog jumped off the platform at the station among the heels of the horses. This frightened the animal, and he started off very rapidly. In turning quickly around Mr. Gowdy was thrown out, the hind wheel of the bus just scraping his right ear and bruising his head. He also received a slight injury to one of his legs. The very narrow escape was the effect of appalling conduct on the part of the driver. Mr. Gowdy is all right again now.

RAILWAY CONVENTION.—The representatives of the Grand Trunk and Great Western Railways last week held meetings in Sarnia daily, with closed doors, all proceedings being conducted with the greatest secrecy. On Friday the Presidents of both the roads, Sir Wm. Tyler and the Hon. Hugh E. Childers, issued instructions to their executive committees, and the latter, in a joint committee of the Boards for the better enforcement of these instructions. It is believed that this is but the introductory step to the establishment of a joint purse arrangement.

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The party papers are finding fault with Government officials who go to the political picnic to hear the speeches. The Guelph Herald is sorely troubled because the local postmaster and the local sheriff went to Galt to hear Mr. Mackenzie, the Kingston Whig is unhappy because the Hon. Sidney Smith, who is in London, attended a Conservative demonstration at Cobourg. It is not charged that these gentlemen took any active or prominent part in paying homage or getting up enthusiasm at the picnics; but that they simply were present to hear the speeches. While it is greatly to be desired that Government officials should keep themselves aloof from politics, it is surely going too far to ask for their decapitation on the ground that they have been auditors at a political speech-making. They might be much better employed, it is true, but there is such a thing as carrying a wholesome rule too far.—Toronto Telegram.

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St. John, Que., Sept. 28.—In the fire at St. Gregoire last night, out of 11 persons in the house 7 children and the servant woman lost their lives. Their remains have been recovered. The origin of the fire is unknown. It is thought that it sprang from the kitchen. The only man in the house managed to escape from the upper story by sliding down the spout. Mrs. Gouze, the mother of the children, managed to escape, and ran to the neighbors for help, but when they returned it was too late.

DEATHS.—In Acton, on the 25th ult., the wife of Mr. Allan Mann, of a daughter.

MARRIED.—In Nassagoy, on the 25th ult., the wife of Mr. Archie McPherson, of a son.

SCOTT—HENDERSON.—At the residence of Mrs. J. Henderson, Springfield Farm, Nelson, on the 24th ult., by the Rev. J. Gillette, William N. Scott of Milton, and Annie Henderson, daughter of John Henderson, Esq. of