

The Scott Act vs. Its Enemies.

A new exchange, evidently published in the interests of the hater, and the whisky business generally, and consequently an enemy to the Scott Act—the existing liquor law in Halton—has the following paragraph in its issue of last week:

The Scott Act has been carried in the County of Cumberland, N. S., by five to one in favor of the Act. This makes the eleventh county in Nova Scotia. The temperance people throughout the Dominion are organizing, and purpose submitting it in Oxford in a short time, and several other counties are to be petitioned at once.

Unless people interested in keeping this fascious Scotch-law out of our midst it will ere long get such a hold upon the politics, that by manipulation it can be kept law. Those who know the results of its enforcement need not be told it is the absurdity of moral law, to say nothing of its effect in driving trade from our doors to places where the law is not in existence.

We extend an invitation to you who do not know its effects to visit the County of Halton. Go to Milton, Oakville, Burlington, Georgetown, or Acton, and if those places endorse it, it will be from the fact that it is not from practical business observations.

The above paragraph deserves a few lines in analytical investigation on the part of the Free Press, in giving which, we will endeavor to give a correct meaning to the statements presented.

1. The Scott Act has been carried in the County of Cumberland, N. S., by five to one in favor of the Act.

This result, in a municipality situated in that part of the Dominion where the Act has been in force almost from the time of its adoption by parliament, doesn't speak very strongly in favor of returning to the old system of licensing the cursed traffic; nor is it much of an inducement for our people to work for the repeal of the Scott Act in Halton. The act was really carried in Cumberland by seven to one.

2. This makes the eleventh county in Nova Scotia.

Had the Act been found a "fantastical subverting law" where it has been before the people for such a length of time and practically tested in all its bearings, is it likely the eleventh county in Nova Scotia would vote against it? It has been carried by a majority of seven to one?

3. The temperance people throughout the Dominion are organizing, and purpose submitting it in Oxford in a short time, and several other counties are to be petitioned at once.

This fact alone very clearly and satisfactorily attests to the unprejudiced public that the Scott Act is proving a success where it is present in force, and it does much in the way of encouraging others who have the best interests of humanity at heart to work for the introduction of a law prepared with a view to assisting the weak and raising the fallen.

4. Unless people interested in keeping this fascious Scotch-law out of our midst it will ere long get such a hold upon the politics, that by manipulation it can be kept law.

We are not positively certain, judging from its grammatical construction, what the writer means to assert in the above sentence. However, the paragraph evoked are without doubt those engaged in the whisky business; and the fact that the Scott Act is building an effective barrier to that business is the reason it is a fantastical subverting law in the eyes of the "people interested." There's not the least doubt but that matters will be so manipulated that the Act will be kept law, and there is every reason to believe that it is not that hold upon politics.

5. Those who know the results of its enforcement need not be told it is the absurdity of moral law.

The writer should have added, "in the opinion of the people interested." But, have they any desire for moral law, or, in fact, any law, not even the Scott Act? Are the principles of morality very clearly laid down in the establishments of these "people interested"? Those who were acquainted with our county under the License Act, and who are sufficiently honest to judge impartially in the matter, know to their great satisfaction how absurd (5) is the moral effect of the Scott Act.

6. To say nothing of its effect in driving trade from our doors to places where the law is not in existence.

People interested may take investigators

provide they are satisfied these parties are not detectives—into their secret places and exhibit, with considerable gusto, a black bottle or two containing the prohibited article; but pause and reflect, did they require to take people so carefully into that dark back room, or that boarded a bedroom a couple of years ago, when license law existed? No. The county does endorse the Scott Act from theory and sentiment, but not from these standpoints alone, but from sound practical business and moral observations.

In conclusion, is not all this bitter hatred and constant harangue against the Scott Act, on the part of the people interested in the whisky business, evidence to our readers, of a very clear character, that the Act is most effectively diminishing the sale of intoxicating liquor, and that it is the most formidable enemy the traffic ever had in the Dominion, and lastly that the law is gaining such a hold upon public favor that the "people interested" are "compassing sea and land" in their endeavors to frustrate its designs, and to arrest its progress in being carried in any additional municipalities.

A PECULIAR FREAK.

A Toronto Girl, Dressed in Male Attire, Hires an Acton Livery Rig and Offers it For Sale at Guelph.

On Saturday morning last a well-dressed young man visited the livery stable of Mr. Edward Matthews, of this village, and hired a horse and buggy for the purpose, as he stated, of visiting friends residing in Nassagaweya. About five o'clock Mr. Matthews received a telegram from the Guelph City of Police, asking him to come and claim his property, as a young man had been arrested on suspicion, for offering it for sale at a ridiculously low figure.

The young man gave his name as James Murray, and stated that Dr. Wynn, of Nassagaweya, owned the rig, and had commissioned him to take it to Guelph and dispose of it to the best advantage, as he was removing to Manitoba. Suddenly it occurred to the Chief that the prisoner presented a very robust appearance about the chest, and being asked why so much clothing was wrapped about his chest, he replied that the doctor had ordered it, as a severe cold rendered it necessary to protect his lungs. The Chief finally accused him of being a young woman dressed in a man's clothes. This was at first denied, but soon the courage which had carried her so far gave way, and bowing into tears she admitted the truth, and after stating her name as Mary Bell, said she lived in Toronto, and ran a knitting machine in a genteel furnishing store there for the past five years; that she dressed in men's clothes last Friday morning and left Toronto for Acton, where, on Saturday morning, she hired the horse and buggy and drove to Guelph. The girl appeared before the Police Magistrate on Monday morning. She was still dressed in male attire, and had her hair parted at one side. She is full faced and rather good looking, and about 20 years of age. It was apparent she felt her position very keenly, and gave as a reason for her trying to sell the horse and rig that a mortgage on her sewing machines fell due on Saturday and she wished to raise money enough to pay it. She said she wished to be punished, but did not want her family to know of it. She was committed for trial. As she was conducted from the court room she cried bitterly.

It has since been learned that the unfortunate girl is a daughter of the late Mr. James Bell, who resided on the fifth and sixth concessions, Nassagaweya. It will be remembered that about six years ago Mr. Bell had his finger crushed so severely that Dr. Wynn, the medical attendant, found it necessary to amputate them, and prescribed carbolic acid as a wash. The bottle with the carbolic acid had been placed in the cupboard in which was a bottle of ether medicine, and by mistake Mr. Bell took the carbolic acid instead of the ether medicine, which caused his death.

The girl has always borne a good reputation in Toronto.

Miss Bell was bailed out of goal yesterday afternoon by her mother, and Mr. T. Wilkinson, of Toronto, the young man to whom she was engaged to be married next month. The party arrived here by the 5.30 train, secured a rig from Mr. Matthews, and drove to her mother's residence in Nassagaweya, about five miles west of Acton.

BIG BLAZE IN GUELPH.

Allan's Valuable Mill Property Destroyed.

About one o'clock on Saturday morning the large and extensive bedding mills of Mr. David Spence, Guelph, were discovered to be on fire. The alarm was immediately sounded, and five minutes later the firemen had arrived at the scene of the fire and the water was turned on to the building. So rapid had been the progress of the flames, however, that before this time they were shooting through the roof and windows, and the whole interior seemed to be one burning mass from basement to attic. Notwithstanding the strenuous efforts of the firemen for five hours, nothing was saved but the small west wing of the building, in which the office and a store room are situated. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

The building has always been known as Allan's mill, and was situated south of the G. T. railway bridge at the Guelph passenger station. It was erected a number of years ago by Mr. David Allan, and is said to have cost about \$100,000. The building is so well known that it is entirely unnecessary to describe it. It was one of the largest and finest mills in the province.

Mr. Spence puts his loss at \$40,000 on building and machinery, and the loss on stock at \$18,000 or \$20,000. There were about 15,000 bushels of wheat on hand, and 500 or 600 barrels of flour, middlings, and other ground stuff, not one particle of which was saved. The following is the insurance on building and machinery: Phoenix, \$4,000; Waterloo, \$2,000; Wellington Mutual, \$4,000; Royal, \$4,000; Millers', \$2,000. On stock: Imperial, \$4,000; North-west, \$5,000; Royal, \$7,000; Mercantile, \$2,000; Guardian, \$1,500; Fire Insurance Association, \$4,000; Total, \$25,000.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Youthful Depravity.

To the Editor of the Free Press. Dear Sir—It is an old saying, "When the cats are out the mice may play," that is, "Where law is absent rovers may prevail." In no case is this more truly applicable than in the village of Rockwood. I will venture to say, you might travel across the continent and you would not find a community where the youth was so completely outlawed as here. There is an utter disregard for all law and decency, and respectable people are snubbed on every hand, and cannot meet at any public gathering without having to put up with the basest insults. Officers of the law, there are none, except in name. What can you expect of the morals of a community when the Chief Magistrate himself has an utter abhorrence of everything sacred.

The Lord's Holy Sabbaths are spent by the youth in base ball playing, hunting, and drinking. Neighbors' geese and ducks are killed and taken to the "Devil's Well" and other places of secrecy, and plucked and roasted, and that too by sons of respectable people. Such is the state of affairs that it is not safe for a lady to walk the streets after night. In the interests of the safety and happiness of respectable citizens something should be done. But we are told, "if you want to save your head you had better let them alone, for anyone attempting to enforce the law would be mobbed." On certain occasions in this village one would imagine he was far away from all civilization, among herds of wild Indians. Now, sir, the foregoing are facts, setting forth the state of affairs in a village between two centres of civilization—the cultured city of Guelph on the one hand, and the quiet, law-abiding town of Acton, in the banner County of Halton, on the other—and not a dozen miles from either.

Rockwood, Nov. 20th, 1883.

BUSINESS BREVITIES

Some Facts about our Business Men and Houses, of benefit to our general readers.

—Hats from 75 cents to \$2.50 at J. Fyfe's.

—If you want a noble, durable and cheap suit, J. Fyfe's is the place to go.

—The largest and cheapest stock of Boots & Shoes to select from at Nelson & McRae's.

—The largest stock of Gents' Furnishings, Hats and Caps, Shirts and Drawers at Nelson & McRae's.

—The best value in Factory Cuttings, Wineys, Flannels and Domestic Goods at Nelson & McRae's.

—The largest and cheapest stock of Ready Made Clothing in the town is at Nelson & McRae's.

—Scotch, English and Canadian Suitings in great variety, at the East End Clothing store, J. Fyfe, Acton.

—The most perfect fitting suits and Overcoats, and the best selection of Goods at the lowest prices at Nelson & McRae's.

—Suits and Overcoats at extremely low rates and made in latest styles. Be sure to call and see them. J. Fyfe, Acton.

—The best assortment of Black and Colored Velvets, Ladies' Mantles, Woollen and Knitted Goods in the town at Nelson & McRae's.

—McQuillan & Hamilton of the Wellington Marble Works, Guelph, Ont., are doing the largest retail Marble trade in Ont., owing to the fact that they do the best work and sell the cheapest. The public are warned against dealing with second hand trade peddlars, but should go direct to the firm or buy from their agents. See the name, McQuillan & Hamilton, in our printed form before you sign or order.

First Relief ultimately a cure. These are the successive effects of one of the most delectable popular remedies in the Dominion, Nordrop & Lyman's Vegetable Life-giving and Dyspeptic cure, which reforms an irregular condition of the bowels and liver, invigorates the stomach, renews digestion, and changes the current of the blood from a sluggish and turbid into a pure, rapid, and fertilizing stream.

"Why should a man whose blood is warm with life, sit like his granduncle out in alabaster?" Or let his hair grow rusty, scant and thin, when "Cingolare Renewer" will make it grow the faster.

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AYER'S Hair Vigor

restores, with the gloss and freshness of youth, faded or gray hair to a natural, rich brown color, or deep black, as may be desired. By its use light or red hair may be darkened, thin hair thickened, and baldness often, though not always, cured. It cures itching humors, dandruff, and stimulates a weak and starchy growth to vigor. It prevents and cures scurf and dandruff, and breaks nearly every disease peculiar to the scalp. As a "Ladies' Hair Dressing," it gives the hair a beautiful gloss, and keeps it soft and pliant. It contains neither oil nor mercury, and imparts a delicate, agreeable, and lasting perfume.

Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass. Sold by all Druggists.

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Mrs. J. McPhee, Appin, writes:—During the last eight years I have used almost every medicine recommended for Biliousness, but found nothing equal to Carson's Bitters. If you suffer try it. Price 50 cents.

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FREE Dr. M.W. Bacon's Specific Modicoin. A guaranteed cure for Nervous Debility and Seminal Weakness, Hysteria, Neuralgia, Convulsions, and all brain and nerve troubles caused by self-abuse, over-exhaustion, &c. per A. writes a guarantee of cure in every case or money refunded. Send 15c. for postage on FREE TRIAL box of 100 pills. Address Dr. W. Bacon, care Clark St. and Calhoun Place, Chicago, Ill.

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In a hurried review of the 'Buried Cities Recovered,' I have found it a volume written in a clear, graphical style, beautifully illustrated, and replete with descriptions of the latest discoveries in the Holy Land. The work is written by Rev. F. S. DeHess, D.D., for many years American Consul at Palestine, and this fact itself should be a satisfactory guarantee for the excellence of the volume. To the biblical student and those who take pleasure in biblical subjects, the work will afford valuable aid, and cannot but yield a large field of intellectual argument to the cultured reader, and taken as a whole it is eminently fitted to stimulate the study of the inspired records of the Bible. The book is tastefully gotten up, with full legible type, heavy paper, good binding, and beautiful maps and engravings. With interesting and scintillating information the book is worthy of the widest circulation and perusal. H. P. MOORE, Editor Free Press, Acton, Nov. 23th, 1883.

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