

THE SCOTT ACT

The decisive vote in Halton yesterday to repeal the Scott Act will be a surprise to many. It follows close after the defeat of the extreme temperance party in the civic elections of Toronto. Whether these "two" are indicative of a "mighty reactionary wave" the world will not at present venture to predict. One thing, however, is certain, that the vote yesterday will have considerable influence in those counties that are about to submit the question of repeal to their electors, as Halton has been regarded as the "banner county" of the movement. The act has been in force there for six years and is considered to have had a fair trial. The result of that trial is its repeal.

The repeal of the act in Halton is the first really serious blow the cause has received. The moral to be drawn from the defeat is the old one—that a movement of this kind requires constant vigorous and united effort on the part of those engaged in its propagation. The Scott Act is an imperfect measure, but with all its defects it is an instrument for good; and we are sure temperance men will only be roused to fresh hope and determination by this disaster.

The coldness of Temperance Grits to punish Tories for preferring an anti-Scott Act Conservative to a Scott Act Liberal, may partially account for the result. These local causes cannot make the effect other than temporarily disastrous to the prohibition cause. The result in Halton will be generally accepted as an affirmative answer to the question "Is the Scott Act a failure?" Its repeal there probably means its repeal in Simcoe, Dufferin and other counties where contests are imminent. The Scott Act at best was an apology for prohibition. It failed, as all laws that arrest the traffic in bar-rooms instead of in the brewery and distillery must fail.

The vote of yesterday was somewhat of a surprise from the fact that the Scott Act advocates have been working hard during the last few weeks, while the advocates of the license system have kept very quiet. We have little personal knowledge of the facts of the Scott Act in Halton, but if it was not more effective as a prohibitory measure in Halton than it was in Simcoe and Kent last summer, the people of Halton have done well to get rid of it. There is some possibility that the lawyers may make a harvest by handling an appeal on the ground of informality in the petition for repeal. The Government has received regular petitions for repeal from Simcoe, Bruce, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, and defective petitions are also in hand from Huron and Dufferin. The example of Halton will probably affect the votes in the other counties.

Remember that the Scott Act has never been repealed. Surely Halton will not break the record of which we are so justly proud. Vote for the Scott Act and against the petition. Your country is looked upon as a pivotal point in the terrible struggle that the liquor traffic is making to secure the ground it has lost in our fair Dominion. You are voting for your homes—for the reputation of your county—for a cause that is noble and holy—but, remember, you are voting in a certain sense for the Province of Ontario and for the Dominion of Canada.

A fair majority in this contest will not be enough. Halton led in the great campaign of 1881. Halton was at the front in the tremendous contest during the winter of 1884-5. Halton has been chosen again as the scene of the opening of another desperate struggle between the powers of good and the powers of evil.

Taking everything into consideration, the six years of the Scott Act in Halton has been a prime factor in the great reduction of crime which has taken place in the county since it was adopted. The expense of maintaining the poor has also during its regime fallen to about one-fourth of what it was previously; while its enforcement has cost the county nothing, as the fines received have more than covered all the expenditure. In such circumstances it has been matter for not a little surprise and for great regret, that the result should have been what it is.

Yesterday was a very odd day for the temperance fanatic, the low illicit whiskey dive keeper, and the habitual voter of Halton county.

HALTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

- Report for February, 1885.
- 1st Class—Bertha Hamilton, Bertha Beard, G. Robertson.
 - 2nd Class—Ella Powell, Edith Harrison, Henrietta Hyatt, Bella Duff, Lena Lindsay.
 - 3rd Class—Harry Barclay, Robt. Galbraith, John Bydall.
 - 4th Class—Edith Moffat, Florence Leary, Clara Usher, Walter Bawa, Bella Robertson.
 - 5th Class—Edith Dewar, Clarence Fields, Clara Hamblin.
 - 6th Class—Glad. Lindsay, Annie Elmer, Joseph Toke, Hudson Bunn.
 - 7th Class—Albert Allison, Walter Brothers, Mabel Robertson, Annie Bisset, Thos. McDowell.
 - 8th Class—Ethel Andrews, Lill. Hith Robertson, Lottie Johnson, Joseph Johnson, John Robson.
 - 9th Class—Willie Anderson, Lorna Duff, Daisy Leeb, Willie Dixon.
 - 10th Class—Bella Sprout, Aggie Moffat, Willie Dow, Allan Bowman.
 - 11th Class—Howard Gray, Mil. For. Clendate, Kenneth Deacon, Jennie Mitchell.
 - 12th Class—Jas. Stevenson, Jennie Hamburg, Hannah Bush.
 - 13th Class—Annie Lindsay, Jennie Conway, Herbert Robinson.
- PRIMARY CLASSES.
- (1) Geo. Stevenson, Hugh Miles and Bertha Hamburg.
 - (2) Mina Scott, Boyd Wallace and Roy Sanderson.
 - (3) Arthur Chisholm, Isabella Dug. gat and Jennie Scott.
 - (4) Fred Bawa, Maud Martin and Louis McIntosh.
 - (5) Florence Johnson, Jno. Miles and Charles McNeil.
 - (6) Laura Scott, John Ryan.
- ATTENDANCE DURING FEBRUARY.
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| No. names on roll | 940 |
| Boys | 478 |
| Girls | 462 |
| Aggregate attendance | 5558 |
| Average daily attendance | 265 |
| Highest | 298 |
- H. GRAY, Head Master.

Appleby Public School

- REPORT FOR FEBRUARY.
- IV Class—Emily Williamson, Ida Prescott, Frank Walker, Charles Matthewsman.
 - III Class—Ada Heald, Walter Alton, Frank Wilkinson.
 - II Class (Sr.)—Fred Herrod, Winifred Cotter, Frank Herrod.
 - II Class (Jr.)—Adoh Breckon, Ella Williamson.
 - Pt. II—Annie Henderson, Frank Williamson, Howard Walker.
 - Pt. I—Eddie Breckon, Dan Henderson, Geo. Christopherson.
- Average for month 48.

The Defeat Was a Crushing One.

Halton after having the Scott Act well administered for five or six years, has been led into shameful captivity at the tail of a brewer's van. Had Halton proved true, the argument that is no county or city where prohibition had been once tried it had been condemned by the people would have remained unbroken, whereas now the record is as badly broken as it could possibly be by one county. Halton, having the most complete prohibition record in the country.

They Liked the Sauce.

The Bruce Herald says that eleven Chesley women drove over to Walker ton one day last week to take in the "sight" of the "country town." Before starting their telegraphed ahead to Mrs. Hartley to have dinner ready, at the same time informing her that they were members of the "Woman's Christian Temperance Union." The good lady got along finely in her preparations for the dinner till she came to the matter of the sauce. Then she was in a quandary as to whether she should put brandy into it. She finally decided to do so, and was pleased to see that the ladies enjoyed it immensely. She has a much better opinion of the Temperance Union now than ever before.

Yes, It Does Need Perfecting.

It is reported that, instead of introducing the prohibition question this session, the temperance members of the Dominion Parliament will endeavor to perfect the Scott Act. It needs perfecting. It never did amount to much, and it will stand a good deal of fixing up.

Right You Are.

The reaction in favor of common-sense temperance law in Ontario dates from March 2. It will continue.

Mr. Gladstone, in an article in the London Contemporary Review, makes another appeal to the Conservative party. He says the "home rule" question is one on which both parties can co-operate. Enlarging upon the arguments advanced in a former article, he observes that the vast tribute paid for many years by America to the landlords in Ireland had not checked the good temperance. Yet for the same America contributed recently the largest sum heretofore donated. Mr. Gladstone thinks that America suffers in her internal politics from the unsettled state of the Irish question, the action of the Irish in America being directed, not by American, but by Irish motives.