

**The License Question.**

When Sir John McDonald during the campaign, previous to the Dominion Elections, made the threat in his now-notorious speech at Yorkville, that "if returned to power he would pass an act taking the control of the liquor licenses from the Local government," we feel charitable enough to think he did not foresee the serious consequences likely to arise from such a measure. However, as he has started on his mad scheme, his late acts go to show, that he is determined to carry them out to the bitter end, and is bound to force the McCarthy Act upon the people, which is causing much dissatisfaction, not only to the temperance people, but to those engaged in the liquor traffic, who plainly see that it is a great injustice toward the provinces.

As to whether the McCarthy Act, as passed by the Dominion parliament, is valid, we do not, in the face of so many conflicting arguments, feel competent to offer an opinion, but, from the decision in the Hodge case, by the Privy Council, the highest court in the land, in which it plainly declared, that the Ontario Legislature had exclusive jurisdiction in the matter of dealing with the liquor licenses, there seems little room for doubting the legality of the Crooks Act, notwithstanding the opinion of the great constitutional lawyer,—as the admirers of Sir John are pleased to call him. It is now plainly seen by the people of Quebec, that something must be done in order to find some limit, after which the rights of the provinces must be protected, and even Mr. Meredith, the leader of the opposition has declared that Sir John has gone too far in this matter.

We think, the request of Mr. Mowat, in asking Sir John, not to appoint his officers, nor endeavor to enforce his act until a test case should be brought before the courts, a very reasonable one, and if such were granted, hotel keepers, and licensed victuallers would know just where they stand, and could govern themselves accordingly, but in the present condition of affairs, they do not feel safe in trusting themselves to the mercy of either, and consequently are compelled to take out their licenses by order of the Provincial and Dominion Legislatures.

No dealer dare ignore the Crooks Act, as he is sure to be fined under its provisions, and the decision in the Hodge case shows him that an appeal would be useless.

Then again, if he ignores the McCarthy Act, in case Sir John persists in his attempts to enforce it, he will be as surely fined by the Dominion authorities, as no justice of the peace will take upon himself the responsibility of declaring the act invalid.

While there are several points in the act, which should be met with favor by honest men, yet, as the Crooks Act is on the statute books, and has given very fair satisfaction, we look upon this last measure as one of spite, calculated to embarrass the Ontario government and throw it into confusion; nor does Sir John seem to care how much mischief he is the cause of, so long as he accomplishes his ends politically.

**LASKAY.**

(From Our Own Correspondent.)  
On Tuesday morning the 3rd inst., Mr. Lehman's dam gave way, the water wearing a large hole in the north side, but fortunately, Mr. Lehman got there in time to save it from being a regular smash. He secured the help of some of the village boys and has now got it repaired again and ready for grinding.  
Our Village Merchant drove up to Aurora to hear the Salvation Army shout the glad tidings of salvation, and came home a happy man.

**Manhood Suffrage.**

To the Editor of the LIBERAL:

DEAR SIR,—Presuming that the columns of your paper are open to the public, for the discussion of questions of public interest, I venture this note, which is but an inquiry. For, Mr. Editor, I have no settled opinion, upon this question, but my inclination is toward the losing side, or which will be the losing side when the subject of "Manhood Suffrage" comes before the people.

This is an age of progress, or at least of change. Half a century later, the student of history, will be better able to judge, than we can now, whether the ferment of to-day, in politics, in religion, in everything, is progress or mere restlessness. It is more than probable, that it will be found to partake considerably of the latter.

The change in political sentiment, is probably more marked than in anything else. The Radical of twenty years ago is a Conservative to-day, if he has not studied the questions of the passing years, and sought new occasions for Reform, as old grievances were redressed.

A political Rip. Van winkle, would not need to sleep twenty years to find himself forgotten by his friends. A ten year hibernation would find him clothed in the thread-bare costume of a forgotten political fashion.

I have been in the habit of calling myself a radical in politics, but find myself in danger of being left aground as the current of public opinion flows on.

Is manhood suffrage a necessary condition of a free people? I have always answered these questions with a decided negative, but what I have opposed is sure to be popular not many years hence, and sure to become law. It is unpleasant to realize, that you are opposing what is sure to succeed, but unless one has a very accommodating conscience, the mere popularity of a question does not make it right.

I am well aware that a step was taken in the direction of Manhood Suffrage, when the "Income Franchise" became law, but that law recognized the fact it is not the poorer class using the franchise we have to fear but ignorance using it, the class privileged to vote by that franchise being supposed to be generally intelligent.

Would it be safe now to extend the privilege to all? Is not the class that would be enfranchised by such a law, as a rule the most ignorant, and consequently might they not become easy tools of political demagogues? They have manhood suffrage, I know, in the great Republic south of us, but more than half of the States, are controlled by illiterate voters; more than three-fourths of the Senators and Representatives, are from States controlled by illiterate voters.

An American gentleman showed me, from census returns of the U. S. the number of native born and foreign whites, in several of the American cities. In a number of these, the foreign element outnumbered the native Americans, by a good many thousands—eight thousand in New York, if I remember rightly. We have all read or heard something of the mismanagement, and jobbery, in the government of these cities ruled by ignorant foreigners. "The condition of their wretched system of voting" said this American gentleman.

Have we not the same thing to fear in our own cities, if all had the franchise. The right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, the "Greater Commoner" has spoken in favor of manhood suffrage, and I reverence him as an oracle in politics. Mowat has shadowed such legislation, by some remarks of his this winter, and I regard him as an honest and shrewd statesman; but still I cannot bow in acquiescence till I am convinced by arguments. However, Mr. Editor, I am open to conviction. Perhaps some of your readers can throw light on the subject.

**INQUIRER.**

**THORNHILL**

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

We have learned that Mr. Thomas Lane has purchased Mr. Lymburner's farm consisting of 150 acres, for the nice little sum of \$12,000. We really think that Mr. Lane has succeeded in making a good bargain, as the farm is so nicely located, being on Yonge St., and within 1 1/2 miles from Richmond Hill. We wish him every success on his late purchase.

Mr. Edward Gallanough, Merchant, has gone to the City to attend to his duties as a Juror. We hope he may enjoy himself and act leniently with the poor fellows who are awaiting their trial.

**NOBLETON.**

(From our own Correspondent.)

Miss C. Card, of Woodbridge, has been visiting amongst her friends here for the last couple of weeks.

Mr. Thos. McDonald, of Newmarket, spent a few days amongst his many friends of this village, as also did Mr. E. Y. Godfrey, of Meaford.

On Saturday evening, 1st inst., about fifty of the Nobleton Elcesior Lodge of Good Templars paid a fraternal visit to Kleinburg Lodge. A very pleasant evening was spent. Several upsets occurred on the way home through the maliciousness of some evil disposed persons who went to the trouble of digging out one side of the road, making it impossible for a sleigh to pass over without an upset. Fortunately for them no damage was done. The names of the parties are well known.

The Nobleton Dramatic Club, assisted by Mr. J. W. Crossley of Springhill, gave a very good entertainment in the Music Hall in this village on the 27th ult. The proceeds were applied to the Band Fund.

A Public School entertainment will be given in the Music Hall on the 13th inst. A good programme is in course of preparation.

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