

**NEW ADVERTISEMENTS**

Farm for Sale—E. R. Reynolds.  
Undertaking—Thos. Wilson.

**The Liberal.**

RICHMOND HILL, Thursday, June 25, '85

**"OFFENSIVE INSOLENCE."**

It has been said that a well-dressed man, if he wrestle with a chimney-sweep, is in danger of being worsted even if he throws his opponent. This is the feeling that comes over one when called upon to rebuke our contemporary, the Markham Sun, for its self styled "Offensive Insolence." But if we are to touch pitch, let us remove our gloves if you please.

Smarting under the gentle chastisement we had to inflict in a recent issue for its coarse vulgarity towards a public man who had done so much good to his riding and country for having from the public platform exposed some of the more obnoxious features of the so called Franchise Bill, the Sun, while in private confessing the iniquity of that measure, renews its venomous attack at another point. Driven from the field on the Franchise Bill, the provisions of which he has not even dared to publish, he in turns us to another subject. A veritable "hare's nest" is found in the refusal of the Licensed Commissioners for East York to increase the Licensed Houses at Coleman's Corners, and Mr. Badgerow, our local member is, of course, to be abused for the crime. We are told "it is true that the Licensed Commissioners are primarily responsible for this gross wrong and secondly the Local Government, but the real hidden spring in this crookedness is the respectable and talented George Washington Badgerow;" and further he goes on to say, "under a law badly administered by bad men" (to wit Messrs. Jos. Gibson, Jno. McCaffrey, and Simson Rennie, the Commissioners) "this is the worst case we have heard of yet, and we hold that those who defend it are as bad as Badgerow, the License Commissioners and Inspector, and that the Local Government in permitting such malversation of authority are the worst of the lot."

Editorials, columns in length are thus poured forth in choice and pure Billingsgate in the last two issues but one of this eminently moral tory sheet, dwelling upon what it calls the enormity of "this monstrous case." And we are challenged, in name by this advocate for the increase in the number of Licensed houses, to produce, if we can, a "more detestable instance of the exercise of arbitrary power." The simple facts of the case are as follows:

A Mr. Digby applied last year for a license to start a hotel in a house at Coleman's Corners, now known as Little York. This house, be it remembered, was not then a licensed house, and had not been for years previously, and one hotel already licensed at that place having been thought by the Commissioners quite sufficient, the application was of course refused, as it ought. Application was again made by the same gentlemen this year, and consistently with their course of last year it was refused by the Board of Commissioners.

Let us now lift the veil to a further view. To the invasion of Provincial Authority the Tory Government at Ottawa, it will be remembered, passed an illegal Liquor Act, and sought to put it into operation a year ago. One of the prime missions of this Act seemed to be to provide a license for all "soreheads," and those to whom the legally constituted authority had refused to grant one. Among the many instances afforded was that of Mr. Digby. After learning that no license could be had for a second house at the place in question, that gentlemen obtained what was termed a Dominion License, and took a lease of the premises, as it is said.

This Act having failed to stand the crucial test of the courts, was declared ultra vires and unconstitutional, and Sir John, whom our contemporary would delight to honor, was driven to admit that he could no longer hold out on this question against the "little" Premier of Ontario, and all those who had been deceived and entrapped into a license under the Dominion Act had to go the wall.

And yet, forsooth, the Sun, after the Tory party having worked the ruin of Mr. Digby and under false pretences led him into an untenable position, will have the cool effrontery to charge the blame upon Mr. Badgerow, the Licensed Commissioners and the Provincial Government. If Mr. Digby himself had thought it was the Local authorities that had wronged him, why, when he read from

the newspapers the announcement made by Sir John in the House at Ottawa that he had given up the ship, did that gentleman, in a fit of desparation, seize from the walls of his bar-room the flaming likeness of Sir John A. Macdonald, G. C. B., and trampling it under his feet declare that it was he (Sir John) and his party that had worked his (Mr. Digby's) eternal ruin. We are in no doubt that the case of Mr. Digby is a hard one, but it is not an isolated one, there are many such, and the Tory party have the reckoning to make. Sir John knew well it was the Local and not the Dominion who had the authority to legislate on the License Question; but it mattered not who else were slain, he had a political object to serve at the time, and it was served, and these are now among the banes of his many deceived followers, which lie bleaching on the plains. If a wrong has been worked upon Mr. Digby, if there has been "crookedness," if it be a "monstrous case," Sir John and his party are those primarily responsible, and it will not do to seek to wriggle out of it after so miserable a fashion. We respectfully accept the challenge made by our contemporary, and present this case as the "most detestable instance" of the exercise of Arbitrary Power," except, perhaps, that of the passage of the Disfranchising Bill, the like of which there is nothing in the heavens above nor under the earth beneath. Having made a plain statement of the facts which are due to the public, we refrain from closer familiarity. The shafts of our contemporary, though dipped in venom, have fallen short of the objects of their aim. Our Commissioners have nobly done their duty in this instance. It is the present policy of the law to decrease rather than increase the number of liquor licenses, and we hope the authorities will remain firm on this question and not allow themselves to be bulldozed into a course of wrong-doing. It is needless for us to say one word in favor of men of such high character and worth as Mr. Jos. Gibson, ex-reeve of Yorkville, Mr. Jno. McCaffrey, J. P. of Markham, and Mr. Simpson Rennie, J. P. of Scarborough. They are known to the public, and gratuitous insult of these men from the Markham Sun will be justly rebuked by Conservatives and Liberals alike, and it should be taken as a compliment to the riding that Mr. Badgerow has recommended men so capable and upright for appointment to the responsible and honorable position they hold as Commissioners.

Go on we say License Commissioners, and do right, take a straightforward course as you have done in this matter, and you will find as you now do an approving public behind you. The roadside curs of society will have their snap and their bark, but they don't make public opinion.

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