

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

Patrons of Industry—A. Summerfeldt,
Berries—Wm. Harrison.
Entrance Exams.—J. A. E. Switzer.

The Liberal.

RICHMOND HILL, Thursday, June 23, '92

Some of our citizens have shown enterprise this summer in the way of setting out young cedars for hedges. No nicer hedge can be found than well trimmed cedar, and the wonder is that more people do not beautify their surroundings, when the shrubs may be had for the hauling. It is almost safe to say, if they had to be purchased at a high price from some foreign nursery there would be more planted. This is a case in which abundance should not detract from real worth.

It will be well for store-keepers to bear in mind that the act passed by the Ontario Legislature at its last session relating to the selling of tobacco to minors goes into effect on the first of July. The penalty for selling to a person under 18 years of age may be a fine or it may be imprisonment. If the former, the fine shall not be less than \$10 nor over \$50. The imprisonment is limited to 30 days. Don't let any dealer say he was ignorant of the law in case he is found breaking it.

In a few more days it is hoped that the price of strawberries will be within reach of a person with a moderate income. Then may common people expect to get something more than a glance of the fragrant fruit in shop windows, and the rhubarb crop will be allowed to go to seed. We are in perfect sympathy with the boy who exclaimed from the depths of his heart "O! that strawberries could always be had at ten cents a basket, and rhubarb were never less than five cents a stalk!"

Many Canadians will learn with regret that the Hon. Edward Blake has decided to leave the land of his birth to enter the arena of politics in the Imperial Parliament. Although his success as a party leader has been limited in this country, all classes of the community recognize in him a wonderful intellect, and a character which, in public or private life, is unimpeachable. Probably no other person ever sat in the Canadian Parliament, on either side of politics, whose speeches on great questions were looked forward to and listened to with greater interest than those of Mr. Blake. In case that Mr. Gladstone be successful at the coming general elections there is no doubt of Mr. Blake's being offered a seat in the cabinet, in which case he will be a good authority on colonial affairs, especially on the question of Home Rule. But should Mr. Blake get mixed up in English and Irish politics he will find that the position is no sinecure, but on the contrary, one of great responsibility. Canada, from all parts, will unite in saying Godspeed to one of her greatest sons.

UNJUST CRITICISM.

The Templar, a weekly paper published in Hamilton, claiming to have for its aims the promotion of sobriety, christian brotherhood, &c., never loses an opportunity to sneer at Sir Oliver Mowat and his "Evidences of Christianity." In its last issue it refers to him as a "Christian Premier who champions the faith," but goes on to say that "It is no evidence of christianity for Sir Oliver Mowat and his Government to be in partnership with the devil in prosecuting the most prolific and successful business of hell. Sir Oliver can prove his right to a chivalric title and give a stronger evidence of christianity than all the lectures of a lifetime by simply dissolving partnership with the cursed liquor traffic, and declaring that if

it must exist it shall exist without his sanction or consent," &c.

From the above intemperate language it would seem to us that the writer was actuated more by a desire to serve some party ends than to promote the cause of temperance or purity. The paper throws out the hint that if the liquor traffic must exist it should exist without Sir Oliver Mowat's sanction or consent. In other words it means that the Mowat Government should step out of power to make way for their opponents to step into their places.

Should Mr. Mowat be defeated to-morrow, Mr. Meredith would take his place. We have not one word to say against the latter gentleman here, but does any person pretend to say that the cause of temperance would be safer in his hands than in the hands of the present Premier of Ontario? No person who has the temperance question at heart would ever dream of making the change. We care not what Premier may be at the head of affairs, or how much he may be personally in sympathy with the total prohibition of the liquor traffic, his hands are tied unless the electors of this province stand at his back.

The same journal quotes a resolution passed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, and in commenting on it says that measured by this resolution, "Sir Oliver has no right to expect the support of Christian men."

We would ask The Templar, if Sir Oliver is not to receive the support of christian men in this country to whom is their support to be given? What public man in Canada has ever taken a firmer stand on questions of temperance and morality than the present premier of Ontario? We are free to admit that temperance has not made such rapid strides as earnest workers in the cause desire, but honest men who weigh the matter carefully and without prejudice will not lay the blame on a man who has done so much for what they are striving for. It is difficult to find a politician a better type of manhood than Sir Oliver Mowat, and it ill becomes any public journal to sneer at his "Evidences of Christianity."

THE LIBERAL in a previous article mentioned some of the temperance Acts passed by the Mowat Government. We here repeat some of the work done: They removed the power exercised by the liquor interest over our Municipal Councils. They created Boards of Commissioners and Inspectors free from local control or interference, with instructions to enforce the stringent provisions of the License Act. Reduced the number of licenses to be issued, and limited their issue to a population basis. They gave power to Municipal Councils by by-law or to the Commissioners by regulation to still further reduce the number. They gave authority to any ten electors of any polling sub-division by petition to object to any license being issued within the sub-division, and power to the Board to grant the petition. Prohibited the issue of licenses or the sale of liquors in Agricultural or Fair grounds. Prohibited the sale of liquor on Saturday nights and Sundays. Also on election days—Parliamentary and Municipal. Improved the accommodation of all taverns, and imposed penalties for drunkenness and disorderly conduct. Separated the sale of liquors from the sale of groceries and other goods. Prohibited under penalties loitering in bar-rooms on Saturday nights and Sundays. Prohibited the organization of clubs with the object of selling liquor, with a view of defeating the License Act. Provided for the punishment of purchasers of liquor, as well as sellers, on Sundays, or from unlicensed parties. Increased the facilities of law against tavern-keepers who sell liquor to those who drink to excess. Provided for the appointment of commissioners and inspectors to enforce the provisions of the Canada Temperance Act of 1864. In addition to the foregoing and many other measures, Mr. Mowat saved the power of the Local Legislature to control the liquor traffic by his determined action in contesting two great constitutional questions. One was the power of the Local Legislature to appoint commissioners to pass restrictive regulations respecting taverns; the other was the authority of the Dominion Government to override a Provincial law or interference in the local question of granting licenses. Mr. Mowat has also given Municipalities the power to strictly prohibit the sale of all intoxicating liquors by a by-law to be carried by a majority of the electors.

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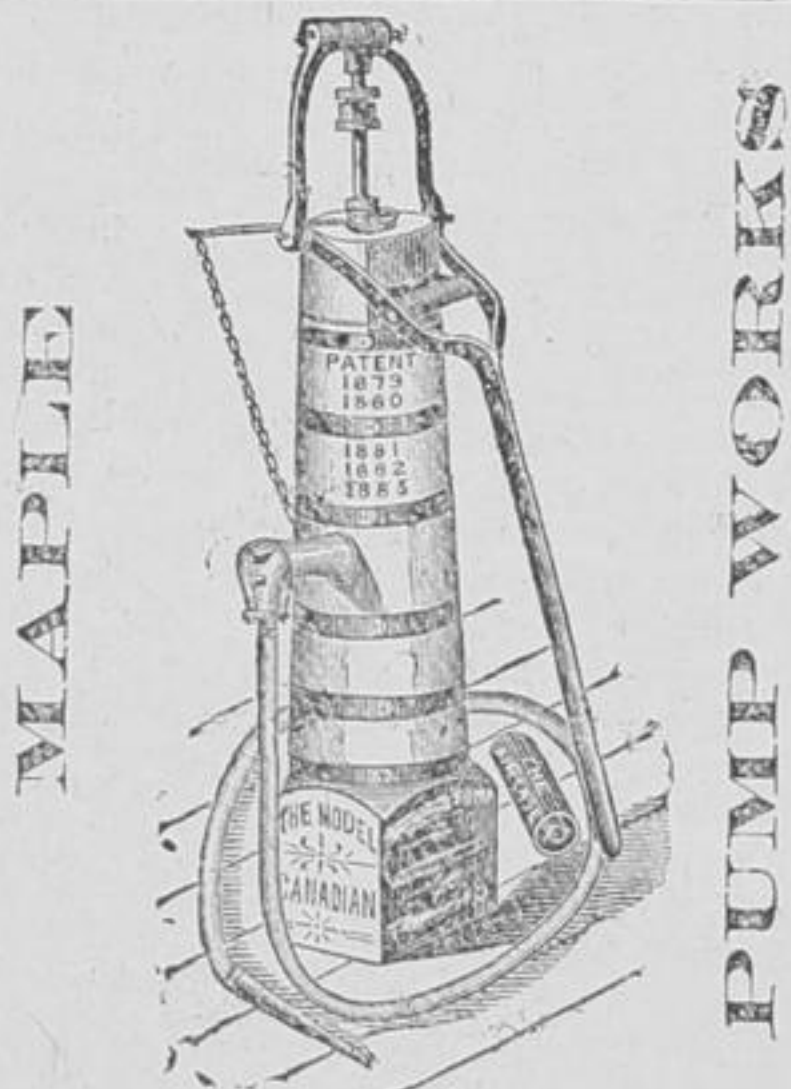
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