

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

Voters' List—J. M. Lawrence.
Lost—J. Ellston.
Farm for Sale—B. Redditt.
Change—Atkinson & Switzer.

The Liberal.

RICHMOND HILL, Thursday, July 13, '93

A PROHIBITION EXPERIMENT.

Prohibitionists will score a victory in South Carolina should their present effort to curtail the liquor traffic in that state prove a success. In the recent political campaign the Democratic party was divided by internal dissensions having reform, and conservative elements in strong opposition to each other. The prohibition party, though far from being strong, held the balance of power between the factions. To get the support of the temperance element both parties were ready to promise anything that they demanded. When the Legislature was called together it was found that temperance men on both sides of the House formed a substantial majority in favor of prohibition in some shape, and were pledged to obtain it. As this unexpected union in the solution of the liquor problem was more from political exigencies than from temperance principles, the House resolved to give no more than they could help toward that solution. Under the circumstances a compromise was accepted by the temperance men, and a law has just come into force making the government the liquor selling landlord for the state. Under the provisions of the new law the state will assume complete control of all the liquor sold. It will buy its own liquors, which are to be pure and unadulterated. It will have its Board of Control, consisting of the Governor of the State, the Comptroller General, Attorney General and Supervisors. It will have its agents in every town or city where the sale is required, but there shall be no dispenser or sale unless by local option the municipality declare by a majority of its freeholders that an application for such an establishment should be made. When established agents are to sell only under certain rules. They must close their places of sale at 6 o'clock p. m. No liquor sold after except in case of sickness. Every bottle must be obtained by written application. No body is allowed to buy a second bottle that day. The liquor is all sold in bottles and a half pint of whiskey is the smallest amount sold, for which the buyer will pay 20 cents. The rates will be 40 cents per pint, 75 cents per quart, \$3.00 per gallon. Out of this the state expects to clear 100 per cent. After paying all expenses in putting the law into force and carrying out its provisions, the government expect to realize a revenue of \$500,000 a year.

The experiment will be watched with a great deal of interest by all who desire a curtailing of the liquor traffic and its deplorable results. In the undertaking the dispenser being a salaried agent of the government has no inducement to push the sale beyond its limitations, and the state will not only realize a handsome amount of revenue, but by the diminution of crime will save in the administration of justice and in its provision for criminals.

It was unfortunat that the Christian Endeavor Convention which opened so happily in Montreal last week should have such an unpleasant ending. The Catholic Mayor of the city extended an exceedingly warm welcome to the 15,000 delegates in attendance, and everything worked harmoniously until a Hindu clergyman made some uncomplimentary remarks in reference to the Roman Catholic religion, comparing the latter to the heathen form of worship of former times. The rev. gentleman made a speech on miss-

ionary work in India in which he used these words which are said to have been the original cause of the trouble: "There is a remarkable correspondence between Romish worship and Hindoo worship. Romanism is but a new label on the old bottles of Paganism, containing the deadly poison of idolatry. Often the Hindoos ask us, when seeing the Romish worship, 'What is the difference between Christianity and Hindooism?' In India we have not only to contend with the hydra-headed monster of idolatry, but also the octopus of Romanism."

The words, certainly, were ill-advised, and the speaker must have known that such expressions would give offence in the heart of a Catholic province. On the other hand the assault made by those whose feelings were injured was a disgraceful exhibiton of a class of the citizens of Montreal. Had the insulting parts of the speech been passed by unchallenged by the convention the whole body would have been held responsible, but this was not the case, as it was at once shown that the meeting disapproved of the offensive language. The deplorable occurrence can no more be justified on the ground that those who threw sticks were provoked to do so, than were the Toronto roughs when they stoned Mr. Wm. O'Brien, the Irish Home Ruler, because, as they said, he had threatened to speak disparagingly of the then Governor-General of Canada. Such bellicose exhibitions of fanaticism are disgraceful, and those who take part in them may be placed among the ignorant classes, even if some of the participants appear on the scene in kid-gloves or silk hats. If harsh words cannot be combated by argument, the throwing of missiles will scarcely prove effective.

The Aurora Banner had a praiseworthy article last week, in which it condemned the foolish practice of signing petitions in order that criminals may be shielded from their just punishment. A few days before, a Whitechurch man was found guilty of receiving a set of harness knowing it to have been stolen, and was sentenced to six months in the Central Prison. At the same assizes an associate was convicted of having broken into a house while the family was at church and stealing \$121 in cash, for which he received the light sentence of three months in the common jail. Men signed the petition for a light sentence who knew that the township had been infested for the past two years by a gang of thieves, some of the petitioners having actually had their premises robbed only a short time before. It is surprising that many men will voluntarily endeavor to screen culprits guilty of robbery, forgery, or any other crime in the calendar, even though their best friends may be the victims. Harsh treatment should never be encouraged, but when an individual is proven guilty of having acted the part of a scoundrel towards his neighbor, as in this case, there should be no compromise with the offender. If the residents were anxious to do a kindly act for a fellow-man it would have been more in keeping with true manliness to have assisted in replacing the \$121 stolen from a worthy young farmer just starting in life. People should think twice before signing petitions.

Tuesday morning's despatches contain an account of a terrible fatality at the World's fair grounds, Chicago. By the burning of the immense cold storage warehouse a dozen or more firemen lost their lives. They had climbed the cupola in order to combat the flames, and were cut off from all means of escape by a sudden outburst of flames.

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