

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

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The Liberal.

RICHMOND HILL, Thursday, May 2, '96

THE QUESTION OF PROHIBITION

The report of the Prohibition Commission has been completed, and handed in to the Dominion Government. The Majority Report is in 5 volumes, containing 7000 pages, and this, with Dr. Macleod's minority Report has cost the country about \$70,000. Doubtless there is a good deal of useful information in the Reports with reference to the temperance cause, but with all the money that has been spent, and all the time taken up in compiling the exhaustive work, it would seem that the inquiry has done little more than to bring out the individual opinions of the five commissioners. The commission consisted of four men who had little faith in prohibitory measures, and one enthusiastic prohibitionist, and the reports show that each member of the commission holds the same opinion relative to the question that he did before they began to take evidence.

Dr. McLeod expresses regret at the conclusions reached by the majority of the Commission. He believes that a careful examination of all the evidence heard, and of the mass of other facts collected makes sufficiently clear the rightness of prohibition as applied to the liquor traffic, and that thoroughly enforced prohibition would be the effective solution of a serious problem. He quotes the experience of the United States, and gives the statistics bearing on the question, in several tables, and shows that the penitentiary convicts in all the license states were .75 per thousand of the population. In prohibition states, .33 per thousand of the population. The prisoners in the jails of all license states were .37 per thousand of the population, and in prohibition states, .24 per thousand of the population. The population of prohibition states is one-twelfth of the whole country. In regard to Maine, it should be borne in mind that importation of liquors into that state is practically free. The effect of the Maine law upon all classes of the community, and upon the commercial and moral life of the people is fully set forth as well as the statistics of crime, pauperism, and illicit liquor selling. The commissioners cannot avoid the conviction that the prohibition law of Maine, despite defects and many infractions, has been, and is a marked success. The condition of affairs in Vermont, New Hampshire, Iowa and Kansas, is exhaustively discussed, and the result of his observation in the prohibitory states visited by the commission have not impressed him that the law in any one of them is perfect, either in construction or operation. Other things being equal, it would be reasonable to expect better general results from a law enforced under the Canadian political system.

At the last session of the Ontario Legislature an Act was passed which makes a considerable change in the basis on which the Government grant is hereafter to be paid to Mechanics' Institutes. Formerly, the Government gave a grant on the basis of membership, as well as a grant for the purchase of books. In future the sum of one dollar will be allowed for every dollar expended in the purchase of books, but so as not to exceed \$200 in the case of cities, \$150 in the case of towns, and in all other cases \$100. The Richmond Hill Public Library will therefore lose its annual grant of \$50 for membership. Whilst we are not prepared to say

that the Government is acting unfairly towards the former Mechanics' Institutes, there is no doubt that the change in the law will be the means of wiping out many public libraries in small places. For many years the Government has been most liberal with regard to the encouragement of good reading matter.

Maple

An interesting event took place at the residence of Mrs. M. Lines on Tuesday evening, at 8 o'clock, the occasion being the marriage of her daughter Lucy, to Mr. Joseph Cousins, of Woburn, Scarborough. The bride was attended by her sister, Miss Emily Lines, while Mr. T. McCormack acted as groomsman. The ceremony was performed by Rev. A. Bedford. After the ceremony, the guests sat down to a rich repast, after which the happy couple left amid showers of rice and old shoes, for their future home in Scarborough.

Work has been commenced on the new houses of Mr. J. Kirby and Mr. L. Richardson, the stone walls for the cellars being almost completed.

Mrs. W. Cook, Miss E. Evans, and Miss Ida Melish, of Carrville, were in our village on Monday evening, and attended the meeting of the E. L. of C. E. Rev. A. and Mrs. Bedford attended the meeting of the Women's Missionary Society, in Eglinton, on Tuesday.

Rev. M. Fawcett, of Toronto, is expected to preach in the Methodist church next Sunday morning.

Mr. E. C. Bosh, of Midland, is spending a few days in the village.

Sherwood

Everything is very quiet around this place as its inhabitants have given up sitting on the fence and expecting miracles to fill their cellars with corn, beans and potatoes, but have industriously started to plant their gardens and fields.

The services of the Christian Endeavor was very well attended by the young people on Sunday evening last. The pastor took up the following subject: "The Word of God," showing its advantages, its promises and its practical quotations. The collections for Foreign Missions amounted to \$6.50.

Florence, the eleven month old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Wiles, of Woodbridge, was laid to rest in the Lutheran Cemetery on Tuesday last.

Our genial proprietor has moved his rustic summer house to a better position, and now may A rest in ease and peruse the Leader and Recorder, of Toronto Junction. We wish him more success next time he borrows a livery rig.

Malcolm, our industrious farmer, has purchased a new cart, the change of whose wheels will have no effect. Malcolm did always like to be on the safe side.

Here are some questions which at present claim the attention of our citizens:

What will be the result if Mr. Clarke-Wallace resigns?

Where are the pathmasters on some of the beats?

Who is the local correspondent from this place?

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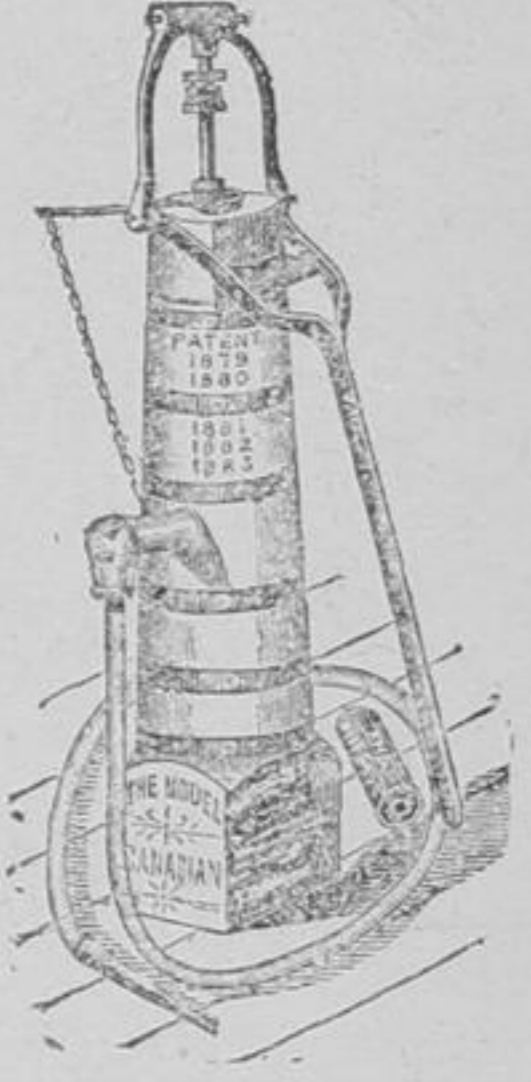
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