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"In Essentials, Unity; in Non-Essentials, Liberty; in all things, Charity."

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Our Ottawa Letter.
The Prohibition Plebiscite has been taken, and although at the time of writing the returns are very incomplete, enough is known to indicate that of the actual number of votes cast, a majority is favorable to a prohibitory law. Such of the returns as are complete appear to indicate that the vote cast in the four Provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island—where a Prohibition Plebiscite has been previously taken—is in about the same proportion to the total on the lists as it was before. If this is so, prohibition sentiment has certainly fallen off considerably, in the first three of these Provinces, for the majority in Ontario is over 30% less than it was in 1894, in Nova Scotia it is less than two-thirds and in Manitoba 25% less, the Island Province alone having increased its majority.

A COMPARISON OF FIGURES.
When the last vote was taken only 47% voted, of which 31% favored prohibition. Taking the total electorate and the total vote cast, at the same figures, the proportion favorable to prohibition in these four Provinces as shown by Thursday's vote has dropped from 31% to 26%. The total majority before, in favor of prohibition was 129,000 now it is but 45,000, though the completed returns will no doubt increase this, but there is no likelihood and scarcely a possibility of coming within 50% of the former majority. Against this 45,000, the adverse majority of 40,000 in Quebec alone has got to be reckoned with, when considering Dominion legislation. The Provinces of New Brunswick and British Columbia, and the Territories will show a narrow majority in the affirmative, but the most ardent prohibitionist is not sanguine of more than 25,000 or 30,000 majority on a total voters' list of over 1,300,000 will scarcely be considered a guarantee that a prohibition law if placed on the Statute books would receive that practical support from the community without which no law can possibly be operated successfully.

THE QUEBEC CONFERENCE.
The proceedings of the High Joint Commission in Quebec continue to be well guarded and practically nothing of an absolutely authentic character has as yet been made public. Still with so many newspaper correspondents on the spot, and so many deputations and representative men in attendance, a certain amount of fairly reliable information must leak out, and the net result of this week's rumors may be considered entirely satisfactory. The correspondent of one New York paper has gone so far as to announce the course decided upon in every one of the dozen or more important questions on the agenda, concluding with the gratifying but somewhat startling announcement that a general treaty has been drafted and in fact everything is practically over except the shouting. This, of course is an impossibility; if the Commissioners arrive within measurable distance of this universally desired goal by Christmas time they will have done admirably well. But making allowances for all exaggerations there seems excellent reason to accept the general correctness of the assertion that the negotiations are progressing with reasonable celerity and without serious hitch, in spite of persistent endeavors of a section of the public press to discredit the Conference, endeavors which under the circumstances can only be stigmatized as utterly disreputable. The hope and belief is daily growing stronger that a greater measure of success will crown the efforts of the plenipotentiaries than was at one time looked for, by even the most sanguine.

THE POLICY OF THE OPEN DOOR.
What are the protectionist organs trying to get at anyway, in their constant deprecatory reference to the fact that Canada's trade with the United States is steadily increasing? That's just as it should be. The purpose of the reforms of the Liberal tariff was not to close any avenue of trade; a cardinal principle, in every Liberal trade policy is that the fewer artificial restrictions the better, that trade should be left as absolutely untrammelled as possible, and allowed to find its own natural outlet. That is the principle upon which Great Britain has risen to such universally recognized supremacy in the commercial world and had held her own against all kinds of artificial barriers up to the present day, enjoying now an era of unexampled prosperity. Such is the policy toward which the Liberal party is striving and if one of the earliest outcomes of the partial modifications already enforced has been to develop one section of the market it has only done that which was expected. If by further removing the barriers the condition of Canada's trade can be yet more improved the Government will doubtless be prepared to go on with the work, and the country will sustain them. If how-

ever our neighbors to the South should show by their demeanor that they still labor under the delusion that we cannot do without their trade no matter what the price, all that remains for us is to go our own way as in the past, until the work of education is a little further advanced, and the Republic as a whole thoroughly understands that which it is realizing more every day, that Canada is its commercial equal, and as one of its best customers is to be sought after and propitiated, and that there is no section of the community prepared to surrender its birthright for a mess of pottage or anything else.

CABINET MAKERS BUSY.
The silly season does not appear to have terminated yet, for to-day the old story is revived that Hon. Minister of the Interior is to retire from the Dominion Cabinet for the purpose of succeeding Mr. Greenway as Premier of Manitoba and leader of the Government forces in the next Provincial campaign. Mr. Greenway retiring on account of ill-health. The details of the story are nicely arranged and in fact it lacks nothing but one essential of truth, of which not a particle exists therein. Of course it is easy to understand that the Opposition would be only too glad to see the last of Mr. Sifton in the Government for as has been remarked before in the same connection—the biggest pile of sticks and stones is always found under the best apple tree, and the most abused man, especially in political life, is generally the man that is doing the most for his country, for necessarily he must be the most objectionable and dangerous opponent to the mere partisan. Paens of praise and thanks-giving would doubtless arise in universal chorus, from the camp of his enemies if the Minister could only be shelved as indicated, but it is to be feared that the cabinet re-constructors will have to try again.

GREENWAY IS SOLID.
As to the retirement of Manitoba's Premier, which is part of this arrangement, only those at a distance from the Prairie Province can be deceived by any such story. Mr. Greenway was never stronger than he is to-day in the hearts and estimation of the people. While unfortunately his health has not been as good as friend and foe alike would wish, and if he consulted his personal feelings he might prefer to devote himself entirely to those agricultural pursuits which have proved so successful in his hands, yet at the present time it is not a very hard guess to venture the assertion that neither the Province nor the party desires nor contemplates any such change as has been evolved in the active mind of Eastern politicians.

Agents.
"War with Spain." The most complete history published; contains about 700 pages, 200 illustrations, and is so cheap it sells on sight. Agent coming money. BRADLEY-GARRETSON CO., Limited Toronto.

Maple
The Epworth League held a social in the vestry of the church on Monday evening. The room was beautifully decorated with flowers and presented quite a home-like appearance. A pleasant time was spent by all. A short programme was given after which refreshments were served. A collection of nearly \$5 was taken up for missions.

Dr. Sisley is having a fish-pond 115 ft. long by 50 ft. wide, made on his premises, and purposes putting in a large number of trout this fall. The water from J. Oliver's well is being used.

Mr. E. Bishop of Toronto preached in the Methodist church on Sunday morning. Owing to the re-opening services at Hope there was no service in the evening.

Rev. J. W. Stewart was preaching anniversary sermons near Alliston last Sunday, and Rev. G. Waugh preached in Aurora on Sunday evening.

Wanted.
Old established wholesale house wants one or two honest and industrious representatives. Can pay a hustler about \$10 a week to start with. "Advertiser," Room 1 Medical Building, Toronto.

West York Vote.
The following is the result of the Prohibition Plebiscite in West York, of which this village is a part:—

VAUGHAN TOWNSHIP.		
	For.	Agst.
Thornhill	24	49
Patterson	18	22
Edgeley	48	43
Maple	71	31
Pine Grove	48	20
Purpleville	32	30
Kleinburg	52	17
Elder's Mills	67	14
Total	360	226
ETOBICOKE TOWNSHIP.		
New Toronto	43	70
Humber Bay	41	83
Lambton Mills	34	57
Islington	32	50
Highfield	17	44
Smithfield	41	32
Total	208	336
YORK TOWNSHIP.		
Deer Park	19	44
Wychwood	60	62
Dovercourt	21	17
Lambton and Swansea	19	27
Mount Dennis	11	14
Fairbank	14	13
Emery	49	19
Lansing	46	7
York Mills	25	42
Total	267	245
TORONTO JUNCTION.		
Ward 1	43	46
Ward 2	45	65
Ward 3	62	89
Ward 4	93	79
Ward 5	97	69
Total	350	348
VILLAGES AND TORONTO.		
Weston	55	50
Richmond Hill	71	22
North Toronto	33	34
Woodbridge	58	32
Toronto—43 divisions in parts of Wards 4, 5 and 6, west of Bedford-road north of Bloor-street and west of Dufferin-street.	1203	1215
Total	1420	1662
Total vote	2595	2517

Majority for prohibition 78
Agents.
Book business is better than for years past; also have better and faster selling books. Agents clearing from \$10 to \$40 weekly. A few leaders are:—"Queen Victoria," "Life of Mr. Gladstone," "My Mother's Bible Stories," "Progressive Speaker," "Klondike Gold Fields," "Woman," "Glimpses of the Unseen," "Breakfast, Dinner and Supper." Books on time. BRADLEY-GARRETSON CO. LIMITED, TORONTO.

Plebiscite Majority 11,636.
According to the latest figures, which are still incomplete, the total majority in favor of prohibition is 11,636, as follows:—

Majorities.		
	For.	Against
Ontario	17,582	
Quebec		51,290
Nova Scotia	17,840	
New Brunswick	13,715	
Prince Edward Island	6,160	
Manitoba	5,699	
N. W. Territories	1,992	
British Columbia	538	
Total	62,926	51,290

Total Dominion majority for prohibition, 11,636.

Willow Vale
Items were sent the press two weeks ago but have been informed they did not reach their destination.
The recent rains have rendered ploughing an easier task.
Flannigan Bros. have completed the foundation under Mr. Hamman's barn. Mr. James Lunny is having a stone foundation erected under his barn; he is very anxious, because he cannot thresh his grain until completed.
Cutting Bros. have had their well deepened.
One day last week while driving to Aurora Mr. Wm. Cain, 6th con., happened with an accident which might have proved serious. The horse he was driving switched its tail over the reins and in trying to extricate them they became crossed in some way pulling the horse on the edge of an embankment; the earth gave way precipitating horse, buggy and occupant into the ditch. Fortunately no damage was done.
Five candidates rode the Foresters' goat on Wednesday night of last week in Kettleby.
Several of our young people spent a very pleasant evening at Mr. Andrew Harman's on Friday tripping the light fantastic Toe until the wee sma' hours.