

## FACING A GRAVE QUESTION.

The principal topic of conversation in Richmond Hill for the past few weeks has been Local Option, a vote on which will be taken next Monday. We have given space in THE LIBERAL to both sides for a fair discussion of the question, feeling that the pros and cons should be thoroughly understood before voting on such an important subject. Several of our business men have this week given up their advertising space to the promoters of the by-law, and the question has been pretty thoroughly thrashed out from every standpoint. The question is a serious one, and is worthy of our most earnest consideration. There is practically no difference of opinion in the contention that the drink habit is a curse to society, yet men honestly differ as to the best means of exterminating the evil. Next Monday men and women voters must face the question in a courageous spirit. On the one hand, it is no pleasant task to vote in favor of what seems like reducing the value of men's property financially. On the other hand, it is a serious matter to cast a vote in favor of the open bar, with its temptations and allurements to the weak and unfortunate, and to the rising generation. Face the question manfully.

## RATEPAYER'S FOURTH LETTER

Editor LIBERAL: I would ask the further favor of you of inserting another communication on the question of Local Option which will be up for our final disposition on Monday. The discussion, by your permission, has, I hope, been beneficial, and lead to a vote which will not be a source of regret at a later date. I had thought the advocates of Local Option would have cast aside the time worn play upon the sentimental feelings and go down to a cold, hard reasoning of facts as we find them, and not as we would have them, or imagine we have. I have yet to learn wherein one town, village or municipality has been benefited by the adoption of this measure. Surely this should be the test and standard by which the proposition should be gauged. Why then is so palpable an argument not brought forward by the advocates of Local Option if it is available? The fact that tangible evidence of this is not used is surely reasonable grounds for believing that it does not exist. The spacious generalities which ran through the locals of last week's LIBERAL are the stock in trade of blind prohibition as distinct from temperance. Because a hotel occasionally is used unwisely is not a valid reason that it should be dispensed with any more than that a drug store should be closed because cases of suicide from poison have happened by its existence. The experience of all broad students of human nature is that vices forcibly checked are not extinguished. Local Option may do away with the outward sign, but it has not and cannot prevent secret drinking with its greater evil. Vices are controlled by one's own will power, or by the aid of the Supreme Being; never by the agency of restrictive legislation. Local Option in regard to liquor licenses is an attempt to defy the laws of nature. Few municipalities have a higher general standard of intellectual attainment than Richmond Hill. Let us demonstrate this, as I believe we will, by ignoring demagogic dictation. Let us retain the full privilege of our manhood and womanhood, and work out social improvements by the direction given us by the Son of Man nineteen hundred years ago.

RATEPAYER.

## SAVE THE BOYS

To the Editor of THE LIBERAL:

SIR,—Just a few words in reference to the letters from "Ratepayer" which have appeared in your columns during the last few weeks. It appears to me that they do not touch the vital part of this campaign. They deal with the hotel proper, with which we do not purpose to interfere. The temperance people have no thought of depriving the travelling public of the comforts and conveniences of a well-conducted hotel. Arrangements are in progress whereby such will be an assured fact, in case the by-law is carried. Local Option does not close the hotel, but takes from it its ill-omened, destructive parasite—the bar room. How is it that "Ratepayer" has not one word of commendation for that part of the hotel, the part that opens the door to the broad path that leads to drunkenness, poverty, destruction and death? "Ratepayer" tells us how strictly and carefully, in accordance with the requirements of the license laws, the

February 19, 1906.  
Voting on By-law for the prohibition of the sale of Intoxicating Liquor in Richmond Hill.

**FOR**  
THE BY-LAW.

**X**

**AGAINST**  
THE BY-LAW.

## Richmond Hill Hardware Store

X-Cut saws. Axes.

Happy Thought and Imperial Oxford Ranges, our leaders, which have won for themselves over 40,000 homes in Canada.

We have second-hand heaters, nearly new. Also wood and coal stoves at low figures.

Furnace Work, Tinsmithing, Paints and Hardware.

## C. SOULES

hotel in our village is conducted. This is surely a valuable piece of information, and we would be glad to know through whose spectacles he looked when he made this discovery. Judging from the occurrences of last Saturday evening there may be good cause for a different opinion. "Ratepayer's" arguments in regard to the financial loss accruing to our village treasury by the passage of the by-law have been so clearly answered by men who are thoroughly conversant with this point in all its bearings that it is not necessary to repeat the facts. However, we may say in this connection that the question should be not as "Ratepayer" says: "Does it pay?" but IS IT RIGHT? Surely "Ratepayer" has no boys. It cannot be possible that any man with sons to be protected from the drinking curse will vote and use his influence to keep open the bar room. And yet, Mr. Editor, if he has no sons of his own with which to furnish the "raw material" for which the bar room fattens, is it honorable or manly to place a stumbling block in the ways of his neighbors' boys? Let us, as voters and Christian men, do what is right; do our duty and vote to "put away the evil from among us"; put away the evil that brings more distress and sorrow in its train than any other evil with which we are cursed—the evil which has been the ruin of many a bright youth even in this little village. Finally, Christians, fathers, lovers of humanity, rise in the strength of God and vote out the bar room. Bear in mind that by so doing we not only remove temptation from the drunkard's path, but we benefit the man who sells the liquor. The same Divine law which says "No drunkard shall inherit the Kingdom of Heaven" also says "Cursed is he that putteth the bottle to his neighbor's lips and maketh him drunken also."

STILL ANOTHER READER.

The man who votes the bar room in, votes out his morals. 33-1

DR. PIDGEON'S ADDRESS.

A rousing meeting in favor of local option was held in the Masonic Hall last evening. Rev. T. Campbell was in the chair, the speaker was Rev. Dr. Pidgeon of Toronto Junction, and on the platform was Rev. J. A. Grant who made a few timely remarks before the close of the meeting. Dr. Pidgeon gave an excellent address. He spoke from experience, as he had lived in four different municipalities where local option was in force. Referring to Toronto Junction he was well satisfied with the working of the law in that town. After the law went into force the hotels and sheds were closed up tight, but were all opened when it became known that the Citizens' League were about to open a temperance hotel. It was claimed by some people that local option would kill the Junction. Such is not the case. The population is increasing rapidly, and business was never so good as at present. He knew of cases where liquor was delivered to homes, but this trade is trifling, there are no open bars, and the policemen tell him that vice is practically driven off the streets. The speaker said he was a firm believer in the principle of local option, and as it was a success in To-

ronto Junction it should be a much greater success in a place like Richmond Hill. He urged a vigorous campaign until the closing of the poll on Monday next, but hoped that when the smoke of battle cleared away, whichever side wins, men will remember that while they may have differed in their opinions, they are brothers still, and must endeavor to live together as good citizens in peace and harmony. A hearty vote of thanks was tendered to the speaker, on motion of Rev. Mr. Grant, seconded by Mr. M. McNair.

## VILLAGE COUNCIL.

Council met in Clerk's office Feb. 1. Present: Councillors Sanderson, Nicholls, Glass and Trench.

In the absence of the Reeve, Councillor Nicholls, on motion, took the chair.

The following accounts were presented:

H. Rumble, 14 loads of gravel.. \$1 40  
Hart & Riddell, municipal stationery..... 6 30  
Glass—Sanderson—That the foregoing accounts be paid.—Carried.

The Clerk read letters from The Municipal Association, and from Mr. C. L. Wilson, Traffic Manager of the Toronto & York Radial Railway. No action was taken on the former.

Sanderson—Glass—That Mr. Wilson's letter be laid on the table until the next Council meeting.—Carried.

Trench—Sanderson—That the agreement between the Corporation and Messrs. Hopper and Gibson re the skating rink be cancelled.—Carried.

An application from Michael Bros. for a livery license was read.

Sanderson—Trench—That Michael Bros.' application for a livery license be granted.—Carried.

The Auditors' Report was presented, and on motion of Councillor Glass, seconded by Councillor Sanderson, the village accounts were passed as finally audited, and the Clerk was instructed to have two hundred copies of the Auditors' Report printed for distribution.

The Inspector was instructed to direct the Clerk to notify Hip Lee that he must not use the public street as a receptacle for the waste water from his laundry.

The Clerk was instructed to draw up an agreement to be signed by J. T. Startup in reference to certain duties to be performed by him for the village.

Council adjourned.  
A. J. HUME, Clerk.

While we license drunkeries we must harvest a crop of drunkards. 33 1

## SEED SHOW.

The second annual seed show, under the auspices of the Agricultural Society, was held in the Lorne Hall, Saturday last. There was a large attendance and the number of exhibits was not as large as might have been expected. Mr. Keith, the well-known seedsman, Toronto, acted as judge. The following are the prize winners:—  
Goose Wheat—1, T. W. Stephens, 2, Charles Clark.  
Barley (six rowed)—1, Wm. Thompson, 2, Frank Legge.

Oats (white)—1, Wm. Jones, 2, D. & E. Lynett.  
Oats (black)—1, T. W. Stephens.  
Peas (large)—1, George Chapman, 2, Jno. Tyndall.  
Peas (small)—1, Frank Legge, 2, Wm. Palmer.  
Clover (red)—1, George Padget, 2, W. H. Clubine & Son.  
Clover (alsike)—1, T. W. Stephens.  
Timothy Seed—1, T. W. Stephens.  
Potatoes (early)—1, T. W. Stephens, 2, Wm. Jones.  
Potatoes (late)—1, Wm. Jones, 2, T. W. Stephens.

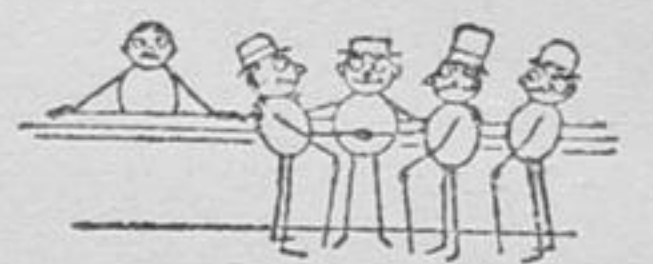
Cursing the bar rooms for their work, and then licensing them to obtain revenue is a glaring inconsistency. 33-1

## A SERMON ON THE BAR-ROOM.

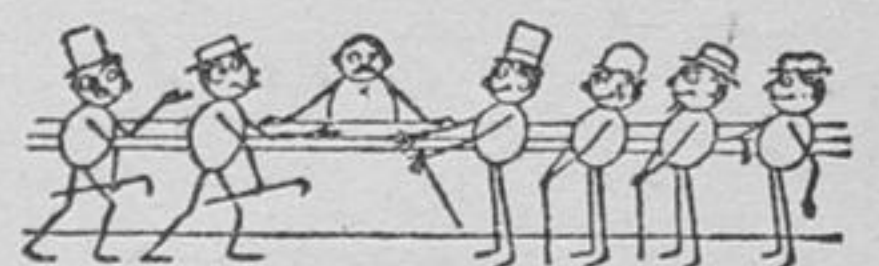
(With Apologies to Puck.)



Smith—Hello, Brown, old boy! Jolly glad to see you. Come in with me. A glass of beer. We must have one just for good fellowship.  
Brown—Well, I really don't want anything to drink; but, to be sociable, I'll go with you.



Green—Why here comes Smith and Brown! Mr. Brown, let me introduce you to my friend, Mr. White. We're just about taking a drink; come and join us. Oh, yes; I insist.



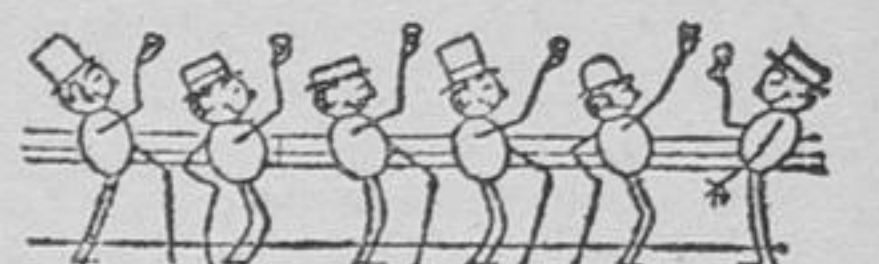
Smith—Ho, Ho; here comes Black and Jones! Come on, boys; you are just in time! Come, gentlemen, what will it be?



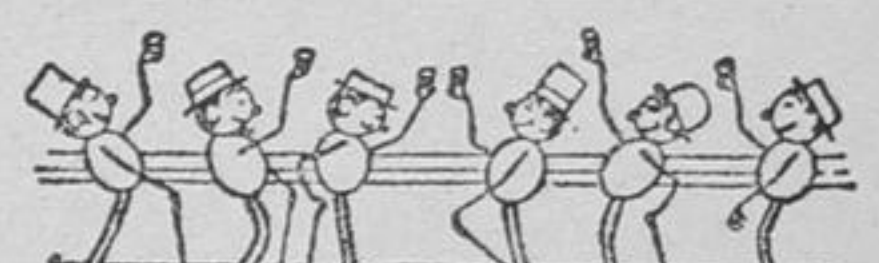
White, Jones, Green, Smith Black, and Brown—Here's luck, gentlemen!



Jones—Now, this one is on me. Drink hearty!



Green—Gentlemen, this is my treat. Here's your health!



Smith—Let's have one on me now! You'll insult me if you refuse. Here goes!



Black—Set em up again, bar-keeper! Thash rightsh! Here'sh better daysh, boysh!



Brown—Now, jus' one more fore we go. Let'r go, gents!



And not a single one of them actually and honestly wanted even one drink.

## For Sale

As the proprietor is removing from town he wishes to dispose of a quantity of household furniture by private sale, including:  
1 Oak Dining Room Extension Table.  
1 Standard Oak Heater, coal or wood.  
1 Oak Hall Rack.  
2 Bedroom Suites, complete.  
Lawn Mower, Grass Clippers, Pictures, Lamps, Couch, Carpet, and many more useful articles.  
J. J. GAGNIER,  
Next door north of A. J. Hume's. 33-1

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The best satisfaction is got by using Ogilvie's. Made from Manitoba Hard Wheat.

ALEX. MOODIE.

33 34

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Oldest  
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Coal and Wood Delivered.  
Prices Right.  
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Threshers' Coal on hand.  
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Richmond Hill  
June 11, 1905

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FONTHILL NURSERIES,  
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Grain chopped at all times.

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