

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION.
MILTON, DEC. 16, 1886

SCOTT ACT CIDER.

Last week a certain Milton hotel-keeper received a letter from a well-known Halton Scott Act man soliciting an order for a quantity of hand which he wished to dispose of. The following postscript was appended to the letter: "N.B.—I spoke to Mr. Young about it. There is not a drop of cider in it of any kind. Clarified, pale, sweet, and small beer, as Mr. Young tells me to 'small beer' as it is all right."

Our readers will, of course, understand that the "Mr. Young" quoted by our Scott Act friend is our worthy impartial Police Magistrate, and that he will, perhaps, be surprised to hear that though the publicans had no reason to doubt the excellency of the cider and the assertion, its vendor that his business was virtually licensed by the police magistrate, had no cause to consider it advised to him in any of the alleged non-intoxicating beverage of the patron.

The reason why he did not do so was this. Some time ago, before the appointment of the present licensee, Mr. his predecessor, Mr. A. P. Palmer, having received information that a certain Scott Act man had sold cider, a beverage that is prohibited by the Act, advised to Police Magistrate Young for the latter that it would be useless to bring the alleged violator of the law before him, as even though the sale of the cider were known, he would not convict.

The natural consequence of this was

that the sale of cider became general in Halton hotels. When, however, a short time ago, Mr. Murray Williams, Oakville hotel-keeper, was charged with illicitly selling the Scott Act beer, he brought to the attention of the defendant's place that the beverage was non-intoxicating, but caused a sample of it to be sent to a Toronto chemist, and on the latter reporting that the cider contained four per cent of alcohol, the defendant was convicted.

Mr. Thomas Little, Jr., hotel-keeper of Palermo, was also afterwards fined for selling the beverage, but though both he and Mr. Williams, it is reported, purchased their cider from a Scott Act man who lives near Oakville, the proceedings were taken against the latter.

Knowing these facts, it is not surprising

that the Milton hotel man felt

doubtful that in case he should invest

in the cider as solicited last week,

and, as he was told that he would be doing so, our police magistrate would accept any denial of its intoxicating

quality or neglect to have it analyzed, and convict him if possible on the result of the test.

It is not creditable to the police

magistrate that the violation should be prevalent as it is, that under his administration, a rule that is treated as unlawful when pursued by an anti-

prohibitionist is winked at and encouraged when carried on by a so-called "temperance" man.

GREAT REFORM RALLY.

The announcement that Hon. Messrs. Mowat and Ross would be present at Dr. Buck's meeting here on Saturday attracted a crowd altogether too great for the capacity of the town hall. Many who had come long distances to hear the political questions of the day discussed by the leading lights of the Reform party were unable to force themselves into the hall, and went home disappointed, while many others had to stand during the whole time, nearly four hours, of the duration of the meeting.

For reasons which were explained,

another of the three gavelknob above

mentioned was able to put in an appearance; but they sent able substitutes in the persons of Hon. Messrs. Hardy and Young, who, on their arrival, were seated on the 2nd, C. P. B. Chair, were escorted from the platform to the hall by the full brass band and a large number of electors, and as the time was limited, the meeting was opened without delay, Dr. Robertson, ex-M.P.P., in the chair.

Mr. Wm. Butler, ex-M.P.P., was the first speaker, who confined himself entirely to figures and comparisons between the Mowat and Macdonald administrations to the disadvantage of the latter, the one having a large surplus on hand and the other having run the country in debt.

Dr. Buck, the Government candidate for Hants, was next and spoke briefly.

He expressed his confidence in the Mowat administration, said he had been a total abstainer for a number of years and that he would support all "temperance" measures.

He was followed by Mr. Wm. McCay, M. P., who dwelt particularly on the enormous amount of the national debt, for which he said the Macdonald Government was responsible. He read from a paper the result of calculations that he said had been made on the amount of the national debt, the weight and bulk of the pile of silver that would represent the debt, the number of teams that would be required to draw it, and the length of the procession they would make.

Hon. James Young, of Galt, was the next, and spoke very briefly.

He alluded to the opening up of Algoma and the Peterborough district by the Metcalfe Government by giving settlers roads, schools, &c., and to the mechanics' lien Act, insurance Act, and other measures of the Government which he claimed had been beneficial to the people of Ontario.

Hon. Oliver Mowat, the principal speaker over Sir John Macdonald in the previous debate, the Privy Council, the speakers claimed, proved that Sir John was not the great constitutional lawyer that he claimed to be and had met his superior.

He alluded to the opening up of the Ontario Opposition, and the

boundary award, the escheats case,

rivers and streams bill, and the license

Act all received their share of attention.

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