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TYRANNY IN CANADA.

To the Editor of the London Free Press.

Sir,—Though a Home Ruler, I cannot help congratulating you on the moral courage you show in facing the social and clerical tyranny of the Prohibitionists, to expose the hypocrisy with which the Ottawa and Toronto Parliaments have protested against coercion in Ireland, while they have adopted, and are continuing, a measure of coercion in Canada which has never been equalled in injustice and severity by any Irish coercion bill of the present century. I can speak the more freely, inasmuch as I have no financial interest in any way in the liquor traffic, but have endured very active persecution in endeavoring to keep some persons engaged in that traffic from pushing aggressive designs, inimical to the public welfare.

Perhaps the more barefaced of the two attempts at removing the mote from another's eye, while retaining the beam in one's own eye, is that made by the Ontario Parliament. The Irish resolutions were passed in the same week which witnessed the passage of that infamous measure, "An Act respecting Police Magistrates"—an Act which clenches the tyranny of which the Ottawa Parliament was guilty in passing the Scott Act

To say nothing of the iniquity of confiscating property, ruining families and fining or sending men to jail, under pretext of the public good, for selling that which the Saviour of the World and the Divine and Perfect Exemplar did not hesitate to use himself and to give others. The Scott Act legal procedure is in itself, even were it directed against real crimes, a burning shame to a supposedly free people, and would be a disgrace to even the most despotic government on earth. That so glaring a method of enforcing law should be not merely tolerated but supported and advocated in the cause of temperance and religion by Christian ministers is suggestive of a terrible decline in the kind of Christianity—pardon the word—common to-day from the Christianity preached by Christ an his Apostles. That we should submit to it is strange in a race that boasts a Hampden and has been a bulwark of liberty in the past.

This monstrous legal procedure against men who have committed no crime in the eyes of heaven, expressly provides that in any trial under the Scott Act "it shall not be necessary for any witness to depose to the description of the liquor sold," or that "any consideration was paid therefor," or that it was sold "to the personal or certain knowledge" of the witness. The merest suspicion of the magistrate, and he, generally, the nominee of a fanatical clique, and chosen because he is a fanatic and can be trusted to "convict on evidence such as would be insufficient to any ordinary tribunal which deals with more serious offences—the merest suspicion of such a man is sufficient. The defendant, however innocent, has little chance against that degraded man—the professional informer—and in the mind of the magistrate in some cases the most shadowy evidence is more than an offset against a defendant, for what is the oath worth of any man so wicked as to drink himself or to have ever sold to others? Against the most unjust and arbitrary decisions there is no redress, for the Act allows neither jury nor, where a Scott Act Police Magistrate convicts, any appeal on matters of evidence.

Under this infamous Act men have been fined or sent to jail without any evidence against them. The mere possession of any liquor has been sufficient evidence for a fanatical magistrate. Under this Act a highly respected citizen, who is known to his whole neighborhood to keep the law, has been heavily fined for mercifully giving, not selling, on a cold winter night, a glass of liquor, to a man who entered the house chilled to the bone. Under this Act a woman of seventy years was manacled with "nippers," dragged forty feet on her back, and taken to jail, her wrists bruised and bleeding, on a conviction regarding which Judge Armour stated, from the bench in Osgoode Hall—"it is terrible that any person can be convicted on such evidence." But in none of these, or dozens of similar violations of justice, can any redress be had, for this Act expressly forbids it. Yet when outrages such as these are committed, and when a man goaded to desperation by injustice, loss of property and livelihood, and the sight of his suffering family turns upon a miserable instrument of this tyranny, and beats him or burns his barn, or even breaks his window, the fanatics or Pharisees, who are at the bottom of the tyranny, cry out "Outrage!" and incite their silly followers to re-echo the cry, and the canting or time-serving journals, supported in part by these followers, to read a sermon on morality and the duty of good citizens to obey the law. As if tyrants had never before provoked their victims to a retaliation, which, however to be condemned as lacking in Christian forbearance, it is only natural to human nature, and especially to that of revengeful men.

As if such tyranny were not sufficiently disgraceful, the Ontario Government, I deeply, as a Liberal, regret to say, has gone out of its legitimate duty to fasten the chains upon the people. Waterloo and Haldimand county councils memorialized Parliament against taking the common moneys of the license counties to enforce a law which, being of the nature of a local improvement (sic) measure, should be enforced solely at the expense of the counties adopting it. But in vain—the appropriation was made. In several Scott Act counties the county councils were elected to oppose certain methods of enforcement, and even any enforcement. Norfolk council protested almost unanimously against the un-British law. Bruce, another Scott Act county, though its council protested in favor of leaving enforcement to the ordinary courts, from which there is appeal, and requested the Government to appoint no Scott Act Police Magistrate, either with or without salary, on the ground that the powers conferred by the Scott Act on such a magistrate were dangerous to justice. Most of the other Scott Act counties also refused to have a magistrate. But the Ontario Government, by the new Act, disregards the will of the people expressed through their councils, and listens to irresponsible juntas of Scott Actors, and forces the hateful tribunals upon the people. It also permits such magistrates to appoint special constables, and not only makes the counties pay the salaries of the magistrates and constables, but to cap the tyranny, holds actions or suits against these officers for certain acts of maladministration, if such acts are done in good-faith—the good-faith, forsooth, of which fanatics are capable. The Act also quashes suits now pending for such maladministration.

Was ever an Irish coercion measure so tyrannical? Did ever any Act of the British Parliament, even under the Stuarts or Henry the Eighth equal this Scott Act tyranny in violation of the cardinal principles of justice and liberty?

To plead that because a majority of the votes in a Scott Act election are in favor of the law, the Act is no tyranny, is to say this the law of the New England commonwealths, putting a price upon the heads of Quakers, was not tyranny; that the guillotining of thousands in the French Reign of Terror, and under the dictation of the National Assembly, was not tyranny; that because a majority of the people supported it, the religious code which kindled the martyr fires in many a country in Europe was no tyranny. Is there not a higher law than the law of Scott Act majorities—a higher law, which demands the moral allegiance? Is not the divine right of majorities as great a delusion as the divine right of kings—which, after all, was founded on the right of majorities? Have minorities no rights which a majority is bound to respect? If the doctrine of the greatest good to the greatest number is to be made the pretext for injustice to minorities or to individuals, if "might maker right" is the principle of the new political creed, growing so rapidly in this country, there is need that the true liberalism, which extended both individual and public freedom in the first half of this century, should re-assert the principle that "the proper function of Government is the protection of the rights and liberties of each individual where such rights and liberties do not directly infringe on the rights and liberties of any other individual."

Not only those who advocate and support Scott Act or prohibition are worthy of censure; many of the opponents of this tyranny are to blame. To plead that hotel-keepers are a bad lot and deserve the retribution they are getting may suit the shallow indifferentism of the selfish to day, as it suited the selfish by-standers who less than three senturies ago excused themselves for not opposing the ground that "They are cross, good-for nothing, old hags, anyway?" Can two wrongs make a right? If the greed and inhumanity of many hotel-keepers have brought on their class retribution, will society, which inflicts murder and robbery on that class, escape the punishment which history teaches is meted out to nations as well as individuals, for forsaking righteous dealings? Precedents often are dangerous things, as the indifferent witnesses of this Scott Act tyranny may yet learn when the gradual encroachments of Socialism begin to oppress them under sanction of Parliament and the voice of a majority. Is it not time, Mr. Editor, that liberty-loving citizens should combine and insist that "liberty and justice" shall be the basis of all our legislation? Yours, truly,

J. GORDON MOWAT.

Tilsonburg, May 2.

Johnson's All Healing White Ointment.

The wonderful healing and soothing properties of the above named excellent salve, have been found by many that have used it to be most efficacious in the treatment of salt rheum, pimples, blotches, boils, ulcers, scalds, burns, chafings, etc. One trial will be sufficient to prove that what we claim for it is correct. For sale at 25 cents per box by Watson's druggist.

CHANGES IN MUNICIPAL LAW.

WHICH AFFECT THE ELECTORS OF CITY, TOWN AND TOWNSHIP.

The following is a summary of the more important changes made in the municipal law at the late session of the Legislature:

The qualification of mayors, reeves, aldermen and councillors in the various municipalities is reduced to $200 freehold or $400 leasehold in villages, $400 or $500 in townships; $600 or $1,200 in towns, and $1,000 or $2,000 in cities.

In municipalities where electors are disqualified unless they have paid their taxes by the 14th of December, those on the delinquent list are to be permitted to vote if they have paid their taxes any time before they vote, and produce a certificate to that effect.

Section 138 of the Municipal Act is amended to make it clear that an elector must vote for Mayor in the polling division he resides in, or, if not qualified there, then where he first votes in the municipality.

In the case of a tie in the election of Warden, the municipality having the greatest equalized assessment is to have the casting vote, instead of the one having the greatest number of ratepayers.

In case an Auditor appointed by the County Council refuses or neglects to act, the head of the Council is given authority to nominate another.

A change is made in the returns to be made to the Government, so that Auditors and Treasurers transmit information to the Bureau of Industries.

Where from money on hand, or increased value of property liable to assessment, it is not necessary to raise the full rate under a by law, Councils are given power to pass a by law reducing the rate for future years, instead of having to pass a by-law annually, as at present.

The powers Councils have hitherto had in regulating size and number of doors, etc., in churches, theatres, halls, or other buildings used for places of worship, public meetings or places of amusements, are extended to hospitals, schools, colleges, or buildings of a like nature; and the strength of walls, beams, joists and their supports, are to be subject to regulation; and power is given to compel production of plans of all such buildings for inspection.

When a polling place, fixed by By-law cannot be obtained, or is found unsuitable, the Clerk is given power to choose the nearest suitable building available for the purpose, giving due notice to the voters.

The Council of an incorporated village is given power to purchase land for a cemetery within the village, on approval of the Local Board of Health, ratified by the Provincial Board.

Power is given to charge a license fee on circuses, etc., up to $500, instead of $100, as at present.

By-laws changing names of streets are made subject to approval of the County Judge.

Power is given to license and regulate shops where tobaccos and cigars are sold, and to prevent the sale to children under fourteen, unless on the written order of parents or guardians.

Where an action is brought to recover damages from a municipal corporation on account of an obstruction, excavation or opening in a street or bridge, the corporation is to have a remedy over against the person who caused the obstruction or opening.

The legislation of last year on the "bridge" question is repealed, and the law is left as it was previously.

Where a council by a two-thirds vote, decides that the constructing or erecting of any bridge, culvert or embankment, is for the general benefit, and that it would be inequitable to assess the whole cost on the locality, they may pass a by law and borrow money to pay one-half by the municipalty.

Two hundred electors in towns, or a hundred in villages and townships, are given power by petition to compel Councils to submit by-laws for the construction of water-works.

There are some other amendments to the Municipal law, but these are the principal ones.

"They have a larger sale in my district, says a well known druggist, "than any other pills on the market, and give the best satisfaction for sick headache, biliousness, indigestion, etc., and when combined with Johnson's Tonic Bitters, Johnson's Tonic Liver Pills will perform what no other medicine has done before for suffering humanity." Pills 25 cents per bottle. Bitters 50 cents and $1 per bottle. Sold by H. Watson, druggist, Milton.

Prohibition in Iowa.

New York Graphic: An Episcopalian clergyman of this city—an earnest advocate of high license—sends to the Graphic the following letter received from a pastor of the same denomination in Iowa. As the letter was not designed for publication, place and name are withheld by the Graphic; but the facts are none the less instructive. He writes:

Britain agrees with the Pope to occupy Egypt for not less than two and not more than five years.

It is stated that Dr. McGlynn must appear before the Pope within 40 days or be excommunicated.

The French Government are retaliating on Germany by closing up German manufactories in France.

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FLORIDA.

JACKSONVILLE, Florida,
May 7th, 1887.

Editor Champion:

Now that Florida is nearing her annual Rip Van Winkle nap as summer approaches, and those birds of passage, the tourists, are wending their way northward, it may not be amiss to speak of the past season, with its gains and losses, if losses there be.

The larger hotels throughout the State, with the exception of the Windsor in Jacksonville, have closed, and the major part of them were well filled with guests who had timed their departure to meet the closing of their favorite batteries. Upon the whole, the past season cannot be looked upon as a disastrous one to Florida, for, notwithstanding her vast orange groves, truck farms, railroad interests, Florida without her winter travel would sink into insignificance. This was proven beyond controversy when the California boom was inaugurated, and the tide of sightseers and invalids flowed in that direction.

Florida bagatitted from California as a rival, and when the "Florida Sub-Tropical Exposition," which is now being discussed, gets under full headway, becomes a fixture that will be open for three months every winter and will present to the tourist the flora and fauna of this most unique state; California will hide her diminished head. The mush-room-like fame she gained as a winter resort will not outlive her one season.

There is no question as to the material benefits to be derived from the "Sub-Tropical" if the present plans are carried out. When once opened the visitor thereto may walk under gigantic, moss-draped water oaks, beside miniature lakes, upon whose bosom disports the ugly alligator; or beneath the broad green fronds of the banana, the golden-globe laden orange, or the feathery-leaved cocoanut tree. Jacksonville's now perfect system of waterworks will materially aid in beautifying the grounds and buildings with fountains, great and small.

Since last I wrote, St. Augustine, the quaint and ancient town of America, has suffered by the ravages of fire. The old cathedral, built of coquina, and famed alike in history, poem and story, has fed the insatiable demon, and only the smoke-blackened walls stand to tell where the first mass was said on western soil. Fortunately the old paintings, the images, the stained windows were saved—nothing more. There has been started a fund for its restoration, but to me its chiefest charm, that hoary ghost of antiquity is gone, never more to return. So, too, are the Indians from the old Spanish coquina fort that overlooks the sea, gone to Northern Alabama to another United States reservation, where they are to be taught bad English and worse morals. They seemed happy enough at St. Augustine as they lay on the grass and sunned themselves or played cards, for they were inveterate gamesters. The government woke up at last to the idea that it was inculcating ways of idleness into Geronimo's warriors, and sent them where it fancies they can be taught the ways of the paleface by the palefaces. Well, I doubt it. Still, if they have become expert at card playing why may not they learn to dig and delve, sow and reap as the pale face.

Notwithstanding the fire, St. Augustine still continues a typical old-world town, with its narrow streets, which give one an idea of back alleys, and its jutting ve a-dahs. It is easy enough to imagine a dark eyed Spanish senorita, peeping coquettishly through the meshes of her mantilla and over her fan of heron feathers, is seated on one of these courtesy-called verandahs, and is flirting with her lover across the street.

The Ponce de Leon Hotel, now in course of construction, adds to the delusion with its Moorish architecture, its inner court, towers and turrets. The dead stretch of white sand (instead of the ibox-covered sides of a mountain) help to dispel the illusion, and I may say effectually so.

There are many other interesting towns and places in Florida, well worth seeing, the majority of which are historical with the Seminole Indians, who loved and fought for this fair land of song birds and sunshine, fruits and flowers, balmy breezes, when the earth is wrapped in snow, and health-giving, life-restoring atmosphere; all of which we bid you come and see.

Very truly,

O. E. CARRADICE.

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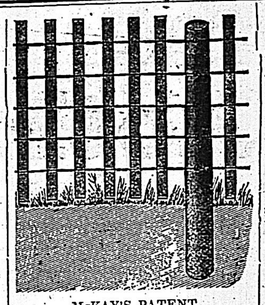

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Roper the Baker to the Front

Gang down to Roper's and get some cakes,
Some buns and shortbread and some bakes,
For a'thing o' the kind he makes,
And set our table cheery O.

Plain and Ornamental Cakes of every description for the Holidays. Please send in your favors early. Orders from the country, to receive prompt attention, should be in not later than December 15th.

WM. BEWS,

MERCHANT TAILOR,

—MILTON,—

has a splendid assortment of Canadian and Imported Tweeds, Worsteds, Meltons, &c., &c., and can supply his patrons with clothing inferior in material and finish to none. His prices too, will be found to be remarkably low considering the quality of the goods he sells.

Wm. BEWS

BOOTS & SHOES

THOS. WILSON

(Successor to Chas. Nichaus)

is receiving daily a splendid stock of Men, Women & Children's Boots and Shoes, for Spring and Summer wear.

These goods are made by the best manufacturers in the Dominion, and will be sold at lowest possible prices. Boots and Shoes made to order. A perfect fit, first-class stock and workmanship guaranteed. Send your repairs.

DON'T FORGET TO CALL ON

Thos. Wilson

HARDWARE.

For Garden Rakes,
Hoes, Spades
and Shovels

PLOW LINES, TRACE CHAINS

Cockshutt's Plows and Fittings,

FLAX AND MANILLIA BINDER TWINE,

Ready Mixed Paints, Oils, Varnish

WHITE LEAD, COLORS, BRUSHES.

Genuine Pebble and Adamantine

SPECTACLES,

Go to the Pioneer Hardware Store,

W. H. MACNAB, - MILT

The Canadian Champion.

IS PUBLISHED EVERY

Thursday Morning

—AT—

MILTON, CO. OF HALTON, ONT.

CAMPBELL & PANTON, Props.

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DR. S. ZIMMERMAN,

DENTIST,

HAMILTON, ONT,

Corner King & McNab Streets. 18-

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—AGENT FOR—

The State Line of Steamships to Europe

GENERAL AGENT.

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THE LEADING HOTEL IN TOWN

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6% $500,000 6%

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Mortgages bought—advances made on second mortgages and to purchase farms. Parties paying higher rates on notes or mortgages can procure money from me at above rate, and pay off their mortgages and save money. All dealings fair and open. No costs for applications. Write or call for printed particulars.

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Counties of Halton, Peel, Wentworth and Wellington.

CHARGES MODERATE.

Satisfaction Guaranteed. All orders promptly attended to.

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WE will pay the above Reward for any case of Dyspepsia, Liver Complaint, Sick Headache, Indigestion or Costiveness we cannot Cure with WEBB'S LIVER PILLS, when the Directions are strictly complied with. Large Boxes, containing 30 Pills, 25 Cents; 5 Boxes $1.00. Sold by all Druggists.

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