

**THE WHIG—68th YEAR.**

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EDW. J. R. PENSE, PROPRIETOR

**THE DAILY WHIG.**

*Opus per Orben Diors.*

**DIVERSITY OF VIEWS.**

The prohibition convention, which met in Toronto on Tuesday, did not accomplish very much. If the occasion demonstrated anything it was the diversity of views which prevailed. A great many ideas were expressed in resolution and speeches—favouring straight prohibition, the referendum with new conditions, and a bill without the referendum—but the bulk of them were rejected by an overwhelming majority. The motion of the Alliance committee was eventually endorsed. It called for some change in the form of taking the vote and the percentage of this vote which will be required to give the act effect.

The Montreal Witness, answering its critics, warmly endorses the referendum as it stands; observing:

"A referendum vote recently taken in Montreal on an important financial issue did not draw out half a dozen votes in the most intelligent ward in the city. Surely, a government wanting to have the substantial backing of the community in essaying new and untried legislation may demand some greater evidence of zeal than this."

Granting, then, that there should be some limit to the vote's insignificance, the only question that remains is what that limit should be. We have had no hint from any of these repudiators of the referendum how they, for their part, would propose to secure a reasonably responsible result. I think that a large vote would have, if possible, arranged that the prohibition party should be taken at some time when the voters would have other attractions to the polls; though it must be admitted that less weight would attach to the additional vote evoked by that process.

There is one thing, however, about the attitude of these ardent prohibitionists which is incomprehensible to us. While declaring that every one who stays away from the polls will be counted in the negative, they threaten if the referendum cannot be annulled to add themselves to that number. They may rest assured that if the vote is taken, whatever defects, may attach to the method, the attitude of the parties towards prohibition for many years to come will certainly be governed by the result of it, not necessarily by whether it reaches Mr. Ross' present requirements, but by the proportion of the vote and by the evidence that can be drawn from it as to the strength of prohibition sentiment in the province. They accuse Mr. Ross of playing into the hands of the liquor men, and yet yet they propose themselves to do exactly what the liquor men would particularly wish them to do."

This is plain talk, but it is to a purpose. The prohibitionists are, as usual, at sixes and sevens upon the question, and they ought to know that a house divided against itself will surely fall.

**CHURCHILL AT THE FRONT.**  
Young Churchill is still at the front in the public life of England. All his service hitherto—in the army, in active military service, in the difficulties of a war correspondent, in the triumph of a lecturer, has been a qualification for the prominence he is now taking in British politics. A writer for the Brooklyn Eagle says that no figure in history can be compared with Churchill save that of Fox, and it is doubtful if he, in his day, challenged so much attention when he spoke in parliament.

"It does not seem possible," says the Eagle's London correspondent, "that there can have been another like him even a hundred years ago. His pose, his confidence, his very manner of waving aside his objections of those who were, perhaps, already grandfathers when he was still in swaddling clothes, combine to make this the most remarkable figure of the day. He is gawky in appearance. His rubicund baby face is made fascinating by a pair of eyes that fairly glow like live coals. He barks, rather than speaks, and many of his utterances are so mutilated in enunciation that it is difficult at times to follow him, but it is never impossible to understand his meaning. One hand rests on his hip under the flowing frock of his coat. The other flies in and out like a signal arm punctuating his words, dividing his sentences and threatening imaginary foes in front of him. His bodily brushed top hat is drawn over his ears and down over his eyes. It is altogether a grotesque figure, but he who takes Winston Churchill at a lower valuation than the young man places upon himself will probably live to reconsider his views, for I firmly believe that here, if he lives, is a future prime minister of Great Britain."

The pen picture is a correct one. Who that heard him lecture in King's College did not see him before them as he reads, now hesitating in his speech as he thinks upon his feet, now expressing his mind with all the energy of his being, and always impressing the hearer with the forcefulness of his logic. Churchill is a very young man for the commanding place he occupies to-day, but he has a boundless ambition. He dreams of being some day the prime minister of England, and his dream is likely to be verified.

**ACCUSED OF FORGERY.**  
Cape Town, Feb. 27.—The princess Radziwill, accused of issuing notes to which the signature of Cecil Rhodes had been forged, and who settled on claim of this kind for \$5,750 two weeks ago, has been arrested on the charge of forging Mr. Rhodes' name to the bills. She was remanded for a further hearing, and, afterwards, released on bail. The princess was resting on information given to her by Dr. Scholtz, who gave in an affidavit of Cecil Rhodes in support of his case. The case was adjourned until March 23rd, bail being furnished to the amount of \$5,000.

**Grecian's Captain Suspended.**

Halifax, Feb. 27.—Decision is given in the trial of the Allan line steamer Grecian. The certificate of Capt. James Harrison was suspended for three months and the certificates of the mates were not interfered with.

**ITALY TAKES ENERGETIC STEPS.**

London, Feb. 27.—A despatch to the Times from Rome says the Italian government is taking energetic measures for the preservation of order, and warships have been ordered to Naples, Leghorn and Genoa.

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**CALL TO MR. CAMERON.**

The Whig congratulates John Cameron, of London, upon his appointment to the office of postmaster. Mr. Cameron is one of Canada's veteran journalists. While yet a very young man he launched the Advertiser, that stalwart of journalism which has done so much for the party and for the people in the moulding of public opinion. Later, he founded the Liberal, in Toronto, a paper which had a brilliant though all too brief career, and which exemplified his ideas of a modern newspaper as an educational force. For some years Mr. Cameron was the managing editor of the Globe and set his seal upon that great journal, and gave to it a tone which has been continued to this day. Of late he has been resting from his labors, and recuperating for the public service upon which he has just entered at the call of the government. In his appointment real worth has been acknowledged, and the civil service has added to it one who will bring to it in his enlightened spirit, great honor and credit.

**THURSDAY THOUGHTS.**  
This is a good year for rubbers, though they may not be of the Good-year brand.

According to the Telegram — which knows of course—there is not a daily paper in Canada, with one exception, which is in favour of prohibition. Can you guess the exception?

The Chinese commission, after a special study of the question, recommend a head tax for three years of \$300, and a rise of it after that of \$500. That means exclusion. Suppose a large vote would have, if possible, arranged that the prohibition party should be taken at some time when the voters would have other attractions to the polls; though it must be admitted that less weight would attach to the additional vote evoked by that process.

The Atlantic Pulp and Paper Company, whose factory is at Bay of Chaleur, calculate in making 22,000 tons of newspaper a year at \$1.80 per cwt. The same article is now selling at \$2.50 per cwt. The combine must be rolling up fortunes at the present rate.

A motion of want of confidence in the legislature? Yes, and because the Ontario government has not forced the federal house to regulate the rates for carrying agricultural products on the railways. Things are going awry with the Ontario opposition.

The Temiskaming and Northern Ontario railway is a popular enterprise, and means the making of New Ontario. It will tap millions of acres of agricultural and wood land and make its resources available. The opposition leader cannot claim the scheme as his as he appears to know very little about it.

The Tory says "a little healthy agitation within the ranks of a party is frequently the sign of that vitality which is the sign of victory." Hence The Tory has been looking a little on his own account. Mr. Whitney has been so much taken up with the admiration of himself as to neglect the constructive policy which The Tory demands.

**REFERRED THE SCHEME.**

London, Feb. 27.—The first public statement note in the preparation for the king's coronation has been sounded. Theborough council of Battersea, the most socialist district in London, which is represented in parliament by John Burns, considered, last evening, a recommendation from its finance committee to vote a sum of money for the coronation celebrations. Deputations of labor and socialist organizations attended to oppose any appropriation for the purpose. Some of the speeches were not violent, but they drew applause from the public galleries. The mayor frequently called the speakers to order according to the king who, one speaker said, should be crowned with a wreath owing to the war. The council, by a vote of thirty-one to eighteen, referred the scheme to the committee.

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Of course that was all as clear as mud. In several other places, Lenox county included, he gave similar answers.

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You will see what he may say next.

A TEMPERANCE MAN.

**Driving World.**

White Mrs. H. A. Lavall and Mrs. T. G. Marshall were enjoying a pleasant drive the horse took fright and started at a much faster pace than was necessary. He lost his footing and fell heavily, and the occupants were thrown out. Both ladies were slightly injured.

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**WHITNEY ON PROHIBITION.**

**THE WHIG'S ENQUIRY HAS BROUGHT AN ANSWER.**

He Will Be a "Straddler"—Facts That Many Have Overlooked—Quite An Interesting Arrangement.

Kingston, Feb. 26.—To the Editor:—I need not tell the Whig is constantly making editorial enquiries and surmises as to what will be Mr. Whitney's position in regard to the Ross prohibition bill, when the time comes for him to speak out. I would not hesitate to stake my reputation as a prophet on the prediction that his position will be simply a "straddle," as it has been on previous occasions. He represents Dundas county, in which there is a large prohibition majority, and he must look to it for election; on the other hand he has been elected in with the liquor interests for years past, and they understand him well enough never to be making enquiries or surmises about how he really stands. His seems to be simply another instance of the "Good Lord, good devil" policy. Here are a few facts that many, perhaps, have overlooked:

1. Just previous to the general provincial election of 1894 the late Louis P. Kribs published the Advocate, a paper exclusively in the interest and for the information of the liquor makers and liquor dealers. The Advocate at that time assumed its friends that Mr. Whitney could be relied to stand in with them, and should have their support.

2. After the election the Advocate assured its friends there would be no advanced temperance legislation during that legislature as enough members pledged to their interests had been elected to prevent anything of the kind.

3. A short time after, when Mr. Meredith resigned the conservative leadership, and Mr. Marter was made leader, the Advocate protested that it was unfair to make a substitution. In fact, the party leader, as the party had now so much for the liquor interests. It was demonstrated that Mr. Whitney was their friend and he should be given the place of honor. Mr. Whitney soon after got the conservative leadership, which he has held ever since.

4. In June, 1897, the Ontario liquor license protective association was held in Hamilton and the officers' annual report was presented. That report strongly endorsed the acts of Mr. Whitney and his friends in opposing, and defeating, too, one of the most important clauses in the bill, namely, the extended license act. That clause gave authority to each municipal council to enact a by-law fixing the hours each evening when the bars should close, if it was desired to close them earlier than the hours provided for in the general statute. That is now the law in force in Scotland, and in many parts of England, and it has been for years.

Mr. Whitney marshalled all his anti-heroes, including Joseph Haycock and others of his class, who were not conservatives, and that important clause was defeated in committee in the house. Mr. Hardy had to withdraw it because he did not resign then and there. Had he done so it would have been a straight anti-temperance vote.

5. In the license protective officer's report, just referred to, it is said: "The bill was not satisfactory to the trade. Local organizations were advised by wire and by letter of this new clause, and instructed of what action to take and to whom the signs of want of confidence in the bill were to be shown. The temperance party worked night and day to retain this clause in the bill. On the morning of April 10th, when the bill was in committee this clause was defeated by a vote of fifty-nine to twenty-nine, although Hon. Mr. Hart and Hon. Mr. Ross spoke strongly in its favor."

6. Then were given the lists of how the members voted, and the officers, including Mr. Whitney and the leading conservative followers, of course. Then came this suggestion about the support to be given to the bill in its extremity.

"Common gratitude" as well as sound policy dictates that we remember the fifty-nine men who stood by us in our extremity."

If the liquor men have ever expressed a doubt since of where Mr. Whitney stands I have never noticed it.

7. Mr. Whitney was often asked at public meetings—not by the liquor men—what was his position. At a meeting in Dundas in July, 1897, he gave this reply, according to the Mail's report:

"The next government (sic) of course would act as common sense and public opinion told them to do, and they would do it with all their might."

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