

THE DAILY EXAMINER

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THE DAILY EXAMINER

AUGUST 23, 1898. AN OBJECTION MET.

REFERRING TO THE EXAMINER'S article of last week on the Prohibition Plebiscite, it is objected that "Prohibition involves interference with individual liberty which is the birthright of British freemen."

It must be admitted that, as a rule, prohibitions are not consistent with the spirit of the religion of this country. Christianity, to use the words of one of its ablest preachers, "is a set of principles, not a set of rules." It does not say you shall not do this or you shall not do that; you shall wear this or you shall not wear that; you shall eat this or you shall not eat that; you shall drink this or you shall not drink that.

The question involves the consideration of (1) the principle which governs the limitation of the right to personal liberty; (2) the properties of alcoholic liquors and the effects produced upon society by the traffic in them.

As to the first we beg leave to quote the opinions of a few of those able men who have thought and written upon the subject. Herbert Spencer says:

"Every man has freedom to do all that he wills, provided he infringes not the equal freedom of other men."

In another connection, Spencer says that it is the duty of the State to guarantee to each the fullest freedom for the exercise of his faculties compatible with the equal freedom of all others; and again he argues in this way:

"Life depends upon the performance of certain actions. Abrogate entirely the liberty to exercise the faculties, and we have death; abrogate it partially, and we have pain or partial death. This remains true whether a man be savage or civilized, isolated or social, and there must be life before there can be pain or death."

John Stuart Mill says:—"To individuality should belong the part of life in which it is chiefly the individual who is interested; to society the part which interests society. Everyone who receives the protection of society owes a return for this benefit; and the fact of living in society renders it indispensable that each should be bound to observe a certain line of conduct towards the rest. This conduct consists, first, in not injuring the interests of one another, or rather certain interests which, either by express provision or by tacit understanding, ought to be considered as rights; and secondly in each person bearing his share of the labors and sacrifices incurred for the benefit of the community. These conditions are justified in enforcing at all costs those who endeavor to withhold fulfillment of these conditions on the rights of others, inflictions on them of any loss or damage not justified by his own rights, these are fit subjects of moral reprobation and in grave cases of moral retribution and punishment."

al definition of Sir William Blackstone and now supplement it with the following more elaborate statement from Stevens-Blackstone:

"The just limitation of King's prerogative is indeed essential to the idea of Political or Civil Liberty. Man considered as a free agent endowed to know good from evil, and with a power of choosing those measures which appear to him most desirable, possesses a right which may be denominated his natural liberty. This consists properly in a power of acting as one sees fit, without any restraint or control except by the law of nature, being a right inherent in us by birth, and are the gifts of God to man at his creation, when he endowed him with the faculty of free-will. But every man when he enters into society gives up a part of his natural liberty, as the price of so valuable a purchase, and in consideration of receiving the advantages of mutual commerce obliges himself to conform to those laws which the community has thought proper to establish. And this species of legal obedience and conformity, is infinitely more desirable than that wild and savage liberty which is sacrificed to obtain it; for no man that considers a moment would wish to retain the absolute and uncontrolled power of doing what he pleases, the consequence of which is that every other man would also have the same power, and that there would be no security to individuals in any of the enjoyments of life. Political, therefore, or Civil Liberty, (which is that of a member of society) is no other than natural liberty so far restrained by human laws (and no further) as is necessary and expedient for the general advantage of the public. Hence, we may conclude that the law which restrains a man from doing mischief to his fellow creatures, though it diminishes the natural, increases the civil liberty of mankind. On the other hand, all laws whether made with or without our consent, if these regulate or restrain our conduct in matters of mere indifference, without any good end in view, are regulations destructive of liberty; whereas if any public advantage can arise from observing the precept imposed, the control of our private inclinations in one or two particular points will concur to preserve our general freedom in others of more importance by supporting the state of society which alone can secure our independence. Thus the statute of King Edward IV which forbade the fine gentlemen of those days (under the degree of a Lord) to wear pikes upon their shoes or boots of more than two inches in length was a law which savored of oppression, because however ridiculous the fashion then in use might appear, the restraining it by pecuniary penalties could serve no purpose of common utility. But the statute of King Charles II., which prescribed a thing seemingly as indifferent, a dress for the dead, (who are all ordered to be buried in woollen) is a law consistent with public liberty, for it was intended to encourage the staple trade of the nation. So that laws, when prudently framed, are by no means subversive of, but rather conducive to, liberty; for, as Mr. Locke has well observed, where there is no law there is no freedom. But then, on the other hand, that constitution or frame of Government, that system of law is alone calculated to maintain civil liberty, which leaves the subject entire master of his own conduct, except in those points wherein the public good requires some direction or restraint. Civil liberty, however may be compromised, not only by the imposition of unreasonable enactments, but by permitting any individual or set of individuals to infringe at pleasure those which are once established; and it is then only perfect when the laws are both made in a wise and patriotic spirit, and guarded from infringement by the governing power."

Now, would the prohibition of the liquor traffic be an undue infringement upon the liberty of the person—the natural liberty—which the State must not in any way curtail unless it be used to the injury of the public? To discuss this question, it is necessary to take into consideration the nature and properties of alcoholic liquors, and the effect produced upon society by the traffic in them.

(Continued on fourth page.)



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PLAYING THE PLEBISCITE.

(Montreal Star.)

The Cabinet Ministers having given the people their plebiscite, have thoughtfully retired out of range while they play with it. They are careful not to remain where they might be asked what it means. The result is that the electorate is invited to put itself to a vast deal of trouble to fire a blank cartridge.

No one in authority has told us what will happen if the plebiscite carries in the affirmative. We only know what will occur if the negative votes prevail. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has assured us that in that case the prohibition question will "drop and drop forever." This is clear and decisive enough. But unhappily the Premier did not choose to be equally explicit as to his intention if a majority of the people declared in favor of prohibitory legislation. Consequently the balloting is to be done in the dark. It is instinctive with most people to distrust politicians. They cannot get away from this habit even when the politicians make the most explicit promises. But when they politicians avoid making promises—when they dodge questions—that distrust arises to a practical certainty that they are to be fooled.

The consequence is that few will approach the coming plebiscite vote with anything like the sense of responsibility which ought to characterize the casting of a ballot on such a question. The whole proceeding is regarded as a time maker for the Liberals and is expected to result in nothing more than an academic expression of opinion.

Now the Premier, since he has actually fixed a day for the voting, ought to come forward and answer two or three obvious questions without delay. He should tell us: (1) How large a majority must be piled up for prohibition before he will stake the life of his Government on a prohibitory measure. (2) What relation the vote cast must bear to the total number of names on the voter's lists. (3) What he will do if prohibition carries in some Provinces but is defeated in others; the total majority being in favor of prohibition.

These are plain straightforward questions, and should receive plain honest answers.

A KLONDIKE PIONEER.

He is not satisfied with his experience.

Mr. Joseph Dunfort, of Boston, passed through Montreal a few days ago on his way home after an absence of two years in the Klondike. "This is not my first visit to the Yukon country," said Mr. Dunfort. "I was there twenty-two years ago and in five years brought out clear nine thousand dollars in gold. How I prospered this time I will not say. It was after me that Dunfort Mountain and Dunfort Creek were named. As for the Klondike, I would say that at present it is overcrowded and not the place it is cracked up to be. Furthermore most of those reported big strikes are lies. The climate is healthy and when capital gets to work in a systematic fashion to develop the resources of the country there will be money to be made. But this delirious placer mining does not amount to anything and my advice today is to keep out of Klondike." Mr. Dunfort is a native of the Province of Quebec, but is a naturalized United States citizen.

The London Times says that it foresees circumstances which may compel the United States to a permanent occupation of Cuba, and adds:

"If America is prepared to undertake the responsibility of the government of the whole Philippine group it is hard to see how any other power could legitimately interfere. If the United States repudiates such responsibility a very perilous state of things might ensue, because it would not be easy to dispute the right of other powers to terminate the state of anarchy. Therefore, many difficulties will be avoided by American annexation. In any case no European power need reckon upon finding the United States as easy to coerce as Japan."

Pain in the Back Being troubled off and on with pains in my back, caused by constipation, I tried several kinds of pills, I had been advised, and to put the truth in a nut shell, Dr. Carter's Little Liver Pills are the only pills that have proved effective in my case. I can heartily recommend them. J. G. DEVEREAUX, Unionville, Ont.

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IT PAYS TO BUY AT PERKINS Men's Shirts Men's Neckties Men's Socks Men's Underwear Table Damask Bedding HIGH CLASS DRESS GOODS. F. Perkins & Co. SUNNYSIDE.

MARITIME PROVINCES AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION. The Eleventh Annual Championship Games. Of the Association will be held on the Grounds of the CHARLOTTETOWN A. A. Association, in Charlottetown, P. E. I., on the afternoon of THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th, 1898. The following is the List of Events.

Open to bona-fide residents of Maritime Provinces. 100 Yards Run, Putting 16 lb. shot 220 Yards Run, Pole Vault, Half Mile Bicycle, Throwing 16 lb. Hammer, 880 Yards Run, Running High Jump, 1 Mile Bicycle, 440 Yards Run, Running Broad Jump, 1 Mile Run, 3 Mile Bicycle, 120 yds. Hurdle.

Events will be contested in the above order. Intending competitors will govern themselves accordingly. Bicycle Races under sanction and rules of C. W. A. Entries will close with the Hon. Secretary at Halifax, N. S., on Thursday, September 1st at Midnight, and should be made through Secretaries of Clubs, on official entry blanks. In the case of individuals not so entered, satisfactory evidence must be produced of amateur standing. Blanks may be obtained from any affiliated club or from the Secretary at Halifax.

Fee in each event Fifty cents, to accompany entry. Any further information will be furnished on application. Halifax, N. S., E. T. MacLREITH, Aug. 8th 1898. Hon. Sec. M.P.A.A.A. 43 Sackville St. 162 eod.

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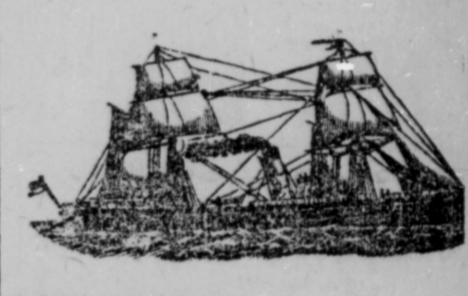
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For further rates and all information apply to H. L. Chipman, Canadian Agent, at Halifax, or to W. W. CLARKE, Agent, Ch'town.

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SESSION 1898-9

Matriculation Examination, preliminary to the various Courses of Study, will be held as under:

*Faculty of Arts (including the Donatida special Course for Women) Thurs, 15th Sept. Faculty of Applied Science, Faculty of Medicine, Tues. 6th Sept. Faculty of Law, Faculty of Comparative Medicine and Veterinary Science, Sat, 17th Sept.

*The Revised Curriculum in the Faculty of Arts comprises courses in Classics, English, Modern Languages, History, Philosophy, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, Geology. These courses are open also to PARTIAL STUDENTS without Matriculation.

In the Faculty of Applied Science the courses in Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, and Mining Engineering, Chemistry, and Architecture, are also open to PARTIAL STUDENTS without Matriculation.

Examinations for 20 FIRST YEAR ENTRANCE EXHIBITIONS in the FACULTY OF ARTS, ranging from \$60. to \$200. will be held on the 15th September at Montreal, St. John, N. B., Halifax, Charlottetown, St. John's, Nfld., and other centres.

The MCGILL NORMAL SCHOOL will be reopened on 1st September. Particulars of Examinations, and copies of the Calendar, containing full information as to Conditions of Entrance, Courses of Study, Regulations for Degrees, Exhibitions and Scholarships, Fees, etc., may be obtained on application to W. VAUGHAN, Secretary wed & sat