

Daily Guardian.

MONDAY, DEC. 29, 1890.

Keep Before the People.

That the drunks arrested under three years of license here nearly equalled those of ten years under the Scott Act. That in two cities in Massachusetts which adopted high license the number of drunks increased 4,000 in one year. That as the Examiner says when a man got very drunk under license he was pitched into the street. That as Sam Small says the biggest fraud in God's world to-day is high license. That the Examiner said in 1886 that "high license in New York and the Scott Act here were both being violated and there is no reason why we should reject the latter and accept the former." That under license when our population was nearly 50 per cent less than now, we required sixteen policemen, and now we need only six. That license sweeps away the ground of moral appeal. That under license here, the Stipendiary says, the number of drunks was appalling; citizens coming into our city were assaulted at night with the evident intent at robbery. Streets of street roughts thronged the street corners and women were not safe from open insult. That free rum against the law is better than a legalized curse. That we could not get license if we tried because the Legislative Council say they will never vote for it: we have therefore had fair warning; and the issue is Scott Act or free rum. That in those counties in Ontario which repealed the Scott Act ten gallons of liquor are now sold under license to one under the Scott Act. That as the Legislative Councilors say, the Scott Act is the best law we have ever had. That it is in better working order to-day than ever before. That the hop beer nuisance having fizzled, the law can be no more openly defied. That the women of the W. C. T. U. are now prepared to enforce the Scott Act if the men will only have public spirit enough to vote for it. That this year the drunks only numbered 225, last year 306; and the Prosecutor was only at work six or seven months. That all the Examiner—the only paper that opposes the Scott Act—ever does to help it, is to sneer and insinuate, to create contempt for the law and sympathy for its violators. That the Scott Act is the natural step from high license to prohibition. That to repeal it is to abdicate a position which cost weary years to gain. That the liquor dealers can not now make an appeal on behalf of vested interests. That the liquor traffic ought to be made so odious that nobody but an infernal scoundrel will sell it, and nobody but an outcast will drink it. That the liquor traffic has been driven into the slums and outlawed from society. That liquor drinking is now done by stealth and without our consent. That the Scott Act has largely broken up the treating system, one of the worst features of drinking customs. That the law of man, is now like the curse of God—against the liquor business. That if offences must come, and was pronounced upon those through whom the offence cometh, the electors who decline to become partners in the liquor traffic, will escape the threatened punishment of God. That the whole Province has been blessed by the Scott Act and Charlottetown has no right to make itself a curse to the country. That the quantity of liquor consumed per head of our population is now two-thirds of a gallon and it was one and three-fourths gallons under license, more than double. That under the Scott Act in the country the grass is growing green before many a tavern door. That in many settlements there are now no taverns at all. That as the Examiner says, no sympathy is due to the promoters of the Anti-Scott Act petition. That the city taxpayers have been relieved of the burden of supporting 1000 people annually in jail, and paying salaries of 16 policemen. That as the Examiner said, before it joined the rum party, "the roads are not now unsafe as they used to be by reckless driving of drunken men; and that the Scott Act has dealt the liquor traffic in this Province a staggering blow. That Cardinal Taschereau, the highest Roman Catholic dignitary in Canada, the Presbyterian Synod, the Methodist Conference and the Baptist Association all endorse the Scott Act. That only the organized liquor fraternity, their customers, and a few others, are opposing it. That the hundreds of citizens who give time and money to retain it, would not be so earnest if the Scott Act were a failure. That if the Act is sustained, Coun. Byrne says most of the liquor dealers will give up the business of importing. That this is the liquor dealers last kick. That even now, says the Examiner, there are signs of the solidarity of the liquor party being broken up. That the man who votes to repeal the Scott Act dishonours the church and prefers to follow the teaching of the liquor dealers. That the man who neglects to vote will be regarded with suspicion.

AGAINST THE PETITION

A Thoughtful Letter from the Supt. of Education.

DEAR SIR.—A few days ago I received a note from you requesting an expression of my views on the repeal or retention of the Scott Act in this city. I then determined to comply whenever I could find time to devote such attention to the subject as would result in the formation of an opinion, clear and tenable. However pronounced my convictions on the general subject of temperance are, I was prepared to view this question of Scott Act versus License from a purely unbiased standpoint. In the discussion a pretty thorough discussion has been conducted through the press, so that the necessity for investigation on my own account no longer exists; and the facts and figures brought out by this discussion are so convincingly in favor of the Scott Act, that I have come to what to me seems the only conclusion possible, viz., that no system as yet tried in this Province has done so much to decrease drunkenness and its attendant evils, or has been so effectual in saving the weak and unwary from the pitfalls of intemperance. For the legalized saloon with its flash and glitter and color, which met our youth at every turn, and through whose inviting portals they might enter without fear of public exposure, has given place to the illegal den which must be sought by dark and tortuous ways for following which they are liable to be brought into open court to their great confusion and shame. There is in this surely a restricting influence of no small consequence. Its results cannot be measured by numbers, nor estimated outside of eternity. A comparison of the present with the past must convince any person open to conviction that the Scott Act, (imperfectly enforced as it has been) is yet greatly superior to any license law for the suppression of the liquor traffic. Recall the days of license, when street brawls and riotous scenes were common as they are now uncommon, when quarrels on lines of travel were of daily occurrence, and when, after night-fall, reputable citizens were almost afraid to risk their lives on the thoroughfares leading from the city. All this has been changed to a very marked degree, and the Scott Act is certainly entitled to the greater share of the credit. But notwithstanding that much has been done, the state of things is yet far from satisfactory, but as long as a city is constituted as at present we can no more expect that the Scott Act shall be perfectly observed than that no robberies committed or incendiarism practiced. Lawbreakers there will be till the millennium comes, be the officers of justice ever so strict and public opinion ever so strong. As well expect every burglar to be brought to justice as to have the penalty of the law meted out to every illicit liquor seller. The marvel is that so much has been accomplished in the face of such a powerful organization as the liquor fraternity, the indifference of the general public, and the unscrupulous shifts of those upon whose word conviction depends. Realizing that to a considerable extent at least, we are our brothers' keepers, it becomes the duty of every citizen to stand by the law which helps him most effectively in the discharge of this acknowledged obligation. But I have already occupied too much space in a repetition of facts patent to everybody. In conclusion let me ask the electors of Charlottetown in their consideration of this question, to remember the striking psychological fact, that we are always more or less discontented with the present—were it not so, there would be no progress—that the Past will always win a glory from its being far. And orb into the perfect star We saw not when we moved therein," and that the Future, gilded with the colors of imagination and hope, becomes for us "the good time coming." If we make due allowance for our excessive dissatisfaction with the Present, and the undue estimate of the Past and of the Future, and view this question in the light of what really has been, is, and (judging from the Past) shall be, I can see but one course open—to hold firmly by the existing law, and then enforce its provisions by every legitimate means. Yours respectfully, A. A. NICHOLSON. Ch'town, Dec. 29, 1890.

Laurier's Christmas on the Ice.

The experience of Mr. Laurier and party in the ice on the Straits is thus described by the Moncton Transcript: On Wednesday night Messrs. Laurier, Fisher and Choquette accompanied by Capt. Walsh—all liberal members of parliament left Charlottetown for Cape Traverse where they slept over night. On Thursday morning it was intended to have started the journey across the Straits at eight o'clock but the boatmen declared that the wind was too high and unless it moderated the crossing could not be made at all. At ten o'clock word was sent up that they were ready to start. The four members of parliament were driven in a sleigh about half a mile out on the board ice to the boats. The latter were five in number, each manned by five men and one passenger went to a boat, and the mails occupied the fifth. Five boatmen hauled each boat. The boats were hauled half a mile before the shore ice was cleared and then commenced the arduous portion of the journey. The ice was floating in many cases; and in others not thick enough to bear the weight of the boat; and it broke through. For long distances the men had to haul the boats through the soft slushy snow on the ice—at times the knee deep in water. The privations which these boatmen endure were noted by the members of parliament, and will not be forgotten by and by when a tribute may be of use Mr. Fisher, M.P., says he saw one of the men in the middle of the straits, sit on the side of his boat, and pull off his high top boots and pour water out. The thermometer was below zero. The men's stockings were wringing wet. That the men's constitutions can withstand such rough usage is astonishing. The distance across is nine miles; but the boats had to travel more than that distance. The last mile occupied over one and a half hours; and the travelers were for over six hours exposed to the intense cold of the straits. Mr. Laurier was much exhausted by the unaccustomed exposure. On arriving at Moncton Messrs. Fisher and Choquette, M.P.s were driven to the Brunswick Hotel, and the Hon. Mr. Laurier driven to Mr. Peter McSweeney's residence, whose guest he will be during his stay. Owing to Mr. Laurier being so exhausted last evening and this morning were entirely devoted to rest and there was no reception. General Booth Checked. LONDON, Dec. 29.—The Times announces the resignation of Commissioner Smith of the Salvation Army. His resignation, it says, at this critical period in the history of the army is most important as Smith formed the one substantial guarantee that an earnest and business like effort would be made to execute the practicable part of Gen. Booth's scheme of social regeneration. The ground of difficulty seems to be Smith's desire to keep the social working scheme and its funds distinct from the religious work of the army. Sawtell to be Hanged. DOVER, N. H., Dec. 26.—The jury on the Sawtelle case came in at 7.30 p. m., after an absence of one hour and fifty minutes with a verdict of guilty on the first count of murder. Sawtelle was sentenced to be hanged on January 1st, 1891.

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Ch'town, Dec. 13, 1890.—2w eod

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