

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1908.

PROHIBITION AND THE PRESIDENCY.

For some thirty years past the Prohibition party in the United States has regularly nominated candidates for the offices of President and Vice President at each national election. They have not succeeded very well, having never exceeded the popular vote of 307,000 obtained in 1880 when the opposing candidates had over four millions each. In 1904 the Prohibition vote was about 258,000 and that of the winning Republican candidate, Mr. Roosevelt, was over seven millions. The Prohibition party is persistent, however, and this year with Messrs Clafin and Watkins as their candidates for the two highest offices, are hopeful of obtaining a much larger vote than heretofore.

The reasons for this hope are that there has been a tidal wave of prohibition sweeping over the country. There are now eight states under prohibition, which with the districts under local option, have placed nearly two-thirds of the territory and about one half of the people under conditions in which the liquor traffic is illegal. During the past four years the area of "dry" territory has been doubled and 20,000,000 people have been brought under the prohibition restrictions. In the first six months of this year more than six thousand saloons were abolished, being at the rate of thirty-three a day. In Illinois alone fifteen thousand saloons were put out of business in one day, while Indiana shut up six hundred in six months.

And yet so far both the great parties ignore prohibition as a national issue and do not even mention it in their platforms. The temperance man hope this time to roll together a vote large enough to compel the Republican and Democratic leaders to sit up and take notice of them. There will still be millions of voters, however, who believe in abolishing the liquor traffic, yet will this year cast their votes for one or other of the party candidates instead of for Clafin and Watkins. It is much the same in Canada, where regrettably many temperance men pay little heed to the advancement of prohibition when electing their representatives. A hang-over must come before long both in the Republic and the Dominion as the great moral reform sweeps on.

PUBLIC MEN AND THE TUNNEL.

Our City and Province have been favored during the present campaign with the visits of four men prominent in national affairs, all of whom had something to say concerning Prince Edward Island's peculiar situation and circumstances. The visitors were: Hon. Mr. Foster, Hon. Mr. Fielding, Hon. Mr. Marcell and Mr. Borden, the opposition leader. All of them except Mr. Marcell made specific reference to the Tunnel.

It has been widely circulated throughout Canada to the prejudice of Mr. Foster in quarters where it was thought it might injure him or his party, that Mr. Foster promised that the Tunnel would be built if the Conservative party came to power. This is an error. Mr. Foster did not promise the Tunnel. What he did say was in effect that the Conservative party if placed in power would see that "the little sister," Prince Edward Island should get fair play, which had not yet been accorded her, and that as to the Tunnel, he personally believed it practicable and that it could be built and maintained at little more yearly cost than the maintenance of the present inadequate service, and if so it ought to be built.

Mr. Fielding was the next to speak on this vital subject. He criticised Mr. Foster for having, as he alleged promised what he could not deliver. Then Mr. Fielding went on to say that he hoped the Tunnel might yet

be built, but ever it were constructed it would not be because of the terms of union, which were framed before a Tunnel was thought of. He would promise nothing, because they had not sufficient information, but if it could be shown that it could be built for ten millions, or even a considerable more, he would personally favor its construction.

Last of all we have Mr. Borden's deliverance on the subject. He laid stress on the "binding contract" made in the terms of union, which had not been kept, but must be carried out. He also charged Sir Wilfrid Laurier with having violated his promise, made to the people of this Province in 1891—violated it every year since he came to power—and pledged himself and his party to keep faith with us in the future in regard to this matter.

Such are the main features of the three statements. There is a strong contrast between the attitude of Mr. Fielding and Mr. Borden on the nature of the obligation in the terms of union, but otherwise the three public men, treated the Tunnel project with sober gravity as a matter too grave to be ignored, and as a public work which they would be glad to see put in operation. We regard it as of great importance that three of the leading public men of Canada, speaking face to face with the people, have given such strong assurance of their favor and support to this great public work.

Do not let on the result of the election. It is both immoral and illegal. No man who has a bet pending on the result of the election is qualified to vote. Read carefully the Warning to voters published by the Moral and Social Reform League.

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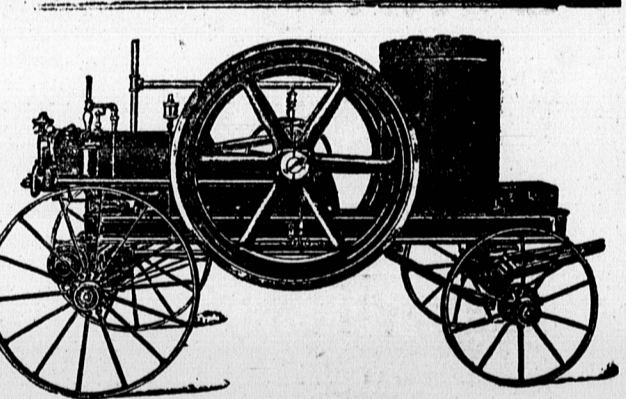
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