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THE MORNING GUARDIAN.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1899.

THAT COMMITTEE.

Our readers may be interested to learn a few particulars in regard to the representative men appointed by the Dominion Alliance to provide a plan of action for bringing prohibition before parliament. As already stated in our Ottawa despatch the committee consists of seven members of the Commons and one Senator—Messrs. Moore, Ganong, McMullen, Flint, McClure, Logan, Christie and Senator Vidal.

Hon. Alexander Vidal is an old man now, in his eightieth year. He was born in England, and came to Canada in 1824. He was in early life a land surveyor, and later a banker. In politics he is a Conservative. He sat in the old legislative council of Canada from 1863 to 1867, and was called to the Senate in 1873. From 1876 till the present he has been annually re-elected to the Presidency of the Dominion Alliance.

Dr. Thomas Christie, M. P. for Argenteuil, Quebec, was born in Scotland in 1824 and came to Canada three years later. He has since 1848 been actively engaged in the duties of his profession as a physician and surgeon. He was first elected to parliament in 1875. He is a staunch Liberal and prohibitionist.

Mr. Hance James Logan M. P. for Cumberland, N. S. is one of the youngest and best looking men in the Commons. He was born in 1869 and first elected in 1896. He is a lawyer by profession and a Liberal in politics.

Mr. Firman McClure, the Liberal member for Colchester, N. S. was born in 1868 at Truro. He served in the provincial assembly during one session and was first elected to the Commons in 1896. He was Grand Worthy Patriarch of the Sons of Temperance of Nova Scotia in 1891.

Mr. Thomas B. Flint M. P. is the Liberal representative of Yarmouth N. S. He was born there in 1847 graduated at Mount Allison in 1867 and is a barrister by profession. He was for some time sheriff of Yarmouth. He has long been prominently identified with temperance work. He was first elected to the Commons in 1882.

Mr. James McMullen, Liberal M. P. for North Wellington Ont. was born in Ireland in 1833 and came to Canada when young. He is a merchant. He was first elected to the Commons in 1882 and has since been continuously re-elected.

Mr. G. W. Ganong, Conservative M. P. for Charlotte, N. B. is a young man engaged extensively in manufacturing candy and confectionary. He was first elected in 1896.

Mr. A. H. Moore, Conservative member for Stanstead, Quebec, was born in that county in 1838. He has been actively connected with railway and manufacturing enterprises. He was first elected to the Commons in 1896.

It will be seen from the above notes that four members of the committee are new members. Two of the committee are selected from Ontario, two from Quebec, three from Nova Scotia and one from New Brunswick.

The production of coal in the United States increased from under 33 million tons in 1870 to nearly 146 million tons in 1897. Great Britain is still ahead of the Republic in annual production of coal, having reached an annual average for some years past of 185 million tons, but is rapidly being overtaken by her great American competitor. A notable feature of the coal trade has been the steady reduction in price. In 1880 the price of bituminous coal in Baltimore was \$3.75 per ton. In 1898 the average price was \$1.60 per ton.

After Russia, Britain, Germany and France had each got a foothold on the coast of China came the demand of Italy for a coaling and naval station at San Mun Bay. The other continental powers evidently suspected that Britain was behind the Italian demand. Whether this suspicion was correct or not, it is a fact that the diplomatic relations between Britain and Italy have been very close for years past. And last of all came Denmark with a demand for a port. This was too much. Again Lord Salisbury's hand was suspected. Hence comes the point blank refusal of the Italian demand. The line must be drawn somewhere.

THE GUARDIAN of this morning says: "As we understand it Mr. Scrimgeour does not come within the class of persons entitled to a bonded warehouse." Will our esteemed contemporary explain what it means by this assertion?—Patriot.

Certainly. We mean exactly what we said yesterday, and if the sagacious editor of the Patriot had read on to the end of the sentence which he cut in two he would not need to ask for a repetition. What the GUARDIAN said was this:

"As we understand it Mr. Scrimgeour does not come within the class of persons entitled to a bonded warehouse, nor is any legitimate business he has such as to require it. And surely a bonded warehouse should not be permitted as an aid to illegal traffic."

The annual report of vital statistics in Ontario is not an assuring document. It shows a birthrate lower than that of France, and in France, without any drain from emigration, the population remains stationary. In France the annual birth-rate is 22.7 per thousand; in Ontario 20.9. In Quebec the rate is 38.57, or not very far from twice the proportion of Ontario. In England and Wales the rate is 29.7 and in the United Kingdom 29.2. The birthrate in Ontario is decidedly lower than even in the New England states. When we remember how closely the population of Ontario approximates to one half of the Dominion, we shall see how serious a matter this is. Some compensation is found, however in the very low death-rate in Ontario—12.2 per thousand—which is the lowest in a list of 22 countries and states from which comparative figures are taken.

Matters in Cuba are still in an unsettled condition. A large section of the native Cubans are determined to form an independent government. Gomez is undoubtedly the strongest man in Cuba, both intellectually and in his hold on the people. He has been strongly solicited to accept the presidency of the island republic. Hitherto he has declined, and has seemed disposed to play into the hands of the United States and the annexation programme. But the old man is evidently weakening and has intimated that he can only accept the title of President upon the unanimous voice of the Cuban people. He will shortly have \$3,000,000 to distribute among the Cuban soldiery, of Uncle Sam's money, but with an understanding that he is to shape things Uncle Sam's way. If he should use this money toward creating the independent republic with himself as president, what then?

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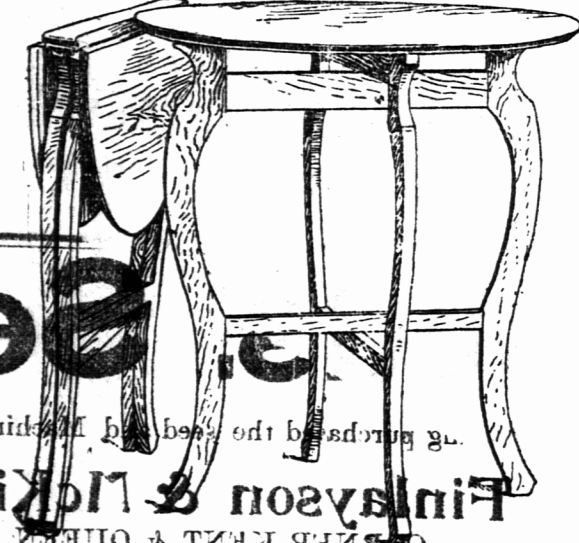
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