

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

JANUARY 8, 1884.

Licenses or Scott Act?

The people of Prince County are now discussing the question whether or not they had better throw overboard the Scott Act and go back to Licensed Liquor Selling? Their decision will be given on the 7th February next. It will be well if in the meantime persons taking different views of the question come out manfully, so that there may be a regular fair and square stand-up debate over it—so that the electors may have a clear understanding of the responsibility under which they act when they drop their ballots into the box, and an intelligent idea of what is involved in the result.

To come to a right conclusion about the question, there are two parties at least who should not be consulted, and to whom no attention should be paid: (1) the temperance fanatic, (2) the liquor dealer. The former is almost as unreasoning about the liquor question as a bull is about a red rag; and one can well understand why the latter prefers license to Scott Act. For his license he pays a certain fixed amount every year; but the Scott Act makes him liable to pay, at any time, sums ranging from \$50 to \$300. In return for the license fee, the community in which he lives makes him just as respectable as his neighbors who are engaged in perfectly legitimate pursuits, and shares with him all the responsibility for the misery, ruin and death which the traffic he carries on may cause. But the Scott Act makes him always an offender against the law, renders his stock in trade at all times liable to confiscation, and in certain circumstances, which are very likely to occur—such, for instance, as a third conviction, or the sudden death of one of his customers—pronounces him a criminal, and liable to imprisonment in the common jail or in the penitentiary.

Keeping, therefore, out of sight as far as possible, the fanatical prohibitionist on the one hand, and the liquor dealer on the other—what decision should the electors of Prince County come to as reasonable and independent men?

We must, of course, admit that liquor has its good uses. It is good (though not absolutely required) in cases of colic, etc.; and for the time it makes those who drink it feel good at small expense. But it will also be admitted that drunkenness is the curse of this country, and that drunkenness is due to the liquor traffic. Indeed, if this were not so, liquor selling would be a legitimate business and the people of Prince County would not now be called upon to decide the question whether or not it shall be specially legalized on their assumption of the responsibility for its results.

We must also admit that travellers find it a hardship to be obliged to accept the hospitality of some farmer in the country, instead of being able to drive up to a "public house" and order what they want. This is a point to be considered. It may, of course, be urged that the hardship is not now so great as it used to be; for the railway and the towns and villages, which have grown up throughout the Province, render "public houses" in the country less necessary than in the olden time when travelling was done only by means of horses and carriages or on foot, and the population was sparse and poor. It may also be urged that farmers would much rather entertain a stranger occasionally, than permit a "licensed tavern" in the neighborhood to demoralize his and his neighbors boys. But after all some hardship to travellers exists; and this is a point to be weighed.

But, it is said, see what a lot of revenue the Town Councils and the Provincial Government lose—and liquor is all the while being used and drunkards all the while being made; why not license the traffic and make something out of it though it is evil? There is force in this objection. The taxpayers might, it is true, make some money out of the traffic; but seeing that the traffic is a curse, is it likely that the license money will bring a blessing with it? We often note that liquor dealers, though prosperous for a time, are overtaken by trouble and disaster, and seem to have no luck or happiness with their money. Is it probable that the town or other community which shares in what are called "the profits of the liquor dealer," will have better luck than the liquor dealer himself? In the Old Testament Scriptures a woe is pronounced against those who build up a town with blood. Perhaps it would be carrying an analogy too far to say that we may come upon those who, for the sake of a few fees, license a traffic which kills men.

But the traffic goes on. The Scott Act has not been enforced. Underhand drinking is more demoralizing than drinking which is over and above board. The easy violation of one law is an excuse for, and an encouragement to, the violation of other laws. If they see that the people permit a law against liquor selling to be broken, rogues and thieves will not unlikely conclude that they will permit the laws against cheating and thieving to be broken. This is all true. The records of the Stipendiary Magistrate's Court in this city shows that in the year 1880—the year before the Scott Act came into operation—there were 258 arrests for drunkenness in Charlottetown; and there were 256 arrests for drunkenness last year! In Prince County, the showing is, no doubt, better; but it goes without saying that

the illicit traffic in strong drink has constantly been going on there as well as here.

Well, what's to be done about it? Would it not be better to license that which we cannot (or should we say will not) prevent? The question is narrowed down to this.

Now, it is generally admitted that the Liquor License Act passed last year, is a good Act. But at least one judicial authority has declared it *ultra vires*; and it is a disputed question whether the right to regulate the liquor traffic is vested with the Provincial and Municipal authorities or with the Dominion authorities. But as to the legality of the Scott Act and the right of the Dominion authorities to prohibit the traffic, there is no dispute. Then, would the people of Prince County do well if they relinquished the Scott Act, which has been pronounced by the highest Courts to be constitutional, in order that they may take up the License Act, about which there is a dispute, and as to the legality of which there is a dispute? Common prudence suggests that it would be better to hold to that which is legal and established.

Aed why not enforce the Scott Act? The Scott Act does not prevent those who need the help of alcohol from obtaining alcohol in any form; for it provides vendors to dispense liquors according to the prescriptions of physicians. Then why not give the Scott Act a fair trial? Why should the community of Prince County now go back to the license system, and in consideration of a paltry revenue incur, and share with the liquor dealer, responsibility for all the sin and crime which the liquor traffic may do in their midst—among themselves? We are told to "fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body"; and shall the people of Prince County make a bargain with him, hold him as blameless and respectable as themselves, share with him the guilt of participating in the slaughter of those who by his instrumentality are brought down to a drunkard's grave? We tremble not. Not for the license fee.

THE CITY MEETING.

THE PROPRIETY OF A CIVIC GRANT TO A DOMINION EXHIBITION DISCUSSED—THE MEETING ADJOURNED UNTIL THE CIVIC FINANCES ARE EXAMINED—NO SURPLUS—NO GRANT.

A MEETING OF CITIZENS was held in the Market Hall last evening to consider the advisability of giving a Civic grant in aid of the proposed Dominion Exhibition, 1884. It was largely attended. Henry Beer, Esq., M. P., occupied the chair, and Patrick McQuaid was appointed Secretary.

The Chairman in opening the meeting remarked it was unnecessary for him to say anything in favor of holding a Dominion Exhibition in Charlottetown. It commended itself to all, and citizens of all classes would reap great benefits from it. The exhibition would cause a large influx of visitors, would create employment for our mechanics and artisans, and the benefits to the city and citizens would derive therefrom would be large. We are about to ask the Dominion Government for the annual grant of \$5,000, but we may rest assured that we will not receive it unless the Government is aware that the exhibition is backed up by the people of Prince Edward Island. It was, therefore, the duty of the City of Charlottetown to give a liberal grant in aid of the proposed exhibition. As a member of the Provincial Legislature, he would favor a liberal grant from the Local Government, and would do his utmost on the floor of the house to secure it.

CHARLES PALMER, Esq., Q. C., moved the following resolution:—  
Whereas, the Dominion Exhibitions, which have been held in all the older provinces of the Dominion, excepting this Island, contributed largely to the prosperity of farmers, mechanics and artisans, by stimulating them to greater efforts in successful competition;—  
And whereas, by holding the Dominion Exhibition, 1884, in Charlottetown, a large amount of money would be spent for building material, and in payment of wages to mechanics and others for putting up suitable buildings and other necessary works pertaining thereto;—  
And whereas, a large amount of money must be expended in Charlottetown by visitors to the Exhibition, all of which must find its way into the pockets of the merchants, hotel and boarding house keepers, livery stable proprietors, and citizens generally.

Therefore Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, the City Council will be justified in giving a liberal sum from the City funds to aid in successfully carrying out the proposed Exhibition, believing that the benefits arising to the citizens from said Exhibition will double repay them for any such outlay.

He understood there was a considerable amount of money in the City Banks to the credit of the corporation. The city can, therefore, afford to give a handsome grant. We do not want to let the Exhibition go to other towns. We should therefore stand by the Capital. It was impossible for us to calculate the benefits the city would derive from the Exhibition. The benefits which our storekeepers and others derive from the Provincial Exhibition, would give us a faint idea of the benefits derived from a Dominion Exhibition. It would be a great and lasting benefit to the country, and the amount which the Exhibition would cost our taxpayers would be small indeed. If we purchase property, erect the buildings, and pay for them with debentures, we would not feel the burden of debt. With regard to accommodating visitors he said we could, without doubt, accommodate all who would come. If Charlottetown refused to give a grant, he would not be surprised to see Summerside giving one, and securing the Exhibition, but he felt sure that Charlottetown would give a reasonable amount towards the praiseworthy object.

HON. THOMAS W. DODD through a Dominion Exhibition held in Charlottetown would be a great benefit to the country, and still a greater benefit to the town. It was proposed to get grants from the Dominion, Local, and City Governments, making in all \$12,000. Proper buildings should be erected for the exhibits, and the amount received from these Governments would not

be more than sufficient to put up one building. Now the funds of the city are very low, and the people cannot afford to pay, and they are not in a position to tax themselves for such an exhibition, no matter what may be its benefits. He was of opinion that the Local Government should issue debentures—say \$25,000 for twenty-five years—to construct the buildings. The Exhibition was to foster agriculture, and therefore the Local Government should lead in promoting it. He did not think the city could bear to be taxed for such a purpose.

JAMES CURTIS, Esq., endorsed Mr. Dodd's remarks. His idea was to get up a subscription list to see how much they could first get from private individuals. He would give \$10,000 himself. He would be proud to see the Island get the Exhibition. It would be a great benefit. He agreed with Mr. Dodd that debentures should be issued from the Treasury for the erection of buildings. If the city would show a good strong subscription list the Government would see that we were in earnest, but he would not advise the city corporation, if they had the power, to issue debentures for exhibition purposes.

DR. JENKINS seconded the resolution. He believed that every one on the Island was well aware of the great benefit the Exhibition would be if held in the city. The only question was that of ways and means. His proposition is that the Local Government should issue from \$10,000 to \$15,000 in debentures, and the city one-fourth that amount. This would be sufficient. The buildings should be erected from capital, not from revenue. This would be the best way and the interest and principal would be paid in ten or fifteen years. He was confident that with the co-operation of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia we would be able to get a grant from the Federal Government for the Maritime Provinces, and if we did we would have an exhibition every three years. We have no want of a suitable place for the buildings. He thought by issuing debentures we could erect them without feeling the expense, and that by working unitedly we could make the exhibition a grand success.

A. McNEILL, Esq., supported the resolution. He showed the growth of exhibitions on the Island, the progress they had made, and the benefits our citizens derived from them. We are prepared for a Dominion Exhibition, and it is high time we should have one. If we did not get the grant this year, we would not get it again in a hurry, and we therefore should work as a unit to obtain it. He referred to the correspondence of "Citizen" published in THE EXAMINER, and said such correspondence would have an evil effect when read in the Upper Provinces. He believed in the Local Government issuing debentures for permanent Exhibitions, and said that the \$5,000 granted by the Dominion Government should be for prizes alone. After referring to the attempts of Truro to secure the Exhibition from Halifax and the idea of a Maritime Exhibition, Mr. McNeill closed his enthusiastic speech by exhorting the citizens to work for the one grand end,—that of securing the Dominion Exhibition for Charlottetown.

CHARLES PALMER, said a subscription list was spoken of, but that was not the question. The question is: Are the citizens of Charlottetown going to ignore the Exhibition before the whole Dominion? If the citizens agreed upon a subscription list, he would be one to subscribe, but by all means let them not ignore the Exhibition by refusing to give a grant. If the city would issue debentures, he thought there would be no difficulty in the way, and the Government would guarantee them.

THOMAS W. DODD would not vote for the city to give what they had not to give. It was no use to authorize the City Council to make a grant when they could not make one. If the Local Government took the matter in hand, we would all—town and country—have to pay, and we would feel the burden alike; but he would not vote for the city to expend money for exhibition purposes when that money should be expended on our streets.

MR. T. A. McLEAN said the meeting was for asking the corporation what they would give independent of the Local Government grant. The Scott Act fines—amounting to nearly \$3,000—were lying idle and they could be obtained for exhibition purposes. He did not think a subscription list could be started successfully without first having the promise of a grant from the city.

L. H. DAVIES, Esq., M. P., said it was improper to force a grant from the city without knowing the state of the civic finances. If the citizens have been taxed sufficient to secure a surplus this year, then he would be in favor of giving a handsome grant for exhibition purposes. But if we want to test the genuineness of the citizens on the Exhibition, let us ask them to subscribe. If a large subscription is raised among the citizens it would stimulate the Governments of the city, Province, and Dominion, to help on the matter. Property in Charlottetown is so heavily taxed that the city cannot afford to vote the large amount asked for. He believed in issuing debentures for the buildings, because by debentures the burden would fall equally on the whole country. He believed also that it would be better to wait until the 15th inst., when at the public meeting of citizens we would see whether or not the corporation could afford to give the grant asked for.

After further remarks from Charles Palmer, Thomas W. Dodd, and Jas. Curtis, Esqs.,

L. H. DAVIES, Esq., moved that the meeting adjourn until the evening of the 15th inst., at 8 o'clock.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Jenkins, and unanimously carried.

At the meeting on the 15th the City Accounts will be laid before the citizens, and they will then be able to see whether or not the corporation is able to give a grant to the exhibition.

DIED.

On Monday, the 7th inst., after a short illness, in his 75th year, Charles Stockdale, Esq., J. P., late farmer and attorney-at-law.

[Funeral from his late residence, Young street, Spring Park, on Wednesday, the 9th inst., at 2 o'clock, p. m.—by sleight. Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend.]

At the residence of her son E. B. Morrow, North Lake, on the 31st December, ult., in the 81st year of his age, after a brief illness of a few hours, Catherine Stewart, relict of the late James Morrow, of the same place.

Our Store Closes Every Evening at Six o'clock (Saturday Excepted).

1884. For the Winter Months. 1884.

W. & A. BROWN & CO. are selling the following lines of W. Dry Goods, at very low prices, to clear before stock-taking 1st April:

Jackets, Dolmans and Ulsters, Promenade Scarfs, Wool Jackets and Ulsters, Mantle and Ulster Cloths, Overcoatings, Scotch and Canadian Tweeds, Colored and White Shirts.

Also a special line of Dress Goods, of excellent value, and suitable for the season, reduced to twenty-two cents.

A large stock of Carpets, Oilcloths, Hearth Rugs, Mats, White and Grey Cottons, Sheetings, Pillow Cottons and Linens, Fancy Shirtings, etc., bought very low, and now opened, ready for the early Spring Trade.

WHOLESALE & RETAIL.

W. & A. BROWN & CO.

Ch'town, Jan. 5, 1884.—dy wkly

THE CHARLOTTETOWN

FLOUR, FEED AND PROVISION, STORE,

South Side Queen Square, near Queen Street,

HAVE to announce that they have on hand the following goods, which they are prepared to sell at reasonable prices and in quantities to suit purchasers:

Flour (Superior Extra, Strong Bakers' and Patent)

OATMEAL, CORNMEAL, BRAN, SHORTS, OATS,

CRUSHED FEED, either Oats and Barley or Oats, Barley and Corn. APPLES, which will be sold by the barrel or by the pound, at rates very little over barrel prices.

Ch'town, Dec. 18, 1883.

D. A. BRUCE, MERCHANT TAILOR,

IS OVER-STOCKED with the following GOODS, and offers them at a

REDUCTION OF TWENTY PER CENT.

Gents' Woolen Underwear, Flannel Shirts, Fur Caps, Kid Mitts, Sleigh Robes.

OVERCOATINGS,

WHICH YOU CAN HAVE

MADE TO YOUR MEASURE

Cheaper Than Imported Ready Made.

D. A. BRUCE,

Dec. 20, 1883.—eod wkly 72 Queen Street, Charlottetown.

TEA. TEA.

—AT—

BEER & COFF'S.

OUR TEA is giving splendid satisfaction. Prices, retail 24cts., 30cts., and 36cts. Prices, wholesale, very low.

FIVE POUND TINS, (screw top), excludes the air, preserving the flavor and strength of the Tea. Just what is wanted.

Half chests very cheap to the trade.

BEER & GOFF.

NEW FRUIT,

Wholesale and Retail, Cheap.

—:—

ON HAND:

230 boxes very choice Valencia and Layer RAISINS, 30 half-boxes choice LAYERS, 3,000 pounds CURRANTS, 200 boxes prime FIGS, 5 cases choice PRUNES, 200 barrels hard WINTER APPLES, No. 1, 20 kegs GRAPES,

AND MORE TO ARRIVE.

BEER & GOFF.

Nov. 14, 1883.—2aw wkly

CIVIC ELECTION BY THE MAYOR

IN pursuance of an act of the General Assembly of this Island, made and passed in the forty-third year of the reign of Her present Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled: "An Act to amend the Act of the eighteenth Victoria, Chapter thirty-four, intituled 'An Act to Incorporate the Town of Charlottetown and all Acts amending the same.'"

I do hereby give Public Notice that an Election of a Mayor and one person to Serve as a Common Councilman in the City Council for each Ward of said City,

Being in all a MAYOR and FIVE COMMON COUNCILMEN, will be held on

WEDNESDAY,

the 23rd Day of January, A. D., 1884.

At the several places, that is to say:

In Ward No. 1, at or near the store of Messrs. J. & T. Morris, corner of Queen and Water Streets.

In Ward No. 2, at or near the house of Thomas Connolly, opposite Mr. R. Hearty's Warehouse, Sneydy Street, between Great George and Prince Streets.

In Ward No. 3, at or near the Market House.

In Ward No. 4, at or near the Fire Engine House, fronting on Kent Street, east, between Weymouth and Cumberland Streets.

In Ward No. 5, at or near the house of Widow Tierney, corner of Euston and Great George Streets.

And at the said Election the Poll will be opened at nine o'clock in the forenoon, and continue open until five o'clock in the afternoon of the same day.

DESCRIPTION OF WARDS.

Number One shall comprise that part of Charlottetown which lies south of Dorchester Street, and the parcel of land formerly known as the Military Barrack Ground.

Number Two shall comprise all that part of Charlottetown which lies south of Richmond Street and north of Dorchester Streets.

Number Three shall comprise all that part of Charlottetown which lies south of Grafton Street and north of Richmond Street.

Number four shall comprise all that part of Charlottetown which lies south of Fitzroy Street and North of Grafton Streets.

Number five shall comprise all that part of Charlottetown which lies north of Fitzroy Street, including the Common of the said Town.

NOMINATION DAY.

Act 43, Victoria, Cap. 15.—"Seven Days before the time of any and every election for Mayor or Councillors, the Person or Candidates for the office of Mayor or Councillor shall give their names in as such Candidates to the City Clerk, and the City Clerk shall duly enter the names, residences and additions of such persons, together with the office and wards for which they are candidates, and such entry, when made, shall be deemed nomination for such candidates."

There shall be paid by each person so nominated for Mayor, at the same time, a fee of ten dollars, and by each person so nominated as Councillor, a fee of five dollars which sums shall go toward paying the cost of the election.

No person shall be qualified either for the office of Mayor or Councillor unless such nomination be made in manner and the time aforesaid.

The time appointed for the nomination of candidates, shall be from the time of twelve at noon, until the hour of four o'clock in the afternoon of the day fixed for that purpose.

Qualification of Electors, see Act 43, Victoria, Cap. 15, sec 26 and 64.

[L. S.]

DAVID R. M. HOOPER, Mayor of the City of Charlottetown.

A. H. MacPHERSON, City Clerk.

Mayor's Office, Charlottetown, Jan. 8, 1884.—tl 23 dly.

The Ladies of St. James' Kirk

INTEND HOLDING A

Good Old Time

TEA AND FANCY TABLE,

EARLY IN MARCH.

For further particulars will be given.

HOUSES AND LANDS!

THE AUCTION SALE of Mr. James Peake's Lands, will take place at the Law Courts Building, Charlottetown, on

Thursday Next, January 10th,

AT 12 O'CLOCK NOON.

1. The Dwelling House and Premises next the Sneydy Rink, at present occupied by Mr. Arthur Newbery.

2. Farms on Peake's Road, Lot 52.

3. Town Lot in Georgetown.

4. That Valuable Business Site (with Warehouse), on Water Street, adjoining the store occupied by F. T. Newbery, Esquire.

5. Building Lots near McKinnon & McLean's Foundry.

6. Houses and Premises opposite Prince of Wales College, at present occupied by Prof. Cayen. Also Mr. Peake's interest in the property known as "Beaconsfield," the Brick Building on Water Street occupied as Appraiser's Office; about four acres of land in the rear of Smallwood's Steam Factory, and sundry other Lots.

TERMS—One-third at Sale; balance in three years, with interest at six per cent.

A. McNEILL,

Auctioneer.

Charlottetown Jan. 7, 1884.

—ALSO—

Immediately after the above sale, at the same place, Mrs. Coombs' House and premises, on Great George Street, opposite the R. C. Cathedral.

Terms at sale.

A. McNEILL,

Auctioneer.

Ch'town, Jan. 7, 1884—3i

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