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Insurance Agent  
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## THE DAILY EXAMINER.

DECEMBER 18, 1897.

### DR. GRANT'S ARGUMENT.

In view of the promised Plebiscite, it is eminently proper and eminently advisable that the question of Prohibition be argued before the people from every point of view. The main object of true temperance reformers is, not to procure the enactment of this or that temperance law, but to abolish drunkenness or reduce it to a minimum. By what means may this main object be accomplished? That is the question.

Consequently, we have little fault to find with Dr. Grant for entering upon a discussion of Prohibition while the people are yet in cool blood about the matter and when they have time to turn it over in their minds and come to a right decision as to whether or not prohibition would probably accomplish the grand object of the temperance movement.

Dr. Grant contends that it would not, and he gives his reasons, in the Toronto Globe, over his own signature. In the first place he points out that every good Mohammedan and Buddhist is a pledged, abstainer, but though we are sometimes promised the millennium under a regime of prohibition, no millennium has come yet in Turkey or Armenia, nor where Buddhism has been for more than a thousand years. Then he shows that the people of Canada are, taken for all in all, comparatively a sober people. Mr. Spence recently stated that the consumption of alcoholic liquors per head in the United States averages seventeen gallons a year and in Canada four and a half gallons. Continuing he says "we have been winning in the fight for temperance for fifty years, as every one will admit who knows what the social customs were fifty, or even, ten or twenty years ago. The victory is not yet completely won; but why in the name of common sense should we throw away the well-tried swords which have served us so well for the rusty razors of prohibition and constant political fighting, to secure new amendments to meet ever new evasions of coercive laws?"

Proceeding with his argument, he contends that the result of prohibition in Maine, has not been satisfactory. During the early part of the century Maine was, perhaps, the most drunken state in the union. A recoil, essentially religious in its origin began in 1829, which reached its climax in the course of the next fifteen years. Total abstinence became a popular enthusiasm all over the state. As early as 1831, the official year book of the state said that 'the quantity of ardent spirits consumed in Maine has been reduced two-thirds within three years.' The idea of prohibition never entered the minds of those early reformers. The Washingtonian Movement, whose achievements in suppressing intemperance were enthusiastically celebrated in popular songs, reached Maine in 1840; but neither did it dream of prohibition. As one of the leaders said in 1841: 'Washingtonians are firm believers in the efficacy and power of moral suasion; this they believe to be the main lever; they hold that doctrine to be unsound which includes the principal of coercion, and therefore they cannot go hand in hand with those who cry out "give us the strong arm of the law." But Maine, nevertheless, enacted Prohibition in 1846. The results are as stated by the committee of scientists whose report was issued a few weeks ago and summarized by THE EXAMINER. Dr. Grant quotes this report as follows:

The efforts to enforce it, (prohibition) during forty years, passed, have had some unlooked-for effects on public respect for courts, judicial procedure, oaths and law in general, and for officers of the law, legislators and public servants. The public have seen law defied, a whole generation of habitual law-breakers schooled in evasion and shamelessness, courts ineffective through fluctuations of policy, delays, perjuries, negligences and other miscarriages of justice, officers of the law—double-faced and mercenary legislators, timid and insincere candidates for office, hypocritical and truckling office-holders unfaithful to pledges and to reasonable public expectation. . . . The liquor traffic, being very profitable, has been able when attacked by prohibitory legislation, to pay fines, bribes, hush-

money, and assessments for political purposes to large amounts. This money has tended to corrupt the lower courts, the police administration, political organizations, and even the electorate itself. . . . Frequently yielding to the temptation causes general degradation in public life content for the public service, and of course makes the service less desirable for upright men. . . . All legislation intended to put restrictions on the liquor traffic, except, perhaps, the simple tax, is more or less liable to these objections; but the prohibitory legislation is the worst of all in these respects, because it stimulates to the utmost the resistance of the liquor-dealers and the supporters."

In conclusion, he says: "Why would not rather have seen the drinking customs as they were fifty years ago in Ontario than such a horrible state of things, corrupting society at the fountain-heads? Fortunately, however, we are not called upon to choose between the two evils. We can continue to improve without trying dangerous experiments on so delicate and complicated an organism as modern society."

Dr. Grant's letters are being published by the Montreal Witness and other temperance organs in favor of the prohibition. The answer that will be made to them will be awaited with interest. The following resolution regarding them was a few days ago submitted to the Presbytery at Paris, Ontario, but the result of the discussion thereupon has not yet been announced here:

"Whereas, the Presbyterian Church has repeatedly, in all her courts, taken strong ground against the licensed liquor traffic of this land, declaring it to be contrary to the Word of God and to the spirit of the Christian religion, and calling upon people—by voice, vote and example—to do all in their power to seek its removal; and whereas the prohibition of that traffic has been lately assailed in one of the most largely circulated papers in the Dominion by one whose position and influence identify him very closely with the Presbyterian Church, therefore the Presbytery of Paris deems it an imperative duty to give, at this time, on this matter, no uncertain sound in relation to its entire adherence to the position taken by our General Assembly, and our opposition to and repudiation of the ground taken by the Principal of Queen's College."

### DIRECT TAXATION.

COMMENTING upon the situation in Quebec, the Montreal Star says:

"No one likes taxation of any kind, and the politician particularly dreads the direct variety, for there is no way to conceal it from the taxed. But it is far better than perpetual borrowing. Direct taxation may be unpleasant, but running up the debt is ruinous. Thus, it does not behoove the Premier to make direct taxation unpopular with the people while he is knocking loudly at the doors of the money-lenders. It is all very well to frighten greedy politicians by threatening to load the responsibility of a direct tax upon them; but the citizen should bear in mind that it is better to pay a little direct taxation from year to year than to have the province mortgaged to death. Presently the interest on a growing public debt will call for far more direct taxation than would serve now to stop the increase of the debt altogether."

This is all very true. But the Star has not apparently taken in a situation such as has prevailed in this province—a situation in which increase of direct taxation and increase of Provincial debt have gone on together.

### ESTEEMED EXCHANGES.

Montreal Star: It was a good old Liberal Conservative principle to increase the debt of Canada. Now it is a good Conservative Liberal principle, and the present Administration is not going to be behind its predecessors in the vigor with which it will carry out the policy.

Halifax Herald: Among the many cabinet ministers whom the grit press has announced as being across the Atlantic on "private business," was Hon. R. R. Dobeil; but all the same, when he arrived yesterday at Deepwater, the private car "Cumberland" was there at the public expense to convey him luxuriously to his home. The following is from an evening grit paper.

"Although the weather was disagreeable, Hon. Mr. Dobeil was on deck and was an interested observer of the quickness with which the Ontario was docked at Deepwater. A few minutes later a gang plank was up, Mr. Dobeil and party disembarked and immediately entered the private car Cumberland which had been attached to the mail train. Mr. Dobeil had been in England on private business."

Time was when the Grit papers had no end of condemnation for ministers travelling in private cars even on public business, but now grit ministers, looking after their "private business," can get all over the country in private government cars and travel all over the world at the public expense, and the grit press, so far from criticising this gross abuse of their position, seems proud to chronicle their luxurious comings and goings at the expense taxpayers. If ever there was a political party lacking all moral character and possessing nothing but an appetite, the Grit party of Canada is that one.

THE FASTNET arrived from Halifax about four o'clock this morning and left on return this afternoon. She had a general cargo both ways.

British trade reports show that 45 per cent. of the imports of shoes into British colonies are of United States manufacture. An attempt is being made to regain the trade for Great Britain by starting a factory in Scotland on United States lines. The English shoemakers pursued the same policy now being adopted by the engineers. They used the influence of the unions to restrict labour-saving appliances, and disorganized trade by strikes. The result was the United States factories captured nearly half of the business in British colonies, and British manufacturers are now reduced to the humiliating expedient of sowedly imitating United States methods.

### DIED.

Entered into rest, 17th Dec. 1897, Sarah Ann Stapleton, wife of Joseph Blanchard, aged 61 years. R. I. P.  
[Funeral from her late residence, (Gaytown,) tomorrow, (Sunday) at 2.15 p. m., to St. Peter's Church.]


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Extra fine White Silk, size 20x20, with hemstitched border, 2 inches wide, 35c each  
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Than a pair of warm wool lined Skating Boots for \$1.50.  
Than a pair of warm wool lined waterproof Alaskas for 1.25  
Than a pair of Ladies or Gents' fine Kid Boots.  
Than a Gents' beautiful Tie, specially boxed for Xmas. Gift.  
Than a Boys' Ulster, good quality and good fitting.  
The prices will be an incentive to Gift Giving. Come right along for any and everything useful to

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