

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

NOVEMBER 4, 1887.

The Scott Act in Charlottetown.

THE EXAMINER reported a short time ago, that liquor drinking and drunkenness was increasing in Charlottetown, and asked what the temperance men of the town intended to do about it in view of another appeal to the electors in the matter of the Scott Act. The report was based on personal observation extending over many months, and upon statements obtained at the Custom House, the Inland Revenue office, and the offices of steamboat companies trading with this city. It was made in what we conceived to be the true interests of temperance. As a watchman at the gates does good service when he gives notice of the advance of the enemy—drunkenness—the defenders of the citadel more active and careful, inducing them to look to their weapons, to throw away such as are to be found useless and to make ready for action those which are useful and effective—so we imagined that THE EXAMINER was rendering good service to the temperance cause when it warned the temperance defenders of Charlottetown of the fact that the Scott Act weapon was ineffective in their hands, and that the enemy—drunkenness—was on the increase. If the note of alarm were a false one, it was the duty of another watchman—the Patriot or the Guardian—to prove it; and here we may say that no one would have been more highly pleased than THE EXAMINER, had its report been proven incorrect.

But instead of attempting to show that THE EXAMINER's report was false, a city was raised that THE EXAMINER had "gone over to the rommies," that THE EXAMINER was under "some malign influence," and had been "bought over to the side of the liquor dealers for a consideration;" and it has even been hinted that THE EXAMINER will lose more than it has gained in the loss of temperance subscribers throughout the country.

In view of its record on the temperance question, in view of all the facts and circumstances, and of the ninth commandment, THE EXAMINER ought not, we think, to have been subjected to such insults—to such unwarrantable and libellous charges and such mean threats. As to the threats, we may say that THE EXAMINER will trust now, as it has ever trusted, in the intelligence and generosity of the people of Prince Edward Island, feeling sure that even though they should, after a full discussion of the matter of the Scott Act election in Charlottetown, judge THE EXAMINER to be in the wrong respecting it, they will give us credit for honorable intentions and a sincere desire to promote the good of the Province; and so continue to THE EXAMINER their esteemed support and patronage.

In this assurance, we proceed to the consideration of the issue to be decided in Charlottetown on the 24th November, and to say that, in our opinion, it is not advisable to continue the use (or misuse) in this city of the Canada Temperance Act, for these reasons:—

1. The experience of six years has proved that the public sentiment of the town is not sufficiently strong in favor of the Act to require its enforcement,—in other words the Act cannot be satisfactorily enforced in this city. No honest man will sign a note of hand which he knows he cannot redeem, and the honest electors of Charlottetown ought not—now that the question is again brought before them for decision—to elect to retain the Scott Act which they know they will not enforce. No honest man will take a pledge which he does not mean to keep, and a drunkard will not be benefited by taking a total abstinence pledge if he continues drinking; neither will the honest community of Charlottetown renew its tacit pledge to maintain the Scott Act when it knows that drinking will be broken as before, that pledge will continue freely as before, and that it will be, in no degree, practically benefited by such renewal.

2. It is evident that since the Scott Act has been the law in Charlottetown, temperance reformers have trusted to it and neglected the educative means by which the temperance sentiment is elevated and the people are impelled to abstain from intoxicating drinks. Ere the Scott Act was law here, there was a large and active temperance society under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church in this city; there was also a temperance society in St. Peter's Church—Church Societies to carry on temperance and the good work was going on, and would doubtless longere this have spread to the other Churches if dependence had not been placed upon the Scott Act. But temperance work by the Churches has practically ceased. Bands of Hope in connection with St. Peter's Church and Upper Prince Street Methodist Church being the only living Church Societies in this city for the promotion of Temperance. The attention of our "divisions" and "temples" has been—so we are informed—diverted largely from the consideration of Temperance to the consideration of the Scott Act,—so that while liquor has prevailed true temperance work has been neglected. Only when some of our citizens—all honor to them—saw that liquor dealers were getting rich under the

Scott Act, and that some of their friends were going to the devil headlong, was a new division formed and some good work done. The pens of such men as the Rev. W. R. Frame and the tongues of such men as the Rev. Job Shenton have been employed in advocating the Scott Act, and in denouncing those who say it is a failure, rather than in promoting the temperance cause. But we may, reasonably, hope that on the rejection of the Scott Act, these moral influences will be employed in the work of promoting temperance by moral suasion and Christian precept and that the activity of our temperance societies will be revived.

3. The Act is a strong incentive not only to the mean arts of the sneak, but to the crime of the perjurer. Over indulgence in strong drink blunts the moral sense and weakens the will; and those who are drunkards as a result of the violation of the Scott Act, are easily constrained to shield the violators by false oaths. The result—the notorious and awful result—is that perjury is the rule in Scott Act cases. Now, is it worth while—seeing that drinking is not materially abated by the Scott Act,—to continue to keep this terrible temptation before drinking men? Remembering the Divine prayer, "Lead us not into temptation," we think that it is not worth while.

For these reasons—roughly and imperfectly stated—we think that honest, Christian temperance men should not vote for a continuance of the Scott Act. If better reasons can be advanced by those who think that it ought to be retained, we shall be happy to hear and consider them. But if better reasons are not forthcoming, the Scott Act should, in our opinion, be set aside as a weapon defective in itself—a weapon which the temperance men have neither the ability nor the inclination to use effectually in the warfare against the liquor traffic.

Stipendiary Magistrate's Court.

Eight Scott Act cases constituted the business before the Stipendiary Magistrate to-day. Seven were postponed at the urgent request of the prosecutor, and one dismissed, as there was no evidence whatever against the defendant. Of the seven adjourned, five stand over until next Friday in order to give the prosecutor another opportunity to obtain the attendance of a witness named Nicholson, said to belong to Dundas, in King's County. These five cases have been adjourned from time to time for this man's evidence, and it was expected that unless he was present to-day the cases would be dismissed. He was not present, however, and the prosecutor was examined in order to ascertain what efforts had been made to obtain Nicholson's presence. Henderson at first stated that he went to Dundas last evening and had been informed at Nicholson's residence that he was not at home, and therefore he was unable to serve the subpoenas on him. On being pressed on cross-examination, he however admitted that he had seen and conversed with Nicholson this morning, but that he had refused to attend court on so short a notice, but promised to come next Wednesday.

Messrs. Hodgson and Peters, on behalf of the defendants, made a strong effort to have the cases dismissed, especially on the ground that Henderson had attempted to mislead the Court by leading the Magistrate to believe that Nicholson was away from home and by suppressing the fact that he had seen and conversed with Nicholson at Dundas this morning.

It was further argued that inasmuch as Nicholson did not reside within the jurisdiction of the Magistrate, he was not bound to obey any subpoena served on him, nor could his appearance be compelled. Mr. Henderson in answer to this last objection stated that Nicholson would appear voluntarily, as he had promised to do so. The Magistrate therefore granted the adjournment asked for by Henderson, and the cases were adjourned until next Friday. In the meantime Henderson is to have the subpoenas served, and if this is not done the cases are to be dismissed.

Missionary Services.

The missionary services in the Methodist churches of this city on the coming Sabbath and two following evenings, promise to be of more than ordinary interest.

The coming of the Rev. Y. Hirawai, the native missionary from Japan, will doubtless command large audiences at the various services, and make them occasions of deep interest to all in sympathy with the great work of Christian missions. Thus far Mr. Hirawai has succeeded in winning all hearts by the message which he brings concerning his own conversion from Buddhism, and also the progress of mission work in the island empire from which he comes.

The meetings already held in Montreal and New Brunswick have been largely attended, and have resulted in deepening public interest in the work of evangelization in which the Church is engaged.

It is a matter of regret that Dr. Sutherland, will not be able to accompany Mr. Hirawai, as previously been announced, having been called to Toronto on urgent business in connection with the Victoria University.

His place, however, we are glad to say, will be filled at the public meeting on Monday by Rev. Mr. Wilson, President of the Conference.

COWARDLY CONSTABLES.—Suspicion points to an old man named Tom Sargent as the party who started the fire in Mr. Sutherland's barn at Bathurst, N. B., on Friday night last. A warrant has been issued for his arrest, but there is not a constable in the place with sufficient pluck to make the arrest. Sargent is said to be an old hunter and a good shot, hence to be the constables entertain for him. He is about 65 years of age, and spite is the attributed cause of his rash act.

A CHANGE DEMANDED.—Owing to the fact that seven fatal accidents occurred on the football field in England within a week, a demand is made for a change in the Rugby rules, which governed the game.

THE RECORD BROKEN.—The American polo vaulting record was broken a short time ago, the bar being cleared at 11 ft. 6 in.; the former record being 11 ft. 4 in.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Difficulties of any Liquor Law.

SIR,—It almost needless for me to state that all the publications of Rev. Messrs. Funk & Wagnall's, New York, are of a high character. Of a late number of their "Standard Library" series, intitled "Ten Years a Police Court Judge," they say:—"It can readily be imagined that a police court judge of ten years' standing must have some most instructive things to tell. His advantages for the study of human nature are almost unequalled. His observations on society should be worthy of a wide reading, for its woes and wrongs are unveiled to his eyes as to no others. He can feel its pulse day by day, and if, as in the case of this author, he be a man of scholarly qualities as well as practical sagacity, the book which contains the cream of his experience, must be something well worth attention. Judge Wigittle is a veritable judge, and his book is a veritable storehouse of fact and incident. It abounds in lessons and suggestions, the out-growth, not only of close observation, but of careful reflection. The facts given in reference to intemperance are startling in the extreme, and considering their source, will carry weight."

The Judge says, page 202, under the caption:—

THE LIQUOR LAW.

"Thou shalt not bear false witness." Of the statutes whose enforcement leads to the violation of this commandment of the decalogue, the chief, no doubt, is the 'liquor law.' It may be said to be a law every step of whose enforcement is blackened with purjurious testimony. No man who has had any considerable experience in the premises, but must feel how painfully true is this remark. At every turn in the trial of law we are confronted with the disagreeable, the appalling fact that the effort to enforce it results in wholesale perjury. Measurably from the time of the first rigorous sumptuary enactment this has been so, but increasingly in late years has it been true, and more now than ever, perhaps, is it true that the trial of every liquor case leaves a trail of perjured oaths. More or less is the same thing true in respect of all penal statutes; but the liquor law is singularly, emphatically and conspicuously exceptional.

For reasons growing somehow out of the nature of the enactment, witnesses, whether men, women or children, do not, as a rule, scruple upon the stand to bear false witness whenever this issue is joined to test the violation of this particular law. It may be said to have become a popular understanding with that portion of the community liable to be summoned to the witness-stand in such a case, that, however, it be a statutory offence, it is neither sinful nor morally wrong to tell a lie in defence of a party accused of liquor selling. No sentiment nor popular notion of this sort can be said to exist with reference to any other criminal law.

Should three or half a dozen men be summoned as witnesses in a case of murder or any felony, and they should positively deny all knowledge of the fact, when it was notorious to the neighborhood that they were within the house and in every room when and where the deed was committed, the community would be shocked and then flame with indignation. But perjury, equally obvious, under circumstances equally inculpatory, is occurring every day in liquor cases. It excites remark, but it makes no stir. No move is made to prosecute the perjurer. The public expected it, and the public tolerates it. Why was it expected? Why is it tolerated? It is, doubtless, tolerated for the same reason that it was expected—the public is apt to tolerate what is so common and habitual as to be part and parcel of its own conduct and character. Too many are interested in the object of the perjury to make it desirable to attempt the punishment of the perjurers.

The instances are not uncommon in which men arrested for drunkenness profess and show a willingness to go to jail rather than expose the parties of whom they procured their liquor—men who appear to have no interest to preserve by the refusal except what they are pleased to term a matter of honor. The instances are common in which men summoned to testify, whose knowledge of the law's violation is quite unquestionable, swear positively to their ignorance of the criminalizing fact. The reluctance to aid in prosecutions, as manifested by that portion of the people who do not appear to be party to the drink traffic, is also a towering obstacle to the enforcement; while the readiness with which the traffickers can procure sureties for their appeals among property owners, often of the substantial and influential citizens, clearly demonstrates that back of the grog shops and the whole line of habitual topers there is a sturdy disinclination to see the law exist, save as a dead letter.

Take for illustration a single county in the State of Massachusetts—a county where, perhaps, as strenuous exertions have been made as anywhere else in that State to make prohibition a success. During the existence of the prohibition law proper it was so, and under the license law of 1873 it has been so, for in most of the towns of the county no licenses have been granted, and in such towns prohibitory legislation here, for all practical purposes, been in full force or nearly so. In all this period, of some twenty-five years, wholesale lying, in all the lower and upper courts, has been carried on in defence of liquor selling. Nobody doubts it. Everybody knows it, or ought to know it. Everybody knows, too, or ought to know, that with due vigilance on the part of the officers not alone, but of those who should have co-operated with the officers, many of the prisoners might have been brought to justice and examples made to some purpose.

It is this state of things the community is called upon to meet and face. Confronted with the two-fold fact that the law is imperfectly enforced, and that the attempts to enforce it are attended with unblushing disregard for the sanctities of solemn oath, is it not high time that the community stirred itself to enforce the law and punish those who perjurally stand in the way of the enforcement, or repeal the law altogether?

That is, repeal all liquor legislation altogether, and have free grog; because he has just been proving that license law, prohibition, or any other "liquor law," has to labor under tremendous difficulties. Our Scott Act, therefore, is not alone. Licensing has the same difficulties. Why, then, go from the frying-pan into the fire, licensing liquid damnation, and establishing iniquity by a law?

Yours truly,

FAIRPLAY.

A TIMELY MOVE.—The National Association of Confectioners were in session in Toronto on Wednesday. Delegates were in attendance from the United States and different parts of Canada. The chief subject discussed was the adulteration of confectionery. An endeavor is being made to establish a wholesale price-fixation and regulate the trade of confectionery and regulate the wholesale price. It was decided to ask the assistance of the Dominion Government to accomplish this most desirable end.

ANNIVERSARY

Methodist Missionary Society.

SERMONS will be preached on

SUNDAY NEXT, NOVEMBER 6th,

IN THE

PRINCE STREET CHURCH,

by Rev. Robert Wilson at 10.30, a.m.; by Rev. Y. Hirawai, at 6.30 p. m.

Second Church,

by Rev. Y. Hirawai at 10.30 a. m.; by Rev. Robert Wilson at 6.30 p. m.

The Missionary Meetings will be held in the Prince Street Church, MONDAY, November 7th at 7.30. Chair to be taken by Dr. Johnson.

Second Church—Tuesday, November 8th, at 7.30. Chair to be taken by Mr. John Henry.

Collections will be taken up at each of the services in behalf of the Missionary Society.

F. W. MOORE, Secretary.

Nov. 4, 1887—21

LYCEUM,

CHARLOTTETOWN.

Boston Comedy Co

H. PRICE WEBBER, Manager.

Supporting the Favorite Actress,

EDWINA GREY,

will open as above on

Monday Ev'g, Nov. 7th.

OPENING BILL:

Lady Audley's Secret.

Admission 25, 35, and 50 cents.

Seats for sale at usual places.

Doors open at 7; Overture at 8 o'clock.

For further particulars see bills of the day.

Nov. 4, 1887—her

Furniture, Stoves, &c.

I AM instructed by a gentleman about to leave the Island to Sell by Auction, TUESDAY, 8th inst., at 1.30 p. m., all his Household Furniture consisting of Parlor, Bedroom and Dining Room Sets, Kitchen Utensils, &c., &c.

Also—Hall, Cook and Parlor Stove.

G. M. HARRIS, Auctioneer.

Nov. 4, 1887.

AGENTS—SEA AND LAND.

The most attractive Book of the decade, by J. W. Bush, author of "Sixty Life in Siberia," &c. This Book, of 800 pages, contains 300 Engravings and Superb Emphatical Colored Plates, giving an illustrated history of Nature's Wonders and Curiosities in Sea and on Land, fascinating stories, thrilling adventures and marvellous descriptions—a whole library of natural history, travel and adventure. A grand book for the youth. Send for prospectus to W. E. Earle, St. John, N. B.

J. S. ROBERTSON & BROS.,

Nov. 4—2aw & wky

RIFLE GALLERY.

THE Gallery, King Street, has been reopened for Rifle Practice. The best rifles and ammunition, and the "very best" Range in the Lower Provinces.

G. L. DOGHERTY.

Nov. 3—ex pat 2wks

B-O-O-T-S

CALL AND FREE

THE

WAUKENPHAS F

AT

R. K. JOST'S.

H-O-E-S

92 Cases of

Canadian & American

Rubber and Overshoes and

Rubber Boots

Just received at

R. K. JOST'S,

North Side Queen Square

(Boreham's Old Stand).

H-O-E-S

THE underlined having been authorized by the City Council, to number the doors of all those willing to pay for them, have so far filled the orders received, with a few exceptions, as to warrant him in issuing a Directory, early in 1887, to be entitled "Harris's Pocket Directory," of the numbered dwellings and business places only, in the City of Charlottetown, with the names and occupation of such residents, &c. Persons desirous of having their doors numbered and names inserted in the new Directory, will be attended to by leaving their orders, before 1st December next, at 275 King Street, or any of the following places, viz:—

John Coombs, 55 Queen Street,

C. E. Warren, 150 do

S. W. Crabbe, 191 Grafton Street,

David Chappell, 75 Prince Street,

H. A. Harris, 346 Kent Street,

David Small, 86 Water Street,

R. F. Madigan, 319 Pownall Street,

D. L. Hooper, 23 Malpeque Road,

CH'TOWN, OCT. 23, 1887.

Number Directory.

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CH'TOWN, NOV. 1, 1887—21 ed

JOHN ROSS.

CH'TOWN, P. E. I., Oct. 22, 1887—2wks ed

Grey Flannels

FLEECY COTTONS.

We invite Purchasers to Compare our Prices and our Quality with other Stocks, as we have SPECIAL VALUE IN THESE TWO LINES.

STANLEY BROS.,

BROWN'S BLOCK.

Ch'town, Nov. 1, 1887—cod & wky

New Carpets at JAMES PATON & CO,

New Dress Goods at JAMES PATON & CO.

New Velvetens at JAMES PATON & CO.

New Cloths at JAMES PATON & CO.

New Furs at JAMES PATON & CO.

New Overcoats at JAMES PATON & CO.

New Wool Goods at JAMES PATON & CO.

New Hats and Bonnets at JAMES PATON & CO.

New Mitts and Gloves at JAMES PATON & CO.

New Underclothing at JAMES PATON & CO.

New Collars, Braces, &c. at JAMES PATON & CO.

JAMES PATON & CO.,

Charlottetown and Summerside.

Ch'town, Nov. 2, 1887—ly & wky

EQUALLY IMPORTANT.

All-wool Tweed (no shoddy) 50 cents a yard.

Men's All-wool Lindens and Drawers, 60 cents.

All-wool Top Shirts, 75 cents; Silk, Wool and 1 Cashmere Mufflers, 35 cents, up.

Dent's Lined Kid Gloves, \$1.00.

Men's Tweed Overcoats, \$1.25.

Ladies' French Kid 4-Clasp Gloves, 80 cents; Corsets, 40 cents.

Heavy Carriage Blankets, Gentlemen's Furnishings, Trunks, Valises and Small Wares at correspondingly low prices.

I Sell for Cash, and NEVER SHALL BE UNDERSOLD.

J. D. REID,

TRYON WOOLEN MILLS DEPOT, Cameron Block

Charlottetown, Oct. 31, 1887—cod & wky tj

LONDON HOUSE

CLOTH SALE.

HAVING closed up our Tailoring Department, we shall Sell our Splendid Stock of

Beavers, Pilots,

Naps, Worsteds,

Scotch Tweeds,

English Tweeds,

Canadian Tweeds,

At from Twenty per cent. to Thirty-three and One-third per cent., Discount for CASH.

HARRIS & STEWART

SUCCESSORS TO

GEO. DAVIES & CO.

Ch'town, Oct. 21, 1887—wky

FIRE INSURANCE.

ESTAB. ISSUED, 1821.

SCOTTISH UNION AND NATIONAL INSURANCE CO.,

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND.

CAPITAL, \$30,000,000

The strongest Fire Insurance Company in the world. Risks taken at Lowest Rates.

A. S. URQUHART,

Agent for P. E. Island.

Also—Agent for the Lancashire, Commercial Union, and British America.

CH'TOWN, P. E. I., Oct. 22, 1887—2wks ed