

THE DAILY EXAMINER

DECEMBER 16, 1893.

THE LIQUOR EVIL

WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, there were two men

drowned, a boy found dead in Victoria

Park, one man almost frozen to death,

one man almost stabbed to death, and

one man almost murdered, as a result of

drunkenness in this Province. How many

ordinary casualties there were, how many

cases of exposure and loss of health, can

never be told. There seems not to have been

much difference between the amount of

drunkenness, proportionately to population,

in Charlottetown, Summerside and

Souris. Under free rum and under Scott

Act alike the law was flouted. Those who

are responsible for the execution of the

law were "electioneering." They had

no time to attend to their duties. If

convicted liquor dealer, likely to vote

for the Conservative ticket, were in

large, care was taken to "clap him into

jail." But drinking and drunkenness went

on under their eyes. Yet in the face of

the fact that the existing law is daily and

hourly violated in Summerside and

Souris elsewhere, these same authorities

asked the people to vote for Prohibition.

We have no doubt that Mr. Peters' magnificent

majority is due largely to the "plebiscite."

But in the light of what is now known,

is the fact that Prohibition was completely

subordinated before and during and after

the taking of the vote, the uselessness of it

appears. We ought, before the vote, to

have had a thorough discussion of the

question; but that was impossible. We

ought, before the vote, to have known the

extent of the right and power of the

Province to legislate and enforce laws in

respect to the liquor traffic; but that can

not be known until after the Supreme

Court of Canada has rendered its decision.

The voters ought to have gone to the

polling booths with their minds free; but

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political turmoil and when many of them

were being plied with liquor. There

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is to be done about the increasing liquor

evil? Whatever the result of the plebiscite

may be, prohibition is not yet within reach.

It is, then, too much to expect that the

Scott will be enforced, now that the

Attorney-General has a large majority at

his back? In this city there ought

certainly be a more vigorous prosecution

of the Regulation Act. Public opinion

will back the Stipendiary Magistrate in

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Prohibition! It has been well said that "one

chief reason why the world is not reformed

is that all think others ought to be

reformed, instead of reforming

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The suggestion of the Rev. James

Simpson that temperance societies be

formed in connection with the churches

might also be adopted with good effect.

The Harbor Light, too, might be vigorously

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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

It is reported that James E. Mac-

Donald Esq., is eight ahead.

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gold in large amounts is yet being

exported from the United States to Europe.

Interview of the positive statement of

Mr. R. N. Cox that all the extras which he

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