

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

JANUARY 5, 1891.

The Scott Act Campaign.

The crisis will have been reached on Thursday next. Thanks to THE EXAMINER there has been a free and fair—not a one-sided—discussion of the main points in the issue. Let us now sum up.

The principles by which the electors ought to be guided are well stated in the admirable letter of Archbishop Ireland. Confine the liquor traffic to the drug stores—if possible; if not possible, have the most restrictive law that can be enforced. Do not scruple about the passage of a license law on the plea that it is wrong to license an evil, for the sale and use of alcoholic stimulants is not an evil per se, though it is undoubtedly true that the most gigantic evils of the age result from their sale and abuse. The duty and object of the State is to check the abuse, and any effective measure to that end may rightly, and morally, and properly be employed. Be not deceived, the notion that the community can rid itself of responsibility in respect to the abuses of the liquor traffic by simply voting for the Scott Act is a fond and foolish and baseless one. Responsibility for the enforcement of the law lies upon the community. If the liquor traffic continues unchecked by a prohibitory law, then surely the hands of the community are not "clear of the price of blood." A law unenforced does harm.

Remembering these principles, let us review briefly the points brought out in the discussion.

(1) Has the Scott Act been enforced? The Guardian, the Rev. Fred. E. J. Lloyd, rather McElmeel, the Rev. James Simpson—have all said, No. The statistics brought forward by THE EXAMINER, and the Rev. James Carruthers, alike say, No. The latter gentleman has shown that under the license system accompanied by a temperance movement there were fewer arrests for drunkenness than under the Scott Act accompanied by a temperance stagnation. THE EXAMINER has proved that there were, proportionably to population, fewer arrests for drunkenness in the (license) city of Halifax than in the (Scott Act) city of Charlottetown. THE EXAMINER has also produced official statistics which show that the proportion of convictions for drunkenness is larger in Prince Edward Island than in either Nova Scotia, Quebec, or British Columbia. On the other hand, the Guardian came out as a daily for the special purpose, as it seems, of showing that "the statements when issued weekly were false," and the Rev. James Carruthers has questioned the reliability of the official figures. It is the duty of electors—the jury, to render a verdict on Thursday next,—to weigh well the evidence pro and con. For THE EXAMINER we have no hesitation in saying that the facts which are known, justify the statement that, under the Scott Act, all who wanted to sell have sold, and all who wanted to drink have drunk; that several valuable lives have been lost to the community by reason of the non-enforcement of the law, and that hundreds of families have suffered loss and misery.

(2) Then, if the law has not been enforced, what is now the duty of the community? What would be done if our customs laws were being violated as the Scott Act is violated—if hundreds of merchants were engaged in smuggling, and if witnesses brought before the courts were guilty, every day, of perjury? Certainly the law would be enforced, or other means would be taken to collect the revenue. So, we should either have the Scott Act enforced or get rid of it. The means for its enforcement in the past have been insufficient. What other means are to be adopted for the future? What response has been made to the repeated questions of THE EXAMINER, asked within the past month? Is the example of the W. C. T. U. to be followed by the men? Are we to have a Law and Order League? Do we hear anything about the establishment of a Civic Reform League? Has a single step been taken towards the establishment of temperance coffee rooms and other means of attracting the nascent customers of our beer gardens, whiskey shebeens and gambling dens? Is there any prospect of a temperance movement similar to that which prevailed when Father McGillivray and the Reverend George W. Hodgson were in the Church militant? There is no answer to any of these questions. Our Scott Act promoters have been too busily engaged in trying to prove that the Guardian and the Rev. Fred. E. J. Lloyd and others were wrong when they described the strength of the liquor interest in Charlottetown and the prevalence of the drinking habit, to pay much attention to questions asked by THE EXAMINER. We are, therefore, compelled to the conclusion that the enforcement of the Scott Act will be no better in the future than it has been in the past; compelled to the other alternative—compelled to say that we ought to get rid of the Scott Act, which we cannot or will not enforce, and try something else.

3. But, what else? There's the rub. As to High License or Low License we may say this: it would be infinitely better to have drinking and drunkenness under a law which permits the sale of intoxicants

than it is to have drinking and drunkenness under a law which prohibits the sale of intoxicants; moreover, it is more likely that a license law which everyone will say is not too stringent will be enforced than the Scott Act which five-sixths of the people say by their votes, and a very large majority say by their acts, is too stringent.

4. But we have no license law. Why? The Hon. Daniel Davies, in his letter to the Patriot of Saturday evening, says:

"Certainly it was the duty of the Hon. Neil McLeod and his colleagues, if they thought it necessary, to have had such a law placed on the Statute Book as would have 'stepped in' in the event of the Scott Act not being sustained, to have done so."

Perhaps the Hon. gentleman is not aware that a bill providing a license law was, on the suggestion of THE EXAMINER, submitted to the Legislature several years ago. The bill was supported by the Government party. It was also, at the beginning, supported by the Hon. John Yeo and other members of the Opposition. If it had passed and been sustained by the courts, the liquor dealers would, on the revocation of the Scott Act, have been in a position similar to that expressed by the words "out of the fat, into the fire." But those who shout for the Scott Act, those who accept the Scott Act as crystallized temperance, raised a cry against the "licensing of an evil," stirred up the public opinion of the country against the bill, made as much party capital as they could out of it; and, finally, it was thrown out of the Council.

5. The fate of that reasonable and proper measure causes THE EXAMINER to doubt the passage of a license law in the event of the defeat of the Scott Act. The influences which were then brought to bear against license, will be brought to bear again. The public opinion of the country is still firmly set against a license law. The members of the Legislature are still representatives of their own constituents rather than of Charlottetown. The Legislature is still divided. It will be represented that the Scott Act may again be brought into operation in Charlottetown at the expiration of three years, and that as an object lesson, three years of free rum will be better than four or five months. Reasons sufficient to silence the consciences of members concerning their remissness of duty will be advanced. In short, a license bill will in our opinion, as before, be lost. This conclusion is borne out by the responses of Legislative Councilors to the unheard of request of the editor of the Guardian, and by the fact that constituents of two of the honorable gentlemen who declined to consent themselves to the strength of public opinion, had the sublime impudence to address to those gentlemen a letter of censure.

Having arrived at this conclusion, THE EXAMINER has not deemed it worth while to discuss the question of Scott Act vs. License. Nor can we, in view of the doubt and uncertainty which exists—the doubt about "local option," the uncertainty that any measure can be passed by the local Legislature, which will not be "hung up" in the courts—advise the electors to vote one way or the other, as we certainly should advise them if the doubt and uncertainty were removed. We can only regret that the promoters of the petition did not choose their time a little more discreetly—did not wait until the question of local option had been decided and the true temperance sentiment of the town been more fully ripened. It is impossible that the result of the poll on Thursday next can be satisfactory. If a majority vote for the Act, we shall have to endure another full three years' term of Scott Act violation; if a majority vote against the Act, we shall probably have a term of "free run." So, after the manner of the clergymen, we can only ask electors to consider well for themselves the facts and questions here set out, and vote according to the dictates of their consciences.

An Insufficient Excuse.

In the course of his last speech in Market Hall, Mr. L. H. Davies, M. P., offered some excuses for the United States in respect to their abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854. One of these excuses was recently treated of by Mr. Bourinot, the accomplished constitutional historian, when addressing the American Historical Association in session at Washington. We quote:

"The causes which led to the repeal of the treaty were mainly the desire to punish Canadians for their sympathy with the Confederate States—a sympathy entirely exaggerated—and to force the provinces into an annexation or such a measure of trade as would better suit American interests. A bill was actually introduced in the House of Representatives providing for the admission of those countries into the federal union—a mere political straw, it is true, but still showing the current of opinion in some quarters in those days. The Canadian authorities had had no knowledge of the St. Alban's raid, but the moment they found that desperate men were ready to violate the neutrality of their territory they took prompt measures to prevent the continuation of such unlawful acts, and even paid a large sum of money in acknowledgment of their supposed responsibility when a Montreal magistrate ordered some of the stolen money to be returned to the robbers on their release. Both Mr. Secretary Seward and Mr. Caleb Cushing, in published documents, acknowledged the energy and sincerity with which the Canadian authorities, throughout this trying period, discharged their responsibilities. Mr. Seward wrote that 'the President regards with sincere satisfaction the conduct and proceedings of the Canadian authorities.' It was well also to remember how many Canadians fought and bled in the armies of the North, if there are any persons now a-days who should

venture to bring up this old grievance against Canada."

These are undoubtedly the facts of the case. It was, we feel sure, a surprise and a pain to the hundreds who were present in Market Hall when Mr. Davies spoke, to hear him as the apologist and advocate of the United States,—as the apologist and advocate of citizens of the United States who were proved to be guilty of a violation of Canadian laws and regulations.

The Scott Act Considered.

Before preaching the sermon yesterday morning in St. Peter's Church, the Priest Incumbent, Rev. James Simpson, spoke as follows to his congregation:

I hope that during the week you will pray earnestly to Almighty God that His Holy Spirit may guide aright those who are to vote at the Scott Act election. The Eucharist on Monday and Thursday will be offered with that intention. And I would again remind you of your duty to vote as your consciences dictate, and warn you not to shirk your responsibility, for if the polling is as close as it was last time much may depend upon a few votes one way or the other. Whichever side you take avoid disputing and quarrelling, and give those who differ from you the credit of being at least as conscientious as yourself. It is impossible for all men to see eye to eye in these matters, and therefore we should be careful how we judge our neighbor or attribute evil motives to him, and whatever the result of the contest is, let us accept it gracefully—without triumph or anger—as the ruling of the majority. For my own part, after watching the working of the Act here for the last four years—and I have certainly had opportunities which many laymen have not had, of being behind the scenes and witnessing the effects on those who buy and those who sell—and after reading the arguments on both sides,—I have determined to vote for the repeal of the Act for the following reasons:

1. I consider the law (i) Un-English, because it interferes with the rights of the subject. (ii) It is unfair, for it does not treat rich and poor alike—the rich man may import what liquors he pleases, while the poor man must go without. (iii) It is unworkable in this city as long as public sentiment is what it is at present, for out of 948 informations during 10 years, there have been only 359 convictions—or about one-third—although I suppose everyone summoned had really broken the law.

2. It does not prevent the sale of intoxicants, for the number of places where liquor is sold has steadily increased under the Act.

3. It does not check intemperance, for those who want to drink to excess can do so with the greatest ease; and I believe the percentage of drunkards is quite as large here as in other towns.

4. It is conducive to perjury, to deception, to adulteration, to immorality.

5. There is no prospect of the law, if sustained, being enforced better in future than it has been heretofore, for although the W. C. T. U. have promised to enforce it, the Temperance Committee made the same promise last time, and signally failed to fulfil it when once the election was over.

I make this statement because I have several times been asked my opinions and you have a perfect right to know what they are upon a subject of this sort. At the same time I have no desire to influence your votes, for that is a matter which must rest between God and your own conscience.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Letter From Hon. D. Ferguson.

To the Editor of the Patriot:

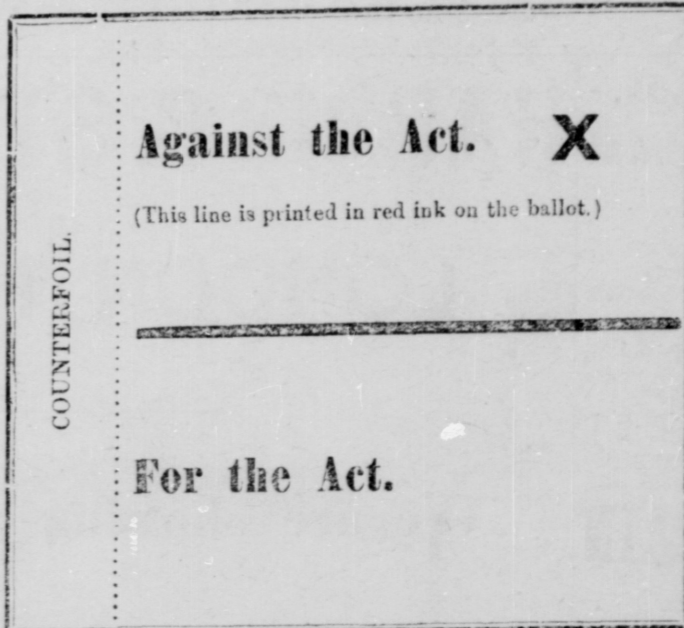
Sir,—I would be hard to please if I were not satisfied with the effect of my last letter. You started by trying to prove that the National Police had discriminated against British trade and in favor of the Americans, while the policy of the McKenzie Government had produced a very large balance of British over American imports. Finding however, that the very opposite of this is true, and that our trade, which was over twenty millions of dollars in favor of Britain in 1873, (the last year of the Mc.D. and admin. term), had fallen to eleven millions the wrong side at the end of the inglorious McKenzie-Cartwright term. You now make comparisons of the trade of the country during the two Conservative administrations. Now, I am not greatly concerned how you divide that matter. "Heads up we win; tails up you lose." It is all in the family. But if the Conservatives were "wise" from 1868 to 1873 because they had a balance of \$7,000,000 a year in favor of British imports and "foolish" in having from 1880 to 1889 a balance the other way of \$2,400,000 a year. The Grits must have been quite crazy from 1875 to 1878 in producing a balance of \$5,000,000 a year against Britain, and clear stark mad in 1891 when they propose to place Customs taxes of \$22,000,000 a year in favor of the United States which would compel us to buy almost everything from that country.

You say that the McKenzie Government did not discriminate against Great Britain, although they had a balance of nearly \$5,000,000 a year of American over British imports. How then can you say that the present administration have so discriminated when that balance is reduced to one half? The truth is that so far Canada has not discriminated against any country. That folly is yet in store for us when Laurier and Cartwright get into power, if they ever do. It is quite fallacious to confound the excess of imports from this or that country, under an equal tariff, with the monstrous proposal now made of taxing the trade of Britain and other countries twenty-two millions of dollars a year and allowing American goods to come free!

You say the Conservatives "had the luck of being in power during two prosperous periods" while there was a great depression during the Liberal period and "the people were not able to buy expensive goods." It is not a little remarkable that the periods of prosperity should correspond so accurately with the Conservative regime, and that hard times and Cartwright's financing should come and go in such close company! But what comes of all the blue rump which has been dinned in our ears for the last 12 years if the Editor of the Patriot is right in classing the years from 1880 to 1889 as a "prosperous period." I am, yours etc., D. FERGUSON. Jan. 3, 1890.

VOTE FOR THE RED!

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To vote against the Scott Act, place your X in the upper space, where the words "Against the Act" are printed in red ink.

VOTE FOR THE RED!

Charlottetown, January 5, 1890

The Place the Scott Act Holds.

Sir,—In an editorial in the Island Guardian of the 5th of December I read the following: "Looking over the struggles of the last twelve years, the marvel is that the Scott Act holds such a place in the hearts of the people to-day." I propose to put the Guardian's conclusions to the test of figures. Since the passage of the Scott Act, it has been submitted to public opinion in 86 cities and counties. It was adopted in 67 and rejected in 19 at its first submission. In only two of these 19 districts has there been any second submission, viz. St. John, N. B. where the adverse vote was increased from 2 to 77, and Stanstead Co., P. Q., where, on the second election, the Act was adopted, and on a third election rejected. This leaves 67 districts which at some time between 1878 and 1889 (there have been no elections in 1890) adopted the Act, and gave it a trial—with what success? Thirty-three of them have since revoked it, and it is now in force in only 32 counties and 2 cities of Canada.

In each of the 12 years between 1878 and 1889, inclusive, there have been elections held, giving the people an opportunity of expressing their opinions of the Act. Let us analyze the voting:—

In the six years, 1878-1883, inclusive, during which there were 37 contests, there were cast for the Scott Act, votes..... 40,234 Against it..... 22,225 Majority in favor of the Act in first six years..... 18,009

In the six years, 1884-1889, inclusive, during which there were 89 contests, there were cast for the Scott Act, votes..... 187,907 Against it..... 182,506 Majority in favor of the Act in second six years..... 5,401

Considerably reduced; but as there were more than double as many elections in the second six years as in the first six years, the comparison is scarcely fair. Let us try another method. There have been, during the 12 years, 126 contests

In the first 63 contests, the votes cast for the Act were..... 166,098 Against it..... 69,767 Majority of votes for the Act..... 36,331

In the second 63 contests, the votes cast for the Act were..... 122,043 Against it..... 134,944 Majority of votes against the Act..... 12,921

Since its enactment in 1878, in those districts where it has been more than once submitted to the people, the votes for the Act have fallen from 99,314 to 69,487; and the votes against the Act have increased from 61,461 to 99,710. Since 1st January, 1884, the Act has been voted on in 51 districts, none of which had been previously polled. Thirteen promptly rejected it, while 38 adopted it. Of these 38 districts, 29 revoked it on the first opportunity, leaving it now in operation in only 8 of the original 51 districts.

To my mind these figures prove that the more the people saw of the Scott Act the less they thought of it. In the last four years there has been only one new county to adopt it, viz. Richmond, P. Q., and only four other districts to sustain it, although tested in 39 districts. All the others rejected it.

If the editor of the Guardian can find any consolation in the statistics which I have collated for his benefit, he should certainly turn his attention to extracting sun beams from encumbers, a process which has hitherto proved conspicuously unsuccessful. I wish him and you a Happy New Year. Yours, WILLIAM C. DESBRISAY. Ottawa, Dec. 31, 1890.

Has the Scott Act Prohibited?

miserable miscreants, and are trying to make themselves believe that the Scott Act does no good. Ignoring all the statistics and other testimony placed before them from every conceivable standpoint, they are echoing the hollow shout of these gentlemen that the Scott Act is a failure—that it fails to prohibit. If these simple-minded (?) people would for one moment consider that they are sailing in the same boat with all the rum-sellers, I am persuaded they would conclude they had made a mistake. Think of a man, claiming to be a friend of temperance, pulling along in the same boat with all the illicit rum-sellers of Charlottetown helping at his oars! Imagine it, who can, that these same rum-sellers, owing to the enormous quantities of liquors they have been selling in defiance of the law, have become all at once so shocked at the terrible results of their own evil work that they are now asking us to abolish the Scott Act and give them a license law that they may not be allowed to ruin all the boys entirely! Do these men take the people of Charlottetown to be fools? Do they imagine that the electors are waiting with listening ears to catch what they may say with regard to any temperance law? I row not. The old adage comes to my mind:—

"When the devil got sick, the devil a saint would be; But when the devil got well, the devil a saint was he."

I wish to point out to those who are foolish enough to believe that the rum-seller is really a "saint" what has caused the sickness that has brought about his conversion and made him such a strong advocate of "True Temperance." Well, here is the secret: Our consumption of liquors is far too small; to please our friends the rum-sellers, Ontario, which is wholly under license, consumes 4 gallons per head. Under license we would be no better than they. Our liquor bill then would be 4 gallons per head. We have a population of about 129,000.

Under license 120,000 x 4..... 480,000 galls. The opponents of the Scott Act say the quantity now consumed is..... 80,000 "

Prohibited by the Scott Act..... 399,000 " Implied 480,000, the liquor bill we are here entitled to, dwindling down to 90,000 gallons! It is surely enough to make those in the business "sick" and drive them into a campaign against that hated Scott Act even if they should be compelled to assume the role of "True Temperance" advocates! One liquor seller (he held license in the olden times) admitted to the writer that he was not making enough now to pay the rent. I believe his statement. We can, therefore, readily understand the cause of the present attack upon the Scott Act. We hear a great deal from these people about the horribleness of selling 90,000 gallons—and it is, no doubt, 90,000 gallons too much—but Mr. Editor, I want to ask these people who are doing nothing against the Scott Act this question: If we sold 90,000 gallons of falcon brandy, quars, p. e. and u. k. and "mortality," but still the sale of 480,000 gallons produce? If the answer be "temperance and virtue," then the liquor traffic is not an evil when it has full swing!

Jan. 2nd, 1891.

A Question for the "Patriot"

Sir,—In a letter to the Patriot on Saturday, the Hon. D. Davies puts the following plain question to the Hon. D. Laird:—

"Now, Sir, you are a politician and have had some experience as a Cabinet Minister and Governor of the Northwest under the McKenzie Administration. I would like to put this question to you: Do you think it possible for any Canadian Government to give up the millions of dollars now collected on liquor, carry a total prohibition Act, levy direct taxation on the people to make good the deficiency in the revenue in order to try a doubtful experiment? I say it can't be done."

Now, if Mr. Davies is right in his opinion that no Canadian Government can give up the \$4,000,000 now collected as Customs duties on liquors of all kinds, I would like to know what he thinks of Mr. Laurier's proposal to give up at least nine millions of dollars a year now collected on United States' liquor. QUIZ. Jan. 6th, 1891.

THE BAYNES CASE DISMISSED. This morning, Magistrate Fitzgerald gave written judgment in the case against Dr. Baynes, dismissing the summons with costs. The Magistrate held that the defendant being a regularly qualified medical practitioner resident in the C. Y., and registered under the Medical Act of the Province, could not be guilty of itinerancy under the Act. He intimated that if he were to hold otherwise the effect would be to drive the various members of the medical profession in the localities in which they reside. The decision is an important one and THE EXAMINER regrets that space will not admit of its being published in full to-day.

Auction of Furniture, AT SALESROOM. To-morrow, Tuesday, 6th January, AT 2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

PARLOR, Dining Room, Bedroom and Kitchen Furniture, Pictures, Carpets, Stoves, Sleighs and Robes. R. BEAIRSTO, Auctioneer.

JUVENILE DANCING.

THE second and last term of instruction in Dancing and Deportment, at Terpsichore Hall, will commence on THURSDAY, Jan. 8th, at 4 p. m. E. BURRIS.

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GREATSALE OF BOOKS!

DIAMOND BOOKSTORE

Tuesday and Wednesday, JANUARY 6th AND 7th.

BEFORE STOCK-TAKING, I wish to reduce my Large, Varied and Valuable Stock of BOOKS, and Special Sales will be held on the above dates.

Goods will be displayed on Counters during the day and sold at a large discount. In the Evening, at 7 30 o'clock, an AUCTION SALE will take place. At either time you will be sure of receiving BARGAINS.

Remember Dates. Come Early. THEO. L. CHAPPELLE, Diamond Bookstore. Ch'town, Dec. 31, 1890 dy 1 1/2

1891.

We are sending out our Annual Statements of Accounts, and in wishing our numerous Customers a prosperous New Year we hope they will be able to make prompt payments.

BEER BROS. food 1/2