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Miramichi Advance.

CHATHAM, N. B., DECEMBER 23, 1897

Christmas.

Before the ADVANCE again reaches its readers Christmas will have come and gone. Meantime we wish all our friends—and enemies also, if we have any—all the happiness that is generally associated with the great holiday of the year, and hope those of them who are prosperous and able to do so will not forget that they have duties to perform to their less fortunate fellows.

The Globe and Sun in Local Politics.

Notwithstanding the declared views of the Liberal provincial Premier and also those of the Liberal Dominion leader, in favor of the local government and its support being of a non-party complexion, the St. John Globe is still giving us instalments of its political romance, the plot of which is based on the idea that all the world should be under Liberal control so long as there is a Liberal government at Ottawa.

The Globe, since Mr. Blair ceased to be provincial premier, subordinated its former half concealed opposition to the local government to some other considerations which are pretty generally understood, and since Premier Emmerson assumed control, it has indicated what the price of its support will be. As no attention has been paid to it, however, it has taken up a somewhat different role and seems to have determined that as it cannot change the views of the Premier and other Liberals in the government, it will try its influence against them in the constituencies.

The Sun, which always shapes its attitude in local politics so that it will correspond along certain lines with that of the Globe—each having a common purpose to serve—is also renouncing over the situation in Charlotte. It indicates, with a seeming candor that is amusing to the well informed, that there is a chance for an opposition man to be elected in that county, and it calls upon the Liberal-Conservatives to bring out a man who will not go to Fredericton to support Mr. Emmerson and his colleagues.

Another Vacancy. The Hatfield Advertiser intimated that Major D. McLevy Vance is to be removed from the postmaster's office at Woodstock and that C. L. Smith, M. P. P., is to take his place. The report is probably correct.

To Succeed Mr. Mitchell. It is understood that the friends of the local government are holding a meeting in St. Stephen to-day, to agree upon a candidate to fill the vacancy in the legislature created by the death of Hon. James Mitchell. It is pretty well understood that the choice will fall upon John D. Chipman and that he will be elected by acclamation.

Death of Ex-Premier Mitchell. A St. Stephen despatch of Thursday last says:—After a tedious and painful illness from cancer of the throat Mr. Mitchell passed away at 12.30 this morning. He has been confined to his bed but five days, having previous to that time been able to move around.

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and noble man into the land of rest, in the presence of his mother, wife and daughter Florence and Miss Noe Clarke. He was conscious up to his death but was unable to express his thoughts in words.

St. Stephen people will mourn their loss, as to his vigilance is due much of the educational and legislative advancement of the community as well as that of the business and social interests. Benevolent noble and vigilant, he was justly loved by all who knew him.

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ham, P. C. of St. Stephen Encampment, Knights Templar, took charge, in accordance with the expressed wishes of their late brother. Hon. Mr. Mitchell had been a member of the Masonic body for twenty-five years. He was a past master of Sussex Lodge and a member of the Chapter and Encampment.

During the morning and up to the time when the casket was closed, hundreds lined the houses of sorrow to take a last look at the features of their dear friend. Long before the hour fixed for the funeral the street in the vicinity was thronged with people, and all the residences along the route to the grave had their blinds drawn. Indeed, St. Stephen was on Sunday a whole city in mourning.

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and how most cheaply to meet such requirements under the various systems of farming. Market requirements—how to cater to home trade and to export trade. Bacon and pigs. Healthy homes.

Hon. Sydney Fisher, Dominion minister of agriculture, at Mr. LaBillois' request, has arranged with Mr. David MacRae of Guelph, Ont., an authority on various branches of practical farming, to attend these meetings. Mr. Macrae will remain in the province from January 4th until the meeting of the Farmers and Dairyman's Association at Fredericton February 15th.

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brain and nerve. Here is a table which tells a tale. The population of Maine is 670,000, Ontario about 2,200,000. The number of insane persons in the State is pretty much the same in the State and the Province, but as regards idiots what do the statistics say?

Maine, Ontario, 1896. 1896. Number of idiots. 1,391. 605. Number of deaf and dumb. 627. 310. Number of blind. 672. 141.

How does it happen that a fine State like Maine, with a vigorous, homogeneous population, chiefly agricultural, lumbering and seafaring, has eight or nine times as many idiots to the thousand as Ontario? The cause is said to be that people have taken themselves to alcoholize patent medicines and other kinds of pernicious stimulants. From the character of the drunkards I have seen in Maine, the dull, benumbed faces and idiotic stare, and from what has been told me of the use of morphine in districts formerly under the Scotch road commissioners asking them to attend the meetings.

Mr. LaBillois in answer to a question of the reporter, said the subject of wheat-raising would be considered at an early date by the government. Prohibition, then, has been morally a failure, even when applied only to a homogeneous Province or State, with a strong public opinion in favor of the law. What would happen if the experiment were tried on the mingled races not yet fused into racial or national unity, scattered over the vast areas of the Dominion of Canada? Little reflection is needed to convince us that its failure would be more certain and more disastrous.

It is admitted that prohibition requires for its success a vigorous public opinion in its favor. Its advocates should therefore insist on securing a positive majority of the electorate before calling for the enactment of the law. It is not their usual attitude. It is also admitted that the law fails most conspicuously in large centers of population. Consequently, Massachusetts after trying prohibition for several years gave it up in 1874. During the later years of the trial no serious attempts were made to enforce the law in cities like Boston, in spite of the strong Puritan element in them, and the resolute Republican spirit which feels that toleration of disobedience to law is a disgrace to the commonwealth. But when the epithets "rum-rales" and "rum-riders" are to this day applied by the prohibitionists themselves to small cities like Portland, Lewiston and Bangor what chance would there be of enforcing prohibition in Montreal, Toronto, Quebec and other Canadian cities?

Again, it is generally admitted that the Province of Quebec and British Columbia will vote against prohibition. Are we going to coerce whole Provinces or deprive them of the Provincial and municipal revenues which come from the liquor traffic? Let us not forget that those two Provinces and the Yukon Territory are peculiarly open to the operations of smugglers and illicit manufacturers. We are having a taste of this fact, even under a license system, as has been shown. But general public opinion now is against the smuggler. Of what the demand for whiskey is likely to be anyone who knows the liquor law in the mining camps and cities of British Columbia or along the creeks that run into the Yukon? This great river of Alaska is the open road all the way from St. Michael's, in the United States, up to Dawson and to the other "cities" that will spring into existence, like Jonah's gourd and fit from place to place with their inhabitants, leaving a little trace as the tents of the Arabs. Along this road, open to every highway traveler will be the men of the demand for whiskey. They will be anyone who knows the liquor law in the mining camps and cities of British Columbia or along the creeks that run into the Yukon? This great river of Alaska is the open road all the way from St. Michael's, in the United States, up to Dawson and to the other "cities" that will spring into existence, like Jonah's gourd and fit from place to place with their inhabitants, leaving a little trace as the tents of the Arabs.

Again, let us not forget this outstanding fact of our geographical position, that our frontier marches with the United States for thousands of miles. To illustrate what this would mean under a Dominion prohibition law, let a thoughtful business man, of well-known temperance sympathies, in anyone of our border towns, write a letter to the Globe dealing with the one point of the probable results there and in the towns on the other side of the river or boundary line. What would be the result in Sarnia, for instance, and in Port Huron? The result is certain, that the hearts of the liquor-sellers and of merchants generally in Port Huron would be glad.

We may assume, then, that the law would be a failure in the Provinces and Territories specified, in our large cities and along the border and wherever public opinion was not in its favor. Experience shows that the local authorities would decline to enforce it, and if a Dominion Constabulary were appointed nothing certain would be gained in the end, save enormously increased expense. To discredit local self-government in a vain attempt to defeat the will of the people of a Province would be a fine achievement for any government, Liberal or Conservative! The penalty might be raised from fines to imprisonment, but all experience shows that it is then impossible to obtain convictions in liquor cases. The moral is so obvious that it need not be drawn.

Could the law stand under all the obliquity certain to be heaped upon it in our great centres, to begin with? At present Canada is honorably distinguished by the respect for law shown in all its borders. Miners from the United States feel from the first that the tone in this respect is different from what they have been accustomed to, and they conform readily to ours, at any rate, after their first contact with Canadian law, dressed in the garb of policeman or judge. Do not let us strain to the breaking point the traditional respect of our own people for the law. That is the result of centuries of training, and once broken it will not be restored in our day. It is like a woman's honor, too sacred to be trifled with. I have abstained from speaking of

OTTOLENE COOKS. Should remember to use only two-thirds as much Cottolene as they formerly used of lard or butter. With two-thirds the quantity they will get better results at less cost than it is possible to get with lard or butter. When Cottolene is used for frying the Cottolene is ready. Never let Cottolene get hot enough to smoke.

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millions of revenue sacrificed by prohibition, of the cost of enforcement, or of the tens of millions worth of property virtually destroyed, because others can deal better with this side of the subject, and it will some time to keep discussions on a higher plane than that of finance. Financial considerations cannot be disregarded, and those who make light of the summary destruction of the property and industries of others ought at least to give a thought to the intense hatreds sure to be engendered in the minds of hundreds ruined and thousands thrown out of work. These sufferers would do everything in their power to delay, evade and discredit the law. From having coercion they would pass inevitably to hatred even the loftiest motives, and when their hearts against the most earnest appeals of the best preachers of temperance.

Are we, then, to do nothing, are we to stand idly by while intemperance slays its thousands, earnest men and women may ask? Certainly not. We must be up and doing, but along right lines and not by exploded methods. Christians are surely not idle now. If we are not doing our best to raise the fallen, to inspire the doubting with faith and to save the lost, we are not their disciples. True, we also have a duty to do as regards legislation. But my task at present is not to inquire what is the best liquor law for Canada, but to point out that prohibition would be the worst.

Remarkable Speed of the Yacht "Eldred". During her last trial run over a measured mile on the Hudson River, the 80-foot yacht "Eldred" made the remarkable speed of 36.89 miles an hour. This places her far ahead of any steam yacht, large or small, in the world. The fastest steamship of any kind afloat today is the "Turbinia," an experimental torpedo boat, propelled by the Parsons steam turbine, which has a record of 40.35 miles per hour. The "Eldred" is 80 feet long, 8 feet 4 inches beam and 3 feet 6 inches draught. She is of composite construction, with steel frames and scantlings and mahogany skin. The motive power is furnished by a quadruple expansion engine, with cylinders of 9, 13, 18 and 24 inches diameter and 10 inches stroke. The mile course over which the run was made was measured by the United States Coast Survey.—(St. Am.)

Business at Monte Carlo has not suffered very much from depression this year if the balance sheet is to be relied upon. The net profits of the year amounted to \$1,770,000. Among the items of expenditure are \$200,000 to pay the fares of returning gamblers, and a like amount granted to prevent any suicides on the premises. Notwithstanding this thoughtful precaution no less than thirty-five persons committed suicide in consequence of their losses.

Mr. Hetty Green, the richest woman in the United States is advertising for a husband for her daughter Sylvia. The young lady is recommended as "staidness, fond of home, of quiet manners and devoted habits of thought," and in addition to these desirable qualities she is heiress to thirty million dollars. The young lady will no doubt attract a host of wooing bankrupts and dukes, but needs as they may be they will hesitate before accepting a mother-in-law of the Hetty Green type.

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