

THE CIGARETTE BILL IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS A.D. MR. GIRAIS' AMENDMENT.

A STATEMENT AND APPEAL BY THE DOMINION WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

It is now over five years since the agitation for a bill to prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale of cigarettes began. In that time and in the interests of the bill, thousands of public addresses have been made, hundreds of thousands of pages of literature scattered and a petition, representing nearly 200,000 people, presented to Parliament. The press of the country, from Nova Scotia to British Columbia, has noticed and, in the main, approved the movement. Amongst religious and temperance journals there has been no dissenting voice of which we know. The Presbyterian General Assembly, every Methodist Conference in the country, Baptist Conventions, the Congregational Union and the general gatherings of other denominations and of temperance and philanthropic societies, have passed strongly worded resolutions of endorsement, as have also many city and town councils and school boards. From individual voters thousands of letters and telegrams have poured into Ottawa to their representatives, asking support for the measure.

ITS INTRODUCTION.

Last session a motion favoring such a bill was introduced and carried by 103 yeas to 43 nays. The bill followed, running a long gauntlet of opposition. It was pushed from one order paper to another and finally dropped out of sight on a ruling of the Speaker. It was pointed out at the time, by a friend of the bill, that other measures had been permitted to pass that might have been knifed on the same grounds.

This year the bill has had a first and second reading and has passed committee of the whole. It is now confronted with an amendment, introduced by Mr. Gervais of Montreal. This asks that the title of the bill be altered and every clause in it struck out. Instead of prohibiting manufacture, importation and sale, as in Tennessee, Oklahoma, etc., it provides that sale to those under 16 years of age, be forbidden. The following are the objections to such action:

1st. Five out of our seven provinces have already legislated against the sale to minors, not only of cigarettes, as in Mr. Gervais' Bill, but of all forms of tobacco. British Columbia set the age at fifteen, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island at sixteen, and New Brunswick and Ontario at eighteen years of age. It was because these enactments had proved worthless to even restrain much less prevent the growth of the cigarette business, that appeal was made to Ottawa. Age-limit legislation belongs to the provincial governments, and prohibition to the Dominion. But age-limit laws have been tried and found wanting by the provinces.

2nd. In over twenty States of the American Union cigarettes are prohibited to those under stated ages. There is but one verdict on the value of such enactments. Government statistics, the declarations of educationalists, officers of the law, parents and others interested in the young, all disprove their efficacy.

THE TRICKS OF THE TRADE.

Within the last five years prohibitory bills have been introduced into many state legislatures and their popularity, amongst the people, was made apparent by the petitions that accompanied them and the letters that followed in their wake. To offset this rational solution of the question, tobacco interests have continually introduced age-limit laws.

If the State prohibited sale to those under 15 or even 17 or 18 years of age—anything but prohibition. *The Boy*, organ of the National American Anti-Cigarette League said last year:

Laws forbidding the sale to minors are encouraged by a mythical society which seems to exist only in the elaborate letter heads which have named San Francisco, St. Paul and other cities as headquarters. As long ago as 1897 a Chicago morning paper assisted the editor of *Boy* in investigating this pretended organization, which continues to send to legislatures and others, most specious arguments, and found it a fraud. "The Society for the Suppression of the Sale of Tobacco and other Narcotics to the Youth of the Nation," is a name that carries weight when the fraud has not been exposed.

The latest device of those "whose craft is in danger" is a post card chain crusade, gotten out under the auspices of the National League of the U. S. Moral Society—headquarters Philadelphia, Pa.—with no specific address given. Each person receiving a card is requested to send their name and address for a monster petition to Congress to prohibit sale to minors, and to write three friends to do likewise. This scheme was sprung upon any State which was on the eve of passing a prohibitory bill. Attention was divided and thereby dissipated. Many of these cards found their way to Canada. A London lady who complied with the request to send her name received the following reply from the Philadelphia post office:

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF DELIVERY.
Philadelphia, Pa., June 1, 1904.

Mrs. London, Ont., Can.

Dear Madam,—
Replying to your favor of the 27th ult., regarding a letter addressed National League Society, Philadelphia, which was returned to you through the Dead Letter Office, I have to inform you that mail so addressed is undeliverable, and hundreds of pieces, at intervals, are forwarded to the Dead Letter Office, Washington, D. C.

Respectfully yours,
GEO. W. KNOWLES,
Asst. Postmaster.

Mr. Gervais' bill is an attempt to lead into a blind alley the forces now arrayed in deadly combat against the cigarette. With an indifference to criticism that is astonishing, the penalties are all of the "not-exceeding" variety, which law-breakers hold in such contempt. The magistrate may impose a fine anywhere between one cent and one hundred dollars or imprisonment for an hour or six months. As a final hamper action, the bill provided that unless information is laid within four weeks of the contravention of the act, nothing can be done.

Should this amendment become law we will have another example of "the mountain that labored and brought forth a mouse"—it will satisfy only the tobacco interests.

Signed—

MRS. A. O. RUTHERFORD, President.
MRS. A. M. BASCOM, Cor. Sec.
MRS. E. W. MCLACHLAN, Rec. Sec.
MRS. S. J. ODELL, Treas.
MRS. F. H. WAYCOTT, Sec'y Y. Branch.
MRS. JENNIE WATERS, Supt. Anti-Narcotics.

—A Japanese pastor recently visited his brother, whom he had not seen for a number of years, and who was a captain in the army. The pastor with some inward trepidation presented his brother with a New Testament and urged him to study it. The captain laughed, and, going to a drawer in his desk, he took out a little book which he handed over to his evangelistic brother. It was a New Testament, well worn with reading! Neither knew the other's views on religion.

Acadia University and Affiliated Schools.

In our advertising columns will be found the announcements of Acadia University, Acadia Seminary and Horton Collegiate Academy, the aggressive and flourishing schools of learning at Wolfville, controlled by the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces. The enterprise of these institutions is evidenced among other things, by the highly attractive calendars which they have issued this year, containing not only full information such as prospective students desire, but numerous excellent illustrations, giving views of the exteriors of the buildings and of many of the interior arrangements.

The University has a very strong B. A. Course, the degree being now accepted at Yale as qualifying the holder for direct entrance to the Graduate Department. This is the result of the exceedingly fine record which Acadia men have been making at Yale for the last two or three years.

Two new courses will be opened in October next—a four-years' course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science, and an Abbreviated Science Course without degree. Affiliation with the faculty of Applied Science at McGill has been established in respect to both these courses; and science men will do well to get full information respecting them.

The Second Forward Movement which will add \$200,000 to the financial resources is making excellent progress, and its complete success is confidently anticipated. In addition a Chair of Biology is announced as a recent gift of one of the Alumni in New York. Prospects at Acadia were never brighter than to-day; in some respects indeed the University is evidently entering on a new epoch of expansion and increased usefulness. Coupled with its high standard of scholarship is its equal emphasis on the development of right character according to Christian ideals. The University deserves, and will achieve, success.

Acadia Seminary.

A great quickening of life has been noticeable in Acadia Seminary during recent years. By proving all things and holding fast that which is good, the school has been brought to a high degree of efficiency. The ideal of the school is to fit for life and service, and efficiency and thoroughness are its two watchwords. So far as possible the aim is not only to give the pupil the advantage of the best technical and professional training in the several departments, but to surround her with those influences which, though subtle and unobtrusive, have so much to do in the development of a true womanly character. The ideals and aims of the school are set forth in the catalogue which may be had on application to the principal.

For the coming year only two announcements as to change in the personnel of the staff are made necessary by the resignation of two of last year's teachers. The whole number of teachers on the staff at present is seventeen.

Of special interest in this connection will be the following announcement: The addition to the teaching staff of Miss Muriel Iredale, Lewes, England. Miss Iredale will be first assistant in Pianoforte. She comes to us with the highest recommendations, having received diplomas from various schools and conservatories in England, besides spending three years in Leipzig, Germany.

No appointment to fill the place made vacant by the resignation of Miss Blanch A. Sloat of the Art Department, has yet been made. But the steps which have resulted in the recent advancement will not be retraced, and the high standards of the department will be maintained.

By action of the Board of Governors it is now possible for pupils in the senior year of the Seminary taking what is known as the Sophomore Matriculation Course to enter the Sophomore Class of the University entirely unconditioned. Many girls will prefer to take the Freshman year as Seminary pupils; and this course will commend itself to parents in general.

Horton Collegiate Academy.

Horton Collegiate Academy begins its 77th year of work on Wednesday, September 7th. This old and honored school is better equipped than ever before to do what it ought for its pupils. The new principal has been connected with the school for over twenty years, and thoroughly understands the working and ideals of the school. He will be assisted by a competent staff of teachers, and every effort will be made to hold the high standing already reached. Improved conditions make it possible to overtake certain ideals that have hitherto been unattainable.

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