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DAILY HERALD

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 1908

THE SCOTT ACT ELECTION.

The form of the ballot to be used in Thursday's Scott Act election is simple and there should be no errors in the marking of it.

Across the top of the ballot is printed in red ink "Against the Act" and under that in black ink "For the Act." Those who desire to replace the Scott Act with the License Act will put X opposite the words "Against the Act" and the voters who desire to retain the Scott Act will place X opposite the words "For the Act."

Both parties are apparently well organized and the struggle at the polls will be a lively one. Victory is claimed by both sides, the Scott Act supporters putting their majority over a 100 while the opponents of the act anticipate something less than that figure.

Undoubtedly the City Hall polls will return a heavy majority for the act while at the court house the vote is expected to be largely the other way.

The campaign has been a long and rather wearisome one and no doubt all concerned will be glad when it is over. Both parties are understood to have abundant funds with which to carry on the fight.

There have been four Scott Act elections in this city.

In 1878 the act was first adopted in Fredericton by a majority of 201.

In 1882, an attempt to repeal was defeated by a majority of 41.

A second attempt to repeal the act in 1882 met the same fate by a majority of 13 and in 1889 the proposition to repeal was negated by a majority of 68.

CURRENT COMMENT

The oldest member of the new legislature is 60, and the youngest is but 28.

Are you for Scott Act or license? Every qualified elector in Fredericton should exercise his right of franchise in Thursday's election.

Premier Hazen, who met Sir Wilfrid Laurier in Ottawa last week, told the Herald that the Canadian premier is looking in excellent health and spirits.

It is said that the number of officials displaced since the new government came into power reaches fully five hundred, including nearly all the revisors and road superintendents, practically all of them Liberals, who are succeeded by Conservatives.

The St. John Globe, which Mr. Hazen is fond of quoting, warns him with respect to the dismissal of officials that "he ought not to start on a career which may give him much trouble before he can stop it." Mr. Hazen started on that career some weeks ago, and he is incapable of resisting pressure from his hungry followers, who at first demanded a clean sweep of provincial officials.

Mr. Fielding told parliament on Monday that the government would introduce a cigarette bill during the present session, but he would not indicate the scope of the proposed measure, although he stated that it might not be altogether in the direction asked by the W. C. T. U. and other bodies namely prohibition of the manufacture and sale of cigarettes.

Hon. James Steadman, ex-county court judge, prominent in local politics before confederation, and postmaster general of this province, celebrated the ninetieth anniversary of his birth in March last. Owing to an unfortunate accident, by which he fractured his thigh some years ago, Mr. Steadman is confined to his home in this city, but his health is fairly good, and his mental faculties are particularly clear and active.

The Liberals of Colchester, N. S., are to nominate a candidate for the House of Commons at Truro, May 14. It will be remembered that in the bye-election last autumn, the constituency was carried by Mr. Stanfield, Conservative, who defeated Mr. Hill, the Liberal nominee by over 200 majority, but the Liberals are not discouraged and will put a strong man in the field for the general election.

Dr. Pugsley is attacked in parliament because he was once a Conservative, as if it were a disgrace to have belonged to that party. It is only a few years since Mr. Borden was a Liberal, the late Dr. Stockton after supporting the Liberal party all the best part of his life became a Conservative member of parliament, and Mr. Ossie Crockett's conversion to Toryism was as sudden as that of St. Paul to Christianity.

Ottawa Free Press—A Tory M. P. well summed up the Fowler-Pugsley episode in the House when he said: "It reminded me of nothing so much as a mosquito on a rubber ball. The more he worked, the less effect he had." (It must have been very galling to Mr. Fowler to meet with such little success in baiting the Minister of Public Works. The House does not seriously regard the hero of western land deals, neither does it respect him.)

Regarding Mr. W. A. Hayward, who was displaced from the position of Sheriff of Carleton, simply because he is a Liberal, the Woodstock says: "Mr. W. A. Hayward during his seven years in office discharged his duties faithfully and well, and he leaves behind him a record which no fair man may impeach. True he has been called upon to face some rather unpleasant situations, but in each instance has acted well within the strict letter of the law, and we challenge any person to prove the contrary."

The Solicitor General and Mr. Pinder have been pulling at cross purposes ever since the former received the place in the cabinet which Mr. Pinder claims he was solemnly promised, and really had until the Solicitor General's brethren made the successful pull for him. The relations between the two gentlemen are strained almost to the breaking point and it is even hinted that Mr. Pinder is ready to support a resolution in the legislature looking to the abolition of the office which Mr. McLeod holds.

Major Hodgins, the dismissed Transcontinental railway engineer, who since he was bounced has charged graft against the commissioners, is not going to be permitted to tell his tales only to the ears of the Tory newspapers. Chairman Parent has given an emphatic denial to Hodgins' charges, and in parliament Sir Wilfrid Laurier is moving for a special committee which will compel the major to tell his story under oath and cross examination, and it is confidently predicted that another alleged scandal will suddenly fall to the ground. Members of the investigating committee will be Mr. F. B. Carvell, Mr. E. M. Macdonald and Mr. Goffin of the government side, and Messrs. Barker and Lennox of the opposition.

THE FIRST BOAT.

With the exception of some patches along the shores and lodged against the bridge piers the river is today quite free from ice and the water is on the rise. The large screw tug Maggie M., the most powerful of the river fleet, arrived from St. John at three o'clock this afternoon, being the first of the season to make the trip. She left St. John yesterday afternoon and laid on over night at Oak Point. She will commence work swining the booms on Thursday morning.

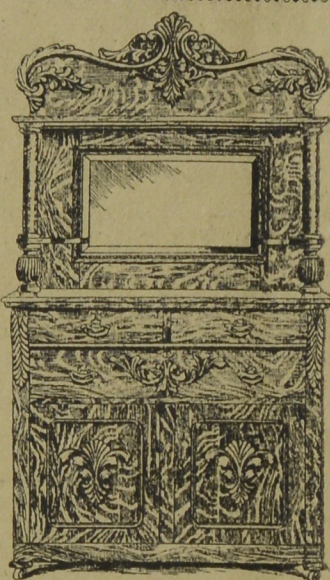
LICENSE VS. SCOTT ACT

To the Editor of the Herald:

Sir,—I would like to make a few remarks on the question that is now being discussed. I think that is any fair minded person would take both laws and read them carefully, he would see that the License Law would be the best for a city like Fredericton. I don't think that out of all our men who claim to be temperate, that it would be necessary to import a man from a city of upwards of 300,000 people and try to compare it with a city of 7,000 under the same law. I don't think he would be as well fitted to tell us which would be best as one of our own citizens.

Take even St. John. Fredericton is only one-eighth as large. One can easily see that the License Law could be handled in Fredericton to a far better advantage than in St. John. First, I would ask the people if we have not had the Scott Act for thirty years? What has it done? Don't you see every day boys under twenty-one habitual drunkards? Has it guarded or saved them? Are we not able to get liquor more freely than milk? It is sold in our city to men, boys and women, and will be as long as the world stands. Then I would say get a License Law, put it on a square basis, so we can stop the boys. Under the Scott Act Law there is no system, no restrictions. Any child can get liquor, no matter what age. I am sorry to say that we have men that employ pimps who will take boys not fifteen years of age, pay them to buy liquor in order to gain a case against a man that violates the Scott Act. And yet we

find ministers of the Gospel engaged in such work as this. Now if the Scott Act, is so loose that we have to use a boy under age to gain a case against it, it would seem to me that the sooner we get the License Law the better for the boys. You all know under the License Law a boy cannot get liquor until he is a man for himself. Then God has given him common sense, and if he choose to abuse the liquor he has himself to blame. If one man should say to another, you shall not, he is taking away the rights of God. Remember men cannot be driven like sheep. You all know for thirty years under the Scott Act you can get liquor at any time, Sunday as well as any other day, where under License Law you cannot get it on Sundays. It is sold to no one under age. Is this not better? Liquor was used before Christ, and always will be. Then why not put it on a legal basis, and stop men and women from abusing it? Furthermore, I would like to say that under the License Law the wife can stop her husband, the mother can stop her son. Can we do that under the Scott Act? No. The woman has no jurisdiction whatever. I think the people have been wrongly informed. They have not used their own judgment. They do not understand the License Law. They are led to believe it is the same as was thirty years ago, before the Scott Act came in force. But like everything else, it has been changed, and today we have a good License Law that any city should have in preference to the Scott Act. I will say here if any one will apply to the



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Apr. 27, 61w.

Deputy Provincial Secretary's office in the departmental buildings, they can get a free copy of the License Law. They will see a far different law than what they have been led to believe. We have had the Scott Act for thirty years in Fredericton. The people can see that it has been of no benefit to the city. If they have not enforced it, how will they do it if sustained? Try a License Law for three years and see what effect it will have on the morals of the city. If it don't prove to be all right, then make a change. Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for this space, I remain,
Yours, etc.,
A LADY RATEPAYER.

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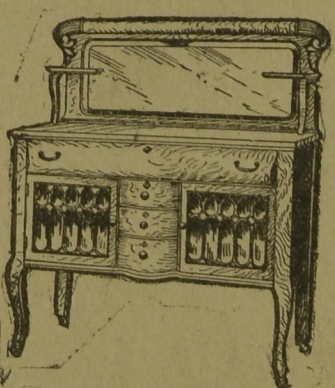
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