

SUPPLEMENT TO The Equity.

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TO THE ELECTORS OF PONTIAC.

Gentlemen,—In the Pontiac *Advance* of last week, the organ that reflects the views of the Scott Act faction in this county, appeared an article calling (indirectly at least) Archbishop Lynch, Rev. Mr. Mills, Church of England minister, Eganville; Rev. Mr. Macdonald, Presbyterian minister, Toronto; Rev. Mr. McKae, late chairman of the Presbyterian General Assembly, and Rev. Mr. Townley, of Paris, Ont., whiskey men. If name-calling and defamation were always effective weapons of debate or argument, the Scott Act party would be always successful, but an intelligent and enlightened community scorns such foundation for reasoning, and to this may be attributed the defeats that party has lately sustained.

As some of those "whiskey men" have fairly good reputations and as they appear to be close observers of the working of the Scott Act, their opinions of its efficacy may be instructive. The Rev. Father Sheani of Arnprior says in his opinion there is more drunkenness now in that village than before the Scott Act came into force. The Rev. Mr. Mills of Eganville and the priest of Brudenel tells us that the Scott Act has failed to diminish drunkenness in those localities. Father Collins of Mount St. Patrick says if Pontiac wishes for temperance let her not have the Scott Act. Father Devine of Osceola, lately a strong supporter of the Scott, considers it most unfortunate that it has become law in Renfrew. Moreover he thinks that Father Marion would be better employed trying to reform his own parish than lecturing in favor of the Scott Act elsewhere.

The unfortunate victim of the Renfrew tragedy was from about Douglas, and so were the wounded men both parishioners of Father Marion. It seems then that there is at Douglas ample field for all Father Marion's energy in reform, to which he might with as great propriety devote his time and thought as to expend them in urging upon the people of Pontiac the doubtful benefits of a temperance measure which was powerless to prevent drunkenness that lead to murder among his own people.

The main object of the Scott Act people is Scott Act—not temperance. To force their hobby on the people is all their ambition. Pontiac without the Scott Act is more temperate than Renfrew with it. Any little disturbance or shouting in Portage du Fort during the past summer came from non-residents of the county. To suppress such, Scott Act people won't move a hand; indeed there are those who say they rather encourage it to make Scott Act appear necessary. That it is not needed in Pontiac is evident from the fact that at the show fair in Clarendon last summer there was not on the grounds any one intoxicated. No Scott Act orator has claimed such a record for any gathering

in Renfrew since the Act came into force.

Electors of Pontiac, the Anti-Scott Act party has done its best to put the case fairly before you. As they are men who have to work for a living they have not the time, if they had the inclination, to go round holding meetings or soliciting votes. Presuming that ere this you have made up your minds as to how you will vote, they would respectfully remind you that the Scott Act people intend to put forth all their strength immediately before the polling to secure votes. Recollect then that there will be no one to contradict anything they say. You have already heard enough to enable you to decide. Act upon your present convictions. Changes may be rung on the bells but it is not likely any new arguments will be brought forward.

Electors of Pontiac, those clergymen before named must have had the most ample opportunities of judging, and from what they say it is manifest that the Scott Act is a fraud; that it promotes intemperance; that it leads to false swearing and debases society by offering a bribe to the informer. As good men and true, having the welfare of yourselves and your children and the honor of the County at heart, vote against the Petition on Thursday the 28th instant.

THE COMPILERS OF
THE FALLACIES OF THE SCOTT ACT.
January 20, 1886.

Scott Act in Renfrew County.

Eganville Enterprise, Jan. 6, 1886.

This matter is now being pretty thoroughly ventilated, and it is quite apparent that one side is not likely to have the whole monopoly of statements, certificates, etc.

Now we have a few more facts and figures to add. Here is a citation from the *Canadian Journal of Commerce*, of Dec. 23rd, 1885. It refers to the general subject of Scott Act operations in Ontario and is the deliberately expressed opinion of a remarkably independent paper with unusual opportunities of observation. Here it is:

"The Canada Temperance Act of 1878, better known as the Scott Act, is undergoing a severe trial in many parts of Ontario. Indeed, in some localities, we are informed that it is already practically a dead letter, the village tavernkeeper who held on to the ship finds himself in some respects better off than before. He pays no license; he charges ten cents a "horn" for whiskey instead of five cents as of yore, and by this 100 per cent. increase in price provides an ample sinking fund to meet possible fines. He began under the new law by an exceedingly careful discrimination in dropping his left eyelid before visitors, but this has gradually fallen into disuse; and in many places he now sells as openly as ever. The class of persons most likely to inform against him would find it rather difficult to raise the necessary deposit of \$15, besides which the informer would not be likely to add to his popularity by so doing. The tendency, it appears, is towards a greater consumption of native beer and whiskey, to the general exclusion of foreign intoxicants."

But to descend to particulars. Here is a striking testimony from the valiant and honored parish priest of Brudenel—no man knows the Opeongo country like him. His words are "Scott Act a curse; more drinking now than ever." All information that reaches us confirms the Rev. Father's pithy saying.

Now for another nut to test the Mercury's crackers. This time it is the thoroughly attested and duly signed copy from a wholesale merchants books. We give the comparative statement in the gentleman's own words.

In the year 1884 the firm solicited orders in the County of Renfrew, and from May 1st to Dec. 1st of that year disposed of the following quantities in this County:—

Highwines.....	2832 gallons
Rye.....	1240 "
Gin.....	1011 "
Brandy.....	720 "
Wines.....	405 "
Total.....	6,208 "

In the year 1885 this same firm did not solicit orders in Renfrew County and here are their sales therein during the same period, i. e. from May 1st to Dec. 1st:

Highwines.....	5840 gallons
Rye.....	1110 "
Gin.....	205 "
Brandy.....	175 "
Wines.....	15 "
Total.....	7345 "

Now that is a very startling comparative statement. But it must first be prefaced by the gentleman's declaration that it by no means includes all the orders received, for he was obliged for several reasons to refuse many of them.

The totals, 6208 gallons in 1884 and 7345 gallons in 1885, leave quite a balance, 1137, in favor of the last seven months—those months which gentlemen tell us so marvelously exhibit the satisfactory operations of the Scott Act in Renfrew County. But that is not the worst feature of the tabulated statement. It is this, the terrible increase of consumption in the most alcoholic liquors, those more likely to be used as basis for "home manufactured commodities."

Highwines, gallons sold in last 7	
months of 1884.....	2,832
" " 1885.....	5,840

Increase of sales in Renfrew Co. 3,008

That is, the sales of Highwines, by ONE FIRM, without soliciting orders, in the County of Renfrew, has more than doubled since the Scott Act came in force. We leave our readers to draw their own conclusions as to the effect such an array of figures has on eagerly promulgated Scott Act testimonials which have recently deluged the country. However, if any jaunty knight feels eager for the fray we beg leave to mention the need of a slight degree of discretion, for our armory contains some few more affairs that will tend to make men think, and these will appear in due time.

Drunkenness in a Scott Act Town.

From the *Ingersoll Chronicle*, Dec. 31.

Probably there never has been so much drunkenness on our streets as was the case on Christmas eve and Christmas day. Nor was it confined to men—but boys, mere children of 12 years of age, were to be seen reeling on the streets on Christmas day. On Christmas night three boys, the eldest not over 14 had to be removed from one of our churches after their stomachs had become so charged with whiskey, which they carried in bottles with them, that they repelled the load. At the C. P. R. station on Christmas day five boys, the oldest not over 14, were seen, each with a quart bottle of whiskey. So great was the drunkenness that the hotels had to close up at 8 o'clock. Quite a trade is continually done on the streets by vendors of bottles. Whiskey is brought down from London in quantities by men who club together and send one of their number up for it. There are, in this town, we are informed, eight low places outside the hotels where liquor can be procured, under guise of different trade. In the stables, on the streets, in the hotels, intoxicating liquors can be procured without the least attempt at secrecy. Nightly men are seen reeling on the streets. On Sunday last, in broad daylight men were seen reeling drunk on the streets. In the face of all these plain truths, told by reliable witnesses, many of them Scott Act supporters, we are forced to admit that the Scott Act, so far at least as this county is concerned, is a lamentable failure. Would a high license law, with stringent rules and regular inspectors work any better is a question which should attract the urgent attention of temperance reformers and all who desire the welfare of their fellow men.

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