

THE BEAVER RADICAL. SMITH CURTIS, EDITOR. BEAVER, PA.

Friday Morning, March 23rd, 1873. LOCAL OPTION IN THE SUPREME COURT.

Judge Agnew, on the 17th inst., delivered the opinion of the majority of the Supreme Court in the Local Option cases arising under the act of May 3d, 1871, permitting the citizens of the Twenty-second ward of Philadelphia to vote for or against license.

The dissenting Judges held, on the contrary, that the distinction drawn between the act of the Legislature and the vote of the majority, in the case, was not sound, and that the Local Option act was a real delegation by the Assembly of the law-making power to the people, since the law was not a law until the people had voted it into being.

WHAT NEXT? The vote under the Local Option law in the county is light, but shows a large majority against license; thus the question is settled for the next three years.

All classes of citizens compose this majority; not alone the temperate but the moderate drinker; not alone the church member, but the worldling—all have joined in this movement to rid the community of what was clearly seen to be a great evil—licensed liquor-selling.

The change in public opinion has taken place so quickly, and to such an extent, that the results of it are simply astonishing, not only in this county, where the reformation has exceeded all prudent expectations, but also throughout the State.

The virtue of law depends upon public opinion. Many laws are dead letters because there is no public opinion to enforce them. The anti-license law will disappoint its friends unless it is vigorously put in force and made a law indeed, as well as in name.

Let the experiment be made in good faith and under the most favorable conditions, and then, at the end of three years, see with what result.

The reductions to the Appropriation bill made in the Senate will meet with general approval, and the Senate Finance Committee deserve the thanks of the people for pruning so vigorously the rank appropriations of the House.

The people demand retrenchment and economy, and will frown upon any measure that even has the least appearance of extravagance about it. Governor Hartranft is receiving the praise of even his opponents for the wisdom and courage he has displayed in guarding the public funds.

The President, in accordance with the rules of the Civil Service, has promoted Judge Richardson, Assistant Secretary, to the position of Secretary, made vacant by the election of Mr. Boutwell, by the Massachusetts Legislature, to the United States Senate.

A BILL to incorporate the Montours Valley Railroad, to run from Pittsburgh to Georgetown, by way of Frankfort Springs and Hookstown, was amended in the Senate by Senator Rutan, by adding the names of John Wilson, Sr., John Stevenson and Jackson Swearingen as co-proprietors of Beaver county, and also so as to establish the route as above indicated.

We are informed that the road, in all probability, will be built, which will be good news to those living on the South Side.

THE result of Local Option in the county gives 1230 majority against license. All the townships and boroughs, except Economy, Harmony, Marion, North Sewickly, Independence, Phillipsburg and St. Clair, voted against license.

The resignation of Senator Caldwell, of Kansas, of his seat in the United States Senate, will produce the conviction that he is guilty of the charges of bribery made against him; that he did purchase the seat which he has just vacated, and only resigned to escape expulsion.

The last Congress increased the salaries of certain officers and its own members as follows: President of the United States, \$50,000; Chief Justice Supreme Court, \$10,500; Justices of Supreme Court, Vice President, Speaker, and members of the Cabinet, \$19,000; Senators, Members, and Delegates in Congress, \$7,500.

SENATOR RUTAN called up and had passed, one day last week, the resolution instructing our members of Congress and Senators to urge the passage of a bill in Congress to prevent the importation of Chinese.

The widow of the ear-hook murderer, Foster, who was hanged on Friday in New York, is not expected to live, being utterly prostrated by the wretched death of her husband, to whom she was ardently attached.

THE majority against license in Washington county will probably reach 2000.

FROM HARRISBURG.

The Somerset Relief Bill Voted—The Appropriation Cut Down in the Senate—The Apportionment Bill and its Difficulties—The House and Senate Disagree on Increase of Salaries—Final Adjournment—Centennial Appropriation.

HARRISBURG PA., March 24, 1873.

Gov. Hartranft vetoed the Somerset relief bill, as it was hoped he would, and it proves to be the most popular act of his administration. He is commended by almost the entire press of the State in the strongest terms.

The Senate was in session until nearly twelve o'clock on Friday night on the Appropriation bill, passing it finally before adjourning. It will now go to a conference committee, where the difference between the two Houses will be adjusted.

Senator Rutan gave notice on Friday he would report the Apportionment bill on Tuesday, and endeavor to pass it this week. It is understood a number of changes will be made by the Senate Committee.

As they should be, and this fact embarrasses in the formation of every other district in the western part of the State. The Butler politicians want to get into a district where they can get the next Congressman, and of course want to be separated from Washington.

The House was so much displeased at the Senate for striking off the increase of salaries for members of the Legislature that the resolution for final adjournment on the tenth of April was tabled, although the House originally passed the resolution to adjourn on the twenty-seventh of March.

The Raid bill is pending in the House, but since the veto of the Somerset bill will not likely be pressed, as that veto, it is thought, settles this bill during Gen. Hartranft's term.

The Centennial appropriation is the special order for Wednesday night in the Senate, and a desperate effort will be made to pass the House bill. The indications are that the House bill will not only fail, but any bill appropriating money for this purpose will fail in the Senate this session.

LOCAL OPTION. Election Returns For and Against License.

Table with columns for Precinct Name, For License, and Against License. Lists various precincts like Beaver boro, Borough twp, etc.

The following is the protest of the Hon. D. McKee, member from Butler county, against the increase of salaries. On the passage of the bill the yeas and nays were not called in the House, but in the Senate the Senate Finance Committee struck out all increases of salaries.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before this House at this time is one which, no doubt, many of us would like to see passed and have our votes recorded against it. Sir, this bill provides for an increase of salary of many of the officers of this Commonwealth, and among them our own salaries, to be increased from four to five hundred dollars, owing to dilatoriness on the part of the Legislature.

There are two reasons for which I would oppose this bill—especially that part of it that increases our own compensation. First, it is morally wrong; because we were sent here not only to make laws to govern the people of this Commonwealth, but to act as guardians of the people's money; by putting our hands into the public treasury and appropriating some of its contents to our own use would be in my opinion a violation of the trust committed to us.

REPLY TO "OBSERVER."

Is Alcoholic Medication Necessary in the Treatment of Disease? "Observer's" second article is before me and without any desire to be hypercritical, I must say that it is the first instance that I have ever known of a disputant arguing or affirming without stating the question or indicating in any manner what he is attempting to prove.

I had always supposed that it was the province of him that affirmed a question or proposition to state his premise, and then advance such arguments as would sustain a logical conclusion based thereon, while it is part of him who denies to controvert or disprove the arguments of the affirmant.

"Observer" says: "that after reading T. G.'s last reply, he knew less about the subject than he did before it was explained." We did not think it possible that he could know less about the subject than he did before, but on carefully reviewing "Observer's" article, we are convinced that he tells the truth; for he does not now seem to know anything at all about the subject under discussion.

"Observer" does not wish to follow "T. G." through all his wanderings. I would remind "Observer" that it is not his business to follow, but to lead, and mine to follow.

"Observer" says: "the first argument T. G.'s would overthrow, is that the wine Paul prescribed for Timothy, and the wine Christ made at the wedding feast was not wine." I wish "Observer" would make his sentences intelligible: (the foregoing is not.) "Observer" means that I denied his assumption (not argument) that these wines contained alcohol.

"Observer" in his previous article assumed that the wine prescribed by Paul for Timothy, and the water changed into wine by Jesus, contained alcohol. "Observer" now presumes that it was the same kind of wine as that which made Noah drunk. How convincing this is! he first assumes it, then presumes it. Now that's conclusive! We don't require any argument, proof is altogether unnecessary!

"Observer" says that grape juice is not wine until it has fermented. The best wines of ancient times, (it is said by translators of the scriptures,) were not fermented at all, as "Observer" may learn by consulting those writers.

The wine Christ furnished was the best of wine, free from alcohol. It was not that intoxicating wine that was called a "mock," by which the foolish are deceived. It was not that fermented wine of which it was said "Jook not thou upon the wine when it giveth its color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright (ferments), for at last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder."

"T. G." thinks that whisky (alcohol) contains no element of strength or nutriment. Certainly he does, and many wiser men know it.

"Observer" holds the contrary opinion, and says, "if we find that whisky contains all or nearly all the nourishment that was in the grain, then 'T. G.'s' argument fails to the ground. Just so. But fortunately or unfortunately for "Observer's" argument, he will not find this to be the case. "Observer" proceeds to give an explanation of the process of producing whisky. If "Observer's" knowledge of the chemistry of the process is as imperfect as his explanation is incorrect, we would recommend him to give the matter closer attention, or transfer the task to more competent hands.

Leibig says that alcoholic liquors are known only as the result of one process operating upon one substance. The process is fermentation, the substance is grape sugar, (glucose.) "Lumer's chemistry," in answer to the question, what is the nature of the vinous fermentation which generates alcohol? says: "this name (fermentation) is given to the peculiar decomposition which different species of sugar undergo, in certain circumstances, and in which their elements combining to form new compounds, which under similar conditions, are always the same. When saccharine substances are placed in contact with substances in a state of decomposition or putrefaction, it is observed often in a few hours, if kept at a certain temperature, that the taste of the sugar has disappeared; pure carbonic acid is disengaged, and the liquid has acquired intoxicating properties. It now contains alcohol which may be separated by distillation."

Leibig also says fermentation, putrefaction and decay are processes of decomposition and their ultimate results are to reconvert the elements of organic substances into that state in which they existed before they participated in the processes of life.

stances into that state in which they existed before they participated in the processes of life.

Turner, in a later edition of his Chemistry, says, "fermentation is nothing else but the putrefaction of substances containing no nitrogen." This destructive process communicates itself to the sugar, by it the carbon contained in the sugar is divided between the hydrogen and oxygen of the decomposing substance, forming two carbonized compounds, the one containing almost all the oxygen (carbonic acid), and the other containing all the hydrogen, (alcohol.)

The nitrogen matters in the solution, such as gluten, vegetable albumen, etc., are spontaneously decomposed. It is then that the decomposition of the sugar is commenced and continues until the sugar has entirely disappeared. The nitrogenized (fermenting) parts of the substance are constantly precipitated in the form of ferment.

In the light of these chemical facts, the notion that alcohol is a natural constituent of grape or grain, or that nature has adapted her arrangements to the production of alcohol is simply absurd. Alcohol, as every chemist well knows, is invariably a product of fermentation, which is the natural process of decay and final destruction of organic substance. It is only through a stage of decomposition and putrefaction of organic vegetable substance, by which the nitrogenous element which represents the nutritive principle is entirely destroyed, that alcohol is generated. In all the light of science how can "Observer" risk his reputation for intelligence and his claim (if he has any) to scientific attainments by contending that alcohol is a nutrient.

"Observer" formerly prescribed alcohol as a stimulant, but since "T. G." has proved by rational argument, that stimulative was not what the case (Mr. C.) required, that nourishment was the requisite, "Observer" abandons his plan of stimulation, and gives his "good whisky punch" as nourishment. We are glad that his ideas are clearing up sufficiently to see the necessity for nourishment. But all intelligent chemists tell us there is no nourishment in alcohol; and physiologists tell us that alcohol is not assimilated in the least degree, but is speedily expelled from the system through the kidneys, lungs and skin, in the form of alcohol just as it entered. Now if there is no nourishment in alcohol, as all chemists agree there is not, and if alcohol is never assimilated as all physiologists know, why should it be given as food? But "Observer" gives "whisky punch," which contains whisky, sugar and milk. If whisky, sugar and milk alone will constitute punch. Now, I would respectfully suggest to "Observer" that he leave the whisky out and allow the punch to be taken "straight." But "Observer" in his simplicity (if that is his ignorance) imagines that in the whisky he is giving his patients, all the nutritive elements of the grain. Let us see what the authorities say. Baron Liebig says, "Beer, wine, spirits, etc., furnish no element capable of entering into the composition of blood, muscular fiber, or any other part which is the seat of vital principle."

Prof. Moleschott in his "Chemistry of Diet," says "alcohol does not deserve the name of an alimentary principle."

Dr. W. B. Carpenter in "Manual of Physiology," fourth edition, says "alcohol cannot supply anything essential to the nutrition of the tissues."

Prof. E. R. Lees, says, "alcohol contains no lime and phosphorus for the bones, no iron or salts for the blood, no kindred in any form for vital tissue of any kind." If "Observer" desires more proof that alcohol is not food, we will furnish it in our next. But "Observer" says "this whisky punch is an every day prescription of every good physician." We fear that "Observer's" acquaintance with every good physician's prescription is about as limited as his knowledge of alcohol is imperfect.

"Observer" supposes that "these disciples of Varuna" would give "hot water." We read in ancient mythology Varuna was the reputed Godess of rest and ease, as to whom Varuna was or is, perhaps "Observer" can inform me. Whether "Observer's" "Varuna" prescribed hot water or not, I am not aware, but if such was the case, Varuna displayed a much greater degree of intelligence than these wise "Observer's" and "good physician's" that prescribe whisky every day as a nutrient.

God never gave an appetite for alcoholic drinks; this is always either inherited from parentage or acquired by habits of indulgence. If it were a natural appetite, it would be universal at least through the same latitude and limit, which is by no means the case. Those who do not have this appetite, or refrain from indulging in it if it exists, are much more healthy, vigorous and long-lived than those who partake of this poisonous liquid.

"Observer" failed in his last article to tell the reader what subject was being discussed. He also failed to answer any of the interrogatories contained in my former reply. I hope "Observer" will do better the next time. Don't be discouraged, brother. Please give us your name, I would like the honor of your acquaintance. That the acquaintance may be mutual I give you the balance of mine.

T. G. McPHERSON.

SHE lives in Robinson township, Berks county, now that wonderful woman does. Her name is Mrs. Watson—aged 80 years—mother of 20 children—and last fall she dug up with a hoe 45 bushels of potatoes and carried them into her cellar.