

TEMPERANCE COLUMN.

ORILLIA.—At the last meeting of the Executive of the Orillia Church of England Temperance Society, Mr. C. E. Smitheringale presented his annual report, as follows:—"Another year has come and gone since last I made my report to you, and it once more devolves upon me to present to you a synopsis of the business transacted by the Society during the past twelve months. A full complement of Executive meetings has been held, all of which I have attended, except two. But two or three public meetings were held at the commencement of the year—owing to the usual place of meeting being occupied as a 'church,' while the new St. James' is in course of erection. They were, however, of great importance, not only to our own immediate benefit, but also to the town, and, in fact, the whole country at large; inasmuch that at them was brought into prominent notice the subject of Temperance, as taught, and how much it should be taught, in our Public Schools. This question originated at a supper, given by the Executive, at Mr. Price's restaurant, to the teachers of our town schools, in the latter part of the preceding year. The discussion in the school house was introduced by Mr. J. C. Morgan, Inspector, and was taken part in by various gentlemen, and awakened a lively interest in this all important subject. So marked was the interest evoked that not only was there a radical improvement in our school curriculum, but throughout the Dominion—and, indeed, the Mother Land as well—the most favourable comments were made upon it by some of the leading papers. Thus, you see, the good work goes on; and although we are not making much visible progress at home at present, we are, as our statesmen say, 'strengthening our position and influence abroad.' Among those who have so kindly assisted us in these meetings are: the Rev. R. N. Grant, the Rev. G. E. Lloyd, &c., &c., to whom the thanks of the Society are due. Twenty-four new members have also been added to our roll, all of whom, I am pleased to say, took the total abstinence pledge. At the July High School Entrance Examinations in this town, prizes, to the value of \$10, were offered to the three pupils making the highest number of marks in the subject of Temperance. The result was, however, somewhat disappointing, as only four took honours. To the winners have been presented the rewards, which were received with appreciation. I trust that next year this proceeding will stimulate in others the desire to know more of the evils of this accursed drink. At the recent meeting of the North Simcoe Teachers' Association in this town, a delegation from our Society waited upon its members, urging the necessity of temperance instruction in schools. The Association gave the delegation a patient and attentive hearing, and is hoped that the good seed there planted may bring forth fruit. A memorial

was also despatched to the Department of Indian affairs, respecting the sad drowning of C. Jacobs, a Rama Indian, while striving to cross Lake Couchiching under the influence of liquor, and a favourable reply received. You can see from this brief report that only the main points of interest have been touched upon, but, however limited our sphere of labour may have been, I trust it has not been without its due effect upon us, and that we, each and all, have been brought nearer to the footstool of our Divine Maker. In conclusion, let me say that all of us must have been, more or less, impressed with the marked increase of the drinking habit in our midst, and how needful it is for us to be 'Up and doing, for the day is at hand.'—'The fields are,' indeed, 'white unto the harvest.' Now, let me wish you all a happy and joyous year, and may the God of Light, Truth, and Love cast upon our Society His most gracious benediction, and as we enter upon a new year, and into the sacred duties of our magnificent new church, may we all be brought closer to our Heavenly Father; and also that countless numbers may, at the last day, rise up and testify to the good wrought to their immortal souls by the Orillia Church of England Temperance Society.'

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