

THE RIGHT METHOD.

In the Dominion Parliament in the year 1884, Mr. Geo. E. Foster moved a series of resolutions setting forth the magnitude and character of the terrible evils of intemperance and declaring "That the right and most effective legislative remedy for these evils is to be found in the enactment and enforcement of a law prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes."

This resolution was adopted by a vote of 122 to 46. In various forms it has also been affirmed at other times by the Dominion Parliament, and by the Legislatures of nearly all the Provinces. It is the conviction of a majority of the Canadian people and is the avowed policy of the temperance advocates of the Dominion.

Recently the proposal has been made that another policy should be adopted regarding the evils of intemperance. Some good men have become convinced that a wise course of action would be the committing of the beverage sale of intoxicating liquors to companies of reputable citizens who would carry on the business under careful restrictions, drawing therefrom only a limited interest on their investment, and appropriating the surplus profits for the benefit of some charitable or public purpose.

This is what is popularly known as the Gothenburg system. A strong effort is being made to introduce it in Great Britain. On March 1st this company policy was advocated at a meeting held in Toronto and addressed by Lord Gray, who is seeking to promote the movement in England. At a meeting held on Thursday, March 6th, the same method was advocated by Mr. Geo. E. Foster.

There is much controversy as to the results of Swedish experiments on this line and a good deal of doubt as to the value of the efforts that have been made in England. In both countries, however, the liquor traffic has a position of strength such as we trust it never will attain in the Dominion. We have reached a position far in advance of the Swedish cities in which the Gothenburg system is in operation. We have passed the period when the company plan might have been advisable as a temporary alternative to more effective legislation.

We have in operation over large areas of the country prohibitory laws of far more value and producing better results than any company scheme. We are steadily extending the area of prohibition territory and hoping for more Provincial triumphs of the prohibition principle in the near future. It is no time now to turn aside after fanciful palliatives when we have in our hands, if we are true to our principles, the power to effectively terminate the mischievous liquor traffic. Why should we waste time over futile schemes to patch it up and make it a little more respectable and influential?

AGAINST MUNICIPAL SALOONS.

The County Council of London, Eng., at a recent meeting, received a memorial urging the council not to discontinue some licenses which the council had acquired in carrying out improvement schemes. The memorialists urged the council to retain the license rights with a view to operating municipal public houses. Mr. Burns, the noted labor leader, strongly opposed the proposal, which was rejected. Mr. Burns quoted facts to show that fewer licenses meant less drunkenness and less crime. He did not care whether a liquor shop was run by a private individual or by a municipal body. He objected altogether to the beverage sale of intoxicating liquor.

NOTES OF NEWS

ABOUT THE WAR AGAINST THE LIQUOR EVIL

MORE THAN A MILLION.

Great success has attended the movement among the evangelical churches of Great Britain for the securing of a million signatures to the total abstinence pledge. Before the end of the year there had been obtained more than 100,000 pledges in excess of the million, and progress is now being made towards twice the number at first proposed.

AN ENORMOUS BILL.

Mr. Andrew Morris, an officer of the United Kingdom Alliance recently made public an interesting statement of the extent to which the national revenue of the United Kingdom depended upon the liquor traffic. The total revenue from this source for the year 1901 was 43,578,169 pounds sterling. This represented duty collected upon 45,474,541 gallons of spirits and 36,394,827 barrels of beer, besides fees charged for licenses, and duties upon continental wines.

PROVINCIAL PROHIBITION

The Charlottetown, P. E. I., Branch of the Alliance held its annual meeting on Feb. 20th and devoted a good deal of attention to discussion of the operation of the Provincial prohibitory law now in force in the Province. The committee determined to stand by the measure and appointed a deputation to wait upon the Government to suggest some amendments they believed were needed to make the law more effective. Mr. J. J. Chappelle is president and Mr. J. K. Ross is secretary for the coming year.

THE DISPENSARY SYSTEM.

The commissioners who have control of the liquor traffic on behalf of the Government in the State of South Carolina, have published their annual statement for the year ending November 30th, 1901. This report shows that the total liquor sales during the year were \$2,228,681, and the profit derived by the State was \$545,248. Since the law came into operation in 1896 the population of the State is said to have increased about eight per cent. The quantity of liquor sold by the dispensaries has increased by forty-one per cent. It is claimed by some parties that the increase shows that liquor drinking has increased under the dispensary system, others claim that the increase in sales has resulted from the more effectual suppression of illicit liquor selling in places that did not comply with the dispensary law.

GOOD WORK IN THE ORIENT.

The temperance cause is making rapid progress in Japan, although its supporters have only recently become organized for aggressive work. In 1886 the first temperance society of any magnitude was formed and soon attained a membership of about 2,000, with branches in different parts of the Empire. The Japanese W.C.T.U. was organized in 1893. There is at present in operation a National Temperance League with forty-six affiliated societies, having a membership of nearly 4,000. Legislation has already been passed prohibiting the use of tobacco by persons under twenty years of age and imposing fines upon parents who permit their minor children to use tobacco, and upon dealers who sell to minors. The foregoing facts are taken from a recent issue of the New Voice, which contains much information on this interesting subject.

PROHIBITION WORKS.

Addressing the Grand Jury in the Newfoundland Supreme Court, at

Harbor Grace, recently, Mr. Justice Emerson congratulated the people of the large judicial district on the utter absence of crime, which very creditable state of affairs was, he considered, due in a great measure to the wise temperance legislation so long in force in the town of Harbor Grace and the vicinity.

In their presentment to the court, the Grand Jury also referred to the subject. "We join with your lordship in congratulating the town and district on the orderly state of the community, and also concur with you in attributing this satisfactory state of public morality to the law-abiding character of the people, and in a great measure to the successful operation of the Permissive Act. With your lordship we look forward with hope and pleasure to the day when the beneficent influence of this local option law will extend throughout the island."

ROMAN CATHOLICS AND THE DRINK EVIL.

While the forces making for temperance reform in England have been stimulated by the prospects of the Government Licensing Bill, they continue to receive encouragement from the strenuous efforts which the Roman Catholic clergy in particular are making in Ireland to bring about a reformation in the drinking habits of that country. We have drawn attention to this Irish movement in previous notes, and it gives us satisfaction to note its continuance in the Lenten pastoral issued by Cardinal Logue, and read in the Catholic churches on Sunday last.

After a comparison of the drink evil in other countries, which was favorable to Ireland, this letter says: "Still the evil exists, and is sufficiently widespread to awake the anxiety and fire the zeal of all who are interested in the welfare of our people. Statistical experts assert that the annual drink bill of Ireland amounts to twelve or thirteen millions. What a drain, this, on a poor and depopulated country! How much could be done with this vast sum, which is more than wasted, for promoting our national prosperity."

THE RISING TIDE.

Mr. John A. Nicholls, organizing agent for the Dominion Alliance, has been vigorously pushing work during the past two months in the western part of Ontario, and has succeeded in securing the organization of branches of the Alliance in more than twenty constituencies. Some of the conventions held have been very large and enthusiastic. At nearly all of them there was strongly manifested a determination to insist upon a carrying out of the Government's pledge to promote prohibitory law to the extent of the Legislature's jurisdiction. Resolutions were adopted in many cases, denouncing the proposals of those who have suggested that a prohibitory law ought not to go into operation unless ratified by a vote of the electors in which more than a mere majority would be a required condition of success. Mr. Nicholls reports unprecedented interest in the temperance movement and a determination to make the prohibition question an issue in the approaching elections.

A WORTHY ENTERPRISE.

A recent report published by the missionary department of the Ontario W. C. T. U. contains valuable information concerning work done in the Algoma District. Miss Agnes Sproule, of Fort William, superintends this undertaking. During the past year she has travelled in her work about 3,400 miles, visited the homes in seventy different localities, addressed seventy-one meetings and distributed great quantities of useful literature.

In the Muskoka District similar work is carried on by Mr. J. S. Leckie, who visits the lumber camps and sends a report of what he has been able to accomplish in that district. The figures very much resemble those regarding Miss Sproule's efforts. Such an undertaking ought to be sustained with the utmost liberality.

BACK AGAIN

THE FAMOUS

"BLACK KNIGHT"



REV. J. H. HECTOR

has returned to Ontario for a short lecture tour and is now open for engagements.

Applications for terms and dates should be made at once to

F. S. SPENCE,
52 Confederation Life Bldg.,
TORONTO, CAN.

Read the following specimen extracts from newspaper opinions of this MARVELLOUS MAN.

CANADIAN.

His speech was irresistible in its earnestness and pathos.—Toronto Globe.

A powerful address, full of humor and sanctified common sense.—London Advertiser.

A veritable outburst of true-spirited, natural eloquence, born of a devoted patriotism.—Charlottetown Guardian.

Succeeded without any apparent difficulty in keeping his audience in roars of laughter.—Toronto World.

The large assemblage was inspired, amused, thrilled and caused to weep almost in unison.—Montreal Witness

ENGLISH.

The embodiment of all that is best in his race—humorous, solemn, eloquent and pathetic.—South Wales Argus.

His inimitable drollery, mixed with the truest wisdom, completely took the gathering by storm.—Christian World.

Such an amount of hearty, healthy, wit-provoked laughter we have never heard before in one and a half hours.—Methodist Times.