

should levy a tax of twenty-five cents per Quarter upon each member of our Order for the support of a lecturer.

I would again recommend to you the admission of Ladies to full membership in Subordinate divisions still believing that such a course would greatly improve the condition of our Order.

I would call your attention to the motion that will come before you to change the time of meeting of the Grand Division from the winter to the summer months. I would also call your attention to the subject of discontinuing the Semi-annual meeting, believing that such meetings are rather detrimental than otherwise to the best interest of the order.

The general circulation of Temperance publications should engage your earnest attention.

The subject of temperance constantly undergoes changes, new questions being started, and new phases of the same question continually arise—new lines of thought or methods of action are proposed and discussed. The world ever progresses, the ideas and thoughts of yesterday assume new forms to-day, nothing is as it was, whether we look at the social customs, individual belief and practice, national policy, newspapers, Sunday Schools, legislation or anything and everything around us, all is marching on to a higher development, demanding a more careful consideration, and the temperance worker must be constantly on the alert to take advantage of and adapt himself to the changed order of things.

The Order of the Sons of Temperance is based upon the principle of Moral Suasion, but if we trace the progress of the movement from its first inception step by step to the present time, we could distinctly note every stage of its development of its present sound doctrine of supporting Moral Suasion by legal enactment.

That Parliament has the constitutional right to permit, limit, or prohibit the sale of alcohol, as a beverage, or to punish those who from the effects of its use disturb the public peace, very few if any will now deny, but still many very many good temperance men, well wishers of the cause, object from different causes to the suppression of the traffic in alcohol by legal enactment, one objects because the object is not general enough in its character, because it is in force in one section and not in another, another because a prohibitory law deprives us of the use of alcohol for certain specific purposes for which it is necessary, still another objects, because by its restriction the public Treasury would be affected, inasmuch as a large revenue is now derived from import and excise duties on Spirits and Wines.

To those enactments now upon our statute books and upon the statute books of other states those objections are more or less applicable, but as has been said, the world progresses, we are made wise to-day by our mistakes of yesterday, only a few months ago we were the inhabitants of a small province, now a great state has been formed, a state which at no distant day is destined to take its place among the powers of the earth and it is not impossible that a principle may emanate from the Grand Division which shall be made the chief corner stone of the superstructure and that principle shall be National Prohibition, the plan briefly stated is this:—

Parliament shall prohibit the manufacture and importation of all spirits and wines, one year from the passage of such a measure, Government will purchase all liquors on hand at an established rate, to be received at store-houses established for the purpose, Government shall then assume the entire trade in Apothecaries' liquor in the Dominion, and sell only to licensed and medical men, and they by heavy penalty, be allowed to sell only for certain specific purposes.

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