

Toronto in September last, a goodly number of Temperance Men, mostly from Ontario, gathered together; the object aimed at by this body, viz:—The uniting in one common effort all the friends of Temperance is a good one, but I am much afraid will not be accomplished by the Union, unless a very radical change is effected in its management, and more of a spirit of Union manifested by those who profess to be its leaders.

In company with Brothers Robinson and J. M. Hall, I attended the Session of the G. D. of Ontario held in October last in Brantford, the reception your representatives met with fully sustained the character of the brethren of that G. D., for warm-hearted hospitality and fraternal feeling towards fellow-labourers. The Session was well attended, the debates were lively and intelligently sustained, the brethren proved themselves not one whit behind this G. D. in determination to make our Order victorious, and the Officers vied with each other in their efforts to make your representatives feel at home and which they succeeded in doing. The G. D., reciprocated your action by appointing their past and present G. W. P's to visit this G. D. at our Annual Session at Lachute, when I have no doubt from the known ability of these Brethren, our Order in that locality will be much benefitted by their presence.

I regret that our Sister Grand Divisions in the British Provinces are not prepared to take present action in reference to the formation of a National Division for the Provinces, although to the friends of such action it is cheering to know that most, if not all of them, look forward to the time when such a step will be imperatively necessary.

The Division at Adamsville report that they are moving with a view to the appointment of a Public prosecutor, whose duty it shall be to cause all offences against the present Laws for regulating the sale of Liquors to be made the subject of official investigation with a view to the infliction of the penalty, I recommend the action of this Division to the consideration of all of our subordinate Divisions in order to its adoption wherever practicable.

I notice that a Bill has been introduced into the Legislature of this Province to repeal as much of a former Act as compels houses for the sale of Liquor in the City of Montreal to close at nine o'clock, I therefore suggest to you as being legitimately within your Province to present a Petition to the Legislature signed by your G. W. P. and G. S., and duly sealed praying that the said Bill do not pass and that the said petition be forwarded to Joseph Robertson, M.P., Provincial Treasurer, for presentation to Lower House and to the Hon. Jas. Ferrier, for the Council and Lieut. Governor.

Whilst engaged with this report, I have learned with much regret that the Hall in which the G. D. of Ontario recently met has been destroyed by fire, by which the Brant Division has lost over two hundred and fifty dollars worth of Furniture, I recommend that this G. D. pass a resolution expressive of sympathy with the Brantford Division and also of the hope that this loss will not cause them to slacken their zeal in the good work in which they are engaged.

I would urge upon Divisions that wherever practicable, official visits should be paid by one Division to the others in its neighbourhood, feeling satisfied that such visits will operate beneficially both upon visitors and visited, whilst at the same time it will benefit the Order, by causing it to be talked about in the neighbourhood.

I would also, most respectfully urge upon Divisions, the absolute necessity of guarding the Order in their neighbourhood from reproach, by avoiding late hours at their meetings. Only those who are in the habit of mingling with all classes, know how injuriously, this practice when indulged in, operates against us, and it may often be avoided, by abstaining from long and wearisome discussions upon points of order, and splitting hairs upon constitutional questions.