

Temperance Department.

EDITED BY O. W. SECRETARY.

TRUTH contains each week full and reliable news from every part of the Good Templar work. Any information in regard to work gladly received. Address all such to T. W. CASEY, G. W. B., Napanee, Ont.

Restriction and Its Results

It must be evident to almost anyone who has given very much study to the question that the amount of drunkenness in any country is much in proportion to the facilities there are for the sale. Some years ago some valuable statistics were published in regard to Montreal, going to show that the number of police arrests for drunkenness from year to year was almost in exact proportion to the number of persons licensed each year to sell. Probably an enquiry in regard to our other Canadian cities would lay bare similar evidences. Mr. William Hoyle, the well known English statistical writer, in a recent able letter, published in the *London Times*, furnishes official evidence that in Scotland the quantity of liquor consumed and the number of arrests for drunkenness have been decreasing ever since the Forbes McKenzie Act was passed, closing the dram shops in Scotland from Saturday night until Monday morning. The Act was passed in 1854,—thirty years ago, and it has been successfully enforced ever since. The statistics for a number of years is given in regard to both Scotland, and England and Wales, but here we will only publish the figures of a few of them.

In Scotland the quantity of spirits consumed

in 1852 was 7,172,015 gallons
in 1882 " 6,502,955 "

In England and Wales the quantity consumed

in 1852 was 9,820,668 gallons
in 1882 " 16,811,494 "

Mr. Hoyle concludes his letter by saying,—"It will thus be seen that during the thirty years which elapsed subsequently to the passing of Sunday closing in Scotland she had not regained the 21 per cent decline which followed the adoption of the Act; while in England and Wales the increase had been 75 per cent.

In England and Wales no such restrictive law in regard to hours had been in force.

The practical inference is that, even under a license law system the cause of temperance is served to a considerable extent in restricting the days and hours of sale as much as possible. The men who will not assist in enforcing the restrictions of a license law, simply because he favors prohibition, and cannot yet get it, is not acting a rational part.

Mr. Hoyle closes by saying; "The examples which I have adduced show the potent influence of legislation in all its phases. Thus, Switzerland increases her facilities for drinking, and "drunkenness increases so fast as to occasion grave anxiety among her public men."

In Scotland the liquor shops are closed entirely one day in seven, and the consumption of spirits at once decreases 21 per cent; and during thirty years of prosperity never again rises to the amount consumed before the passing of the Sunday closing law. In Sweden what is essentially a permissive prohibitory Act is passed, and Sweden "thereby emerges from the moral and material prostration to which drunkenness had sunk her."

Drink and Poverty.

In Great Britain, as in Canada and in every other country where the drink traffic flourishes, the relations of drink to poverty are attracting more and more attention. It is well it should do so. If the tax payers of the country have to bear the burdens of poor rates they should see to the causes producing such burdens.

At a public meeting in Ayr, Scotland, not long since, an elaborate paper was read in regard to the cause and spread of pauperism in Great Britain. Mr. Adamson, the compiler, said: "It was a melancholy fact that notwithstanding our immense wealth, as a nation, and our wonderful facilities for money making, in spite of the fact that wages are higher than in any other country in Europe; a large percentage of Britain's population is in a state of perpetual poverty, and the proportion did not appear to be diminishing. In 1880 the number of persons who received relief during the year was 3,539,000. The amount raised for poor rates in England in 1776 was £1,720,000, in 1869 it reached £11,776,000. In 1878 the number of indoor and outdoor paupers in London was 84,160; in 1881 it had risen to 95,767, an increase of 11,607 in four years. In 1880 the amount expended on police and poor rates was over £16,000,000, of which much more than the commonly estimated three fourths was due directly or indirectly to the influence of strong drink. To pay four million pounds per annum to support our paupers and police establishments was bad enough; but that the nation allowed itself to be saddled, without protest, with the payment of twelve million pounds additional, in order that those who gave way to self-indulgence might be controlled and supported, was surely blameworthy as well as foolish, especially when careful investigation had shown that a reduction in our national or local drink bills had invariably been accompanied by a corresponding reduction in pauperism and crime. The effects of drunkenness did not end with the consumption of liquor, and its effects upon the drunkard himself; they did not end with the impoverishment of his family and home, and the increase of our public burdens. Employers, and through them the whole country, lost heavily by frequent absence, and the inferior quality of the work done; not to speak of the numerous accidents to life and limb, through the self-indulgence of the working classes."

Prohibition in the U. S.

The result of the late United States Presidential election shows that the great Republican party failed of success principally because of the defection of such a large number of prohibitionists. If New York State had been carried then the whole election would have been carried. A few thousand votes more in the Empire State would have given Blaine a fair majority. There were many times the necessary number of Republican voters in New York who refused to support Blaine on prohibition principles alone. The majority of the temperance electors of the United States are supporters of the Republican party, but at the great National Convention at Chicago they could get no recognition of their principles at all, while many questions of much less importance received considerable attention. Mr. Blaine, as the candidate, also dodged the issue as adroitly as it was possible, hoping to please all and offend none. He does not now hesitate to make mention of the defection of so many of the temperance Republicans as a leading cause of his defeat. Probably he supposed that the temperance electors would "stick to the party" as of old, when the real pinch came, but in this he was disappointed.

What may be the future course of the Republican party, in view of these facts, remains to be seen. If they undertake to frame a platform and nominate a candidate to meet the views of the temperance people it is quite possible that "the German vote" may revolt. The average politician follows expediency more than principle, and the question with the wire pullers will, doubtless, be which course will be least dangerous to pursue. It is

now evident enough that the temperance men cannot be trifled with any longer by mere evasive answers. The issue must be squarely met, or the consequences will be undoubted.

The prohibitionists are evidently well satisfied with the policy adopted during the last election and they intend to fight it out on that line through another National election. A ready arrangement has been made for a future systematic agitation. It is stated that ex-Governor St. John has already been employed at a salary of \$5,000 per year to keep up the agitation and to better organize the ranks for future effort. The Republicans must either adopt a prohibition "plank" in their platform or the third party, with prohibition as its cardinal principle, will become permanently established.

There is no doubt but that a separate prohibition party is much more needed under the United States system than it is in Canada.

SCOTT ACT NOTES

BUSINESS INJURED—One of the popular objections to the Scott Act is that it will injure business. There can be no doubt but that the liquor making and liquor selling business is being materially injured by the agitation. A distillery and wholesale liquor dealer in Montreal has just gone into insolvency and it has caused some of the leading commercial papers of the city to enquire the reason why. They report that the sale of liquors has fallen off to a wonderful extent. The sales for October of this year were scarcely one-third as those of the corresponding month last year. Other dealers in the same line are also feeling the pinch, and the depression is not confined to Montreal alone.

HOW IT SPREADS—The *Globe* says that the Nova Scotian counties which have adopted the Scott Act contain a population of 282,000. New Brunswick has 202,000 of its population under the Scott Act; P. E. Island, 108,891 (the whole); Quebec, 40,000; Ontario, 460,000; Manitoba, 25,000. Prohibition is also supposed to prevail over the North West Territories, with their population of 56,446. This gives a total population under prohibition of 1,294,337, while campaigns are in progress in cities and counties representing a population of 750,000 in Ontario, 100,000 in Quebec, 40,000 in Manitoba, and the whole of British Columbia. Within a few months probably one-half of the people of the Dominion, will have accepted the rule of prohibition, and provided no reaction is experienced the temperance party will soon be empowered to speak with the authoritative voice of the majority.

DISCOURAGED—Mr. O'Keefe, a well known Toronto brewer, is evidently disgusted at the way the "fanatics" are now having their own way in the country, adopting the Scott Act in almost every county where the question is submitted to the people. The state of his feelings may be pretty well judged by the following extract from a letter of his that appeared in the *Globe* of the 18th inst. He writes: "I beg to state that, though speaking for myself only, I am satisfied that the whole trade, rather than continue to submit to the intolerable persecution of the last ten years, would willingly throw up their business here and transfer it to a country where prohibition and hypocrisy are regarded as synonymous terms; where the former has been tried and found wanting, except in so far as it keeps a lot of political and other tramps on the road." The gentleman has evidently got his courage well up towards the sticking point, but probably his great trouble will be to find such a country as he is anxious to transfer his business to.

DISCOURAGED—"A Brewer," who prefers to withhold his name and location, writes a desponding letter to the *Globe* about the business outlook just now. He is located in a county where the Scott Act is to be submitted, and if it is adopted

his business is gone, and he has not been successful in making enough out of the business to leave him in anything like an independent position. He concludes his letter by saying:—"I for one am ready to give up to-morrow, and resign my prospective advantages and income, if I can rescue something to begin the world again in some other business. But to be swindled—for it is nothing less—out of all that I have in the world to gratify the aspirations of mere sentiment is cruel, monstrous, and unworthy of the institutions of a free country and a free people in this enlightened age."

There are few who would take satisfaction, as a mere matter of revenge in seeing the liquor makers of the country thrown out of their business, but it is a well understood fact that so long as their business goes on as it now does many families are thrown out of home and into destitution for every single family made comfortable.

GOOD TEMPLARS.

OAKWOOD, VICTORIA CO.—Star of Hope Lodge, No. 710, after having been dormant for some years has been reorganized by Bro. Rev. J. C. Pomeroy, with good prospects of success. Rev. J. C. Pomeroy, W.O.T.; L. Anderson, W.V.; D. Woodward, W.S.; G. B. Rennie, F.S.

CARLTON—Carlton Union Lodge was instituted in December last, by Bro. Rodden, and now reports 46 members, with 11 initiations last quarter. Rev. J. W. McCallum, L.D., writes that the lodge is working harmoniously and gradually increasing in influence. E. Bull, W.C.T.; Miss Enio Pigott, W.V.; Dr. Fisher, F.S.; Jennie Rowntree, W.T.

PARKDALE—Hope of Parkdale Lodge reports about 80 members, with twelve initiations last quarter. The Lodge has recently contributed \$20 toward the Scott Act fund of York County, besides helping to assist in the canvass for the petitions. David Gilchrist, W.C.T.; Emily Young, W.V.; James M. Lukeman, W.S.; Geo. Gilchrist, F.S.; Emmie Hobbs, W.T.

PARIS, BRANT CO.—Paris Lodge reports 112 contributing members, after a considerable pruning out of delinquents. There were 11 initiations last quarter. Bro. R. Armstrong writes: "The Lodge is pursuing its good work. We have now a grand opportunity of doing real practical work, as we are in the midst of the Scott Act campaign in Brant county, and we are working hard to have the Act adopted by a sweeping majority. Our members are real earnest temperance workers when duty thus calls." Walter James W. C. T., Julia Roberts W. V., Wm. Bain W. S., Edgar T. Hicks F. S., Neil Hanlan W. C.

ANCASTER, WENTWORTH CO.—Of Mountain Village Lodge, Bro. J. P. Ogden, L. D., writes: "Our lodge is in a really prosperous condition. Many are joining us, among whom are some who are really reformed. At the end of this quarter I am sure we will be able to report quite a growth in members. I believe that the 'temperance war' is higher here than it ever was before. People are beginning to think and talk about the Scott Act for this county." J. Kellen, W. C. T.; Miss Johnson, W. V.; A. Kelly, W. S.; W. Smith, F. S.; Rev. T. Johnson, W. C.

INFORMATION WANTED—There is a strong drive, this year, to plant Good Templar Lodges in every available locality in Ontario. In many places there are, doubtless, openings for new lodges, and in many places dormant lodges could be reanimated with very little effort. Information is desired in regard to any and every such locality. Any reader of these lines, whether a Good Templar or not, would confer a favor by sending full information to the Grand Secretary, Mr. T. W. Casey, Napanee, in regard to any opening for such practical temperance work, giving also the names and address of those probably willing to assist in the work. Let us hear from you without delay, good friends.