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The Temperance Worker

PUBLISHERS' NOTES.

This paper is published weekly at the low price of fifty cents a year, or forty cents when ten copies are ordered at once, sent singly or in parcels. Readers who see it for the first time are invited to examine its contents and ask themselves if it is not worth double what is charged for it. Besides giving a full budget of the week's news with editorial comment, it contains stories, puzzles, pictures, household information, Sunday-school matter, markets, etc. In the page or two devoted to temperance will be found a record of the progress being made in behalf of that cause by the leading organizations, and articles upon live topics connected with temperance work throughout the Dominion. Present subscribers would confer a favor upon the publishers, as well as promote a good enterprise, by endeavoring to extend our circulation according to their opportunities. Address orders to JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Montreal, Canada.

THE PROPOSED LIQUOR LAW.

The select committee of seventeen, appointed by the House of Commons to devise a measure for the prevention of the unrestrained sale of intoxicating liquors throughout the Dominion, chose a sub-committee from among its members to draw up a scheme. This sub-committee has, it is understood, made a draught of a bill containing provisions pretty much in accord, so far as it goes, with the memorials of the Dominion Alliance, the Roman Catholic bishops of Quebec and other clergymen. Almost everything that had been demanded already existed in Provincial legislation, and the work of the committee was chiefly the gathering into one measure of various provisions scattered throughout the statutes of the different Provinces. A Board of License Commissioners for each city and county is one of the first recommendations of the sub-committee, which, it is suggested, should be formed of the mayor of a city or warden of a county, a County Court judge (Superior Court in the case of Quebec), and a person appointed by the Dominion Government. This is an improvement upon the Ontario system, removing as it does the licensing function above the domain of petty local politics and prejudices. The number of licenses is to be limited according to the population, as has been done in Ontario under the Crooks Act. A very important proposal, adopted from the New Brunswick law, is to separate the liquor traffic from the grocery business. Not only is this one of the greatest necessities as a temperance provision, but a simple act of justice to ward grocers who will have nothing to do with liquor. Next there is a proposition to require an application for license to be signed by one-fourth of the voters in a polling district. This may be regarded as a loss of advantage in Nova Scotia and British Columbia—where no license can be granted except upon requisition of two-thirds of the ratepayers in a licensing district; but it is a

great stride in advance for this Province, particularly for the city of Montreal, where the dealer now has only to obtain the signatures of twenty-five voters to his application for license. Another clause supplies the temperance party with a portion of the strength wanting in the provision just noticed, by giving a majority of the electors in a district power to prevent the granting of a license therein. Perhaps it is too much to hope that before the measure becomes law these latter two provisions may be merged into one, simply ordering that all applications for license must be signed by a majority of voters in the district. Why more trumping after signatures should be prescribed for those opposed to the liquor traffic than those who are essaying to live by it is something not readily understood. Of course the measure contains a Sunday closing clause, the Ontario law being followed, which forbids the traffic from seven o'clock Saturday night to six o'clock Monday morning. It is doubtful whether there will be time this session to pass the measure with that amount of deliberation which its importance demands, but if the committee does its duty well it may be able to present a bill that could be only improved materially in the direction of increased stringency, and that being scarcely practicable at present we hope to see the projected legislation in force at the expiry of all current licenses. Sections of the Dominion where public opinion is in advance of the measure really do not need it, as the Canada Temperance Act is available to them and its adoption raises a constituency above the domain of licenses altogether.

W. C. T. UNION.

Miss Frances E. Willard, of Chicago, President of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, had engagements in California up to the 13th of May, after which, accompanied by her private secretary, Miss A. Gordon, she would begin an organization tour in all the leading cities and towns of Nevada, Oregon, Washington Territory, British Columbia, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska and Manitoba. This is the tenth year since the organization of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and its officers purpose to introduce the Society in every county seat town of ten thousand inhabitants and over, as the best manner of signaling this epoch in Temperance work. The Society is now organized in three thousand towns and cities of the United States, and has seventy-five thousand members as its estimated constituency in 1883. Mrs. Lucas, the sister of John Bright, is President of the British W. C. T. U., and Mrs. D. B. Chisholm, of Hamilton, Canada, is President of the Canadian W.C.T.U. Miss Willard and these ladies are in correspondence relative to a simultaneous movement for such an increase in the number of local auxiliaries as will make this the most notable year's organizing ever known in temperance annals. In view of the arduous nature of Miss Willard's public duties, Mrs. Congdon, Secretary California W. C. T. U., asks, in the circular from which the above is taken, that the President may be allowed entire rest in the intervals between her public efforts.

The Ottawa Branch of the W.C.T.U., of which Mrs. Tilton is the indefatigable President, continues the noble work in which it has now been engaged for two years past. If possible, the ladies are now doing greater things than before, and are an example of energy and zeal in the reformation work worthy of closer imitation by the sterner sex. Besides the large Bands of Hope under the control of the Union, the Sunday afternoon Temperance meeting is also managed by the ladies, and is adding many to the ranks of total abstainers, some three hundred having signed the pledge book within a very short time. In addition to the above a committee of the Union is now canvassing the city for subscriptions for the establishment of a Coffee House, and there is no doubt that should the encouragement be accorded which the object deserves, the Capital will very soon have this much needed boon. BROOKE.

GOOD TEMPLARS.

Victoria Lodge, I.O.G.T., Stellarton, N.S., is in splendid working order. On Tuesday the first May, Lodge Deputy Reid installed the officers for this term. There are at present 126 members in good standing; fifteen new members were initiated during last quarter. Dr. Livingstone Lodge, Westville, is also doing a good work. The Grand Lodge, I.O.G.T., meets in Halifax on Friday, 8th June, and the R.W.G.L. of the world meets in the same place on Tuesday, 12th June, 1883, when representatives from many parts of the world will be present. This is the first time that the Right Worthy Grand Lodge will ever have met in Nova Scotia. The Scott Act is now just beginning to do its work in Pictou County and we look forward to a peaceable summer here with a scarcity of rum. R.

We may add to our esteemed correspondent's interesting notes that Stellarton and Westville are leading mining towns, and it is gratifying to hear that temperance work is going on encouragingly there.

CAMPAIGN NOTES.

A convention will meet in Dartmouth, N.S., on the 24th May, to consider the advisability of submitting the Canada Temperance Act to the electors of Halifax county.

Last year the Legislature of New Brunswick passed a law to reward constables securing conviction of offenders against the Canada Temperance Act. A strong effort was made this year to have the law repealed, but a bill for that purpose was given the three months hoist by a vote of eighteen to seventeen.

How and by whom the Canada Temperance Act should be enforced is a serious question in some constituencies of New Brunswick. The Local Legislature passed a law last year to facilitate the carrying out of the Act wherever adopted, but it does not seem to be all that is required in towns. In Moncton and other towns there is a division of opinion as to whether the ratepayers should be taxed for means to prosecute offenders.

The Charlottetown, P. E. I., *Daily Examiner* makes out that the Scott Act, in force all over the Island, is not being enforced and that more drinking is going on at the present time than ever before. Cannot some of our readers in Prince Edward Island tell us what they know about the matter and point out the causes for the Act not fulfilling its objects? Temperance workers in that Province have grave responsibility to shoulder. The spectacle of the Act lying a dead letter in a whole Province cannot but have a discouraging effect upon movements to have it adopted elsewhere. People are apt to jump at the conclusion, when restrictive legislation does not have its intended effect, that the fault is in the law. Laws against the various forms of felony would be inoperative if society in general were indifferent as to whether they were enforced or not. Under local option or absolute prohibition of liquor all who are opposed to the traffic, whether they call themselves temperance people or not, stand in the same relation to the outlawed business as general society does to crime.

The banner of the Canada Temperance Act has been unfurled in Oxford county, Ontario, and lively skirmishing in the newspapers betokens a struggle fairly begun. Some strong opponents of the Act disclaim antagonism to temperance, but say the "temperance people" have no right to ask for the Dominion local option law until they have shown their sincerity by enforcing the Provincial license law (the Crooks Act). Strange it is how readily these great friends of temperance, yet confessedly not temperance people, assume the task of instructing the latter class as to where its duties lie. They are, however, behind the age if they imagine temperance people will work contentedly under a license system, that gives the traffic a certain legal status, when they have a law within reach whereby the evil business may be utterly divested of all legal sanction, and those engaging in it placed in the category of other criminals. Temperance people as a class have never, in our knowledge, acquiesced in the principle of regulating the trade by licenses, but have accepted the system and had its stringency increased when they could, while endeavoring to educate the general public up to the point of demanding something better in principle and more sweeping in action. License restrictions, local option and state prohibition are the three great stages in the upward movement of society, throughout Christendom, toward freedom from the curse of the age. The second one is only being entered upon in most countries, although the third has been reached in a few. Still, wholesome rebuke is in some cases conveyed in the sneers of the enemy and of pretended friends, and we believe it will be proved that those communities which have faithfully used the license laws, to reduce the traffic, will better use and more appreciate the engine of local prohibition than communities which neglected the powers that license laws gave them.

GERMANY AND ITALY have effected a treaty of commerce.