

so far as they touch on any points of controversy, the writer is almost appalled at the frank way in which he has been led to describe what he has seen. I hope that it will be recognized that the effort has been to be plain and true rather than popular, and now that it is done, the overriding conviction covers all, of the deeper unity which exists behind these diversities, and of the belief that in the eyes of the Master His will is being done and His kingdom served by all and every kind of Friend. The last and the abiding feeling which is with me as I lay down the pen is one of unity and peace.

JOHN W. GRAHAM.

THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION IN CANADA.

Temperance in the political programme has become a fixed fact in Canada, both in the Legislatures of the various Provinces, and in the Dominion Parliament. The Dominion Temperance Alliance has become an active and powerful force, and scarcely a year passes but that the temperance sentiment of the country is felt through the Alliance in our legislative halls. The very unrest in which the question is kept is of itself a splendid educator, and the growing sentiment for prohibition in the country is forcing our law-makers to keep pace with such growth. More than usual interest was centered in the Temperance Act passed at the recent session of the Ontario Legislature, founded largely in the fact that it was the first move in that line since the decided voice of the people of Ontario, in favor of prohibition at the Plebiscite taken three years ago. The power to prohibit by the Provinces was questioned, and the case was submitted to the Privy Council for decision. Their finding was that in the Dominion Parliament alone lay the power of total prohibition. Yet there was much room for

curtailment and regulation in the way of local option, improving the license laws, etc., left to the Province. How far the Legislature would be willing to go in curtailing the traffic was watched by the temperance element with deep interest, and the Act to improve the license law, as at first introduced by the Government met with hot disapproval by the Alliance, which was more or less sympathized with by the temperance people generally. However a number of changes were made, and as it now stands is certainly an advance over former legislation.

While by no means an advocate of license one cannot study the results of the License Acts of Ontario for the past twenty years without much interest and encouragement. The Hon. Mr. Harcourt, in introducing the new act, delivered one of the ablest addresses listened to by the House in many a day. His history of the progress of temperance legislation in the Province is interesting and instructive. No less than twelve statutes had been passed since 1876 dealing with the license law. The new law deals principally with the moderate curtailment of the number of licenses in the Province, the closing of saloons, and the prohibiting of the sale of liquor to all persons under 21 years of age. The municipalities had before the power to limit, and even to prohibit the granting of licenses, within their borders, and out of 816 municipalities 185 granted no licenses, and 228 only two licenses each.

In dealing with crime the speaker made the following interesting statement:

“Taking the Dominion Year Book for 1884 and 1894, a decade, we found that the number of convictions for drunkenness in 1883 was one in every 423 of the population. Ten years thereafter it was one for every 667 of the population, an advance of 50 per cent. in the direction we all hoped for and wished for.