

rescue of our country from the guilt and dishonor which have been brought upon it by a criminal complicity with the traffic.

7. Civic righteousness demands the extirpation of a traffic so fruitful of corruption in every department of civil government.

8. In view of the foregoing principles:

(1) We strongly recommend our people to push forward a crusade for total abstinence throughout our whole connection, using every agency of the Church to promote that end.

(2) We are deeply impressed with the importance of having scientific teaching on the baneful influences of alcohol and narcotics in every grade of our public schools.

(3) We advise our people, while prohibition is the unchanging purpose of the Methodist Church, wherever possible, to obtain Local Option as one of the best means of curtailing the evils of the liquor traffic.

This Department has always emphasized and sought to enforce these principles. The secretaries have been unceasingly alert to apply them in sermon, address, correspondence and conference. Through the pulpit, the platform and the press, in federation with other churches and many organizations, by interview with ministers and officers of the crown, superintendents and overseers of great industries, leaders in the labor movement, or leaders in society, we have ever continued to maintain our place on the firing-line in every struggle against the licensed liquor traffic, and in the vanguard of the army of temperance in its every campaign.

#### OUR PLEDGE SIGNING CAMPAIGN.

The Annual Meeting of this Board in 1912 authorized a pledge-signing campaign to cover the whole Church. The call to the Church was most cordially received, and on many of our circuits and missions with earnest enthusiasm, people and preachers co-operated in the campaign. The plan was to reach all our people through our Sunday Schools, our Epworth Leagues, our Brotherhoods and our congregations. Pledge Cards were furnished without cost upon the request of minister, Sunday-School superintendent, Epworth League President or any other officer of the Church. More than a quarter of a million cards were printed, and distributed throughout our circuits. Owing to the fact that the Circuit Schedules provide for only Sunday Schools to report as to the number that have signed the pledge during the year, we have the returns from only that section. The success of the campaign is clearly indicated in the returns showing that 46,720 persons in our Sunday Schools signed these pledges during the last Conference year. Correspondence indicates that many others signed the pledges in our Epworth Leagues and congregations. We believe the campaign was worth while for present results, and will tell in future battles against the liquor traffic.