

The Canada Citizen

AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

A Journal devoted to the advocacy of Prohibition, and the promotion of social progress and moral Reform.

Published Every Friday by the

CITIZEN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Office, 8 King Street East, Toronto.

Subscription, ONE DOLLAR A YEAR, strictly in advance.

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F. S. SPENCE, - - - MANAGER.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1883.

THE TEMPERANCE ORGANIZATIONS.

It is our intention to give a concise history and description of the many different branches of the Temperance Reform now in active operation in Canada. As already stated we are in full and earnest sympathy with every effort of this sort. There are many regiments in our grand army. There are different phases of the warfare, various lines of action, a diversity of weapons. A well-appointed military service has always its sub-divisions. It would be imperfect if it were all artillery, all cavalry, all infantry, or all marines. The field of political temperance work engages the energies of some, the gospel temperance movement better suits the views of others, some approve most strongly of the work in connection with churches, and some find the most congenial sphere of work in the Lodge room. All are doing good and we wish them all success. THE CANADA CITIZEN is published in the interests of all, but is controlled by none. Our pages are open to every temperance organization. We invite all to use it. We will welcome their news, publish their special announcements, and aid their various enterprises. With this object in view, we purpose giving a short account of the plans, methods, progress, status and success of each of them.

I. THE ALLIANCE.

In No. 5 of the present volume of THE CANADA CITIZEN, issued on August 3rd, will be found full information in reference to this useful and influential organization. The Dominion Alliance, for the Total Suppression of the Liquor Traffic, aims at uniting and utilizing for political action all other temperance agencies and influences. Its noble and successful work has already been detailed and discussed. We ask our readers to re-peruse the article to which we have referred, and we cordially and earnestly recommend to their sympathy and support, the objects and methods of the Dominion Alliance. We also specially request that the officers of the local branches will kindly send us reports of their proceedings.

2. THE WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

The W. C. T. U. is one of the modern organizations, and is exerting a purifying and elevating influence in society, such as no other agency can. It seeks to cultivate temperance sentiment in a quarter where it wields an irresistible power. In the cause of purity and truth it enlists our mothers, sisters and wives, all the attractiveness of home, and all the potency of woman's tenderness and love. The wonderful results it has accomplished are the best evidence of its peculiar adaptation to the work it has undertaken. "God bless the Women's Christian Temperance Union" is the fervent prayer to-day of many a grateful heart, whose weary burden of woe and despair has been removed through its instrumentality. We have a department in THE CANADA CITIZEN specially devoted to the records of woman's work, and the advocacy of woman's cause, and to that we refer those of our readers who are interested in the progress of this wonderfully blessed and blessing movement. On page 56 of No. 5, August 3rd, is a short statement of its extent and operations in Canada, and on page 116 of the present number, is some interesting information in reference to its extent in the United States, and its specific methods and aims. In the department named, the W. C. T. U. will always have a prominent place. There is therefore no need to say anything further about it here.

TREATING.

The senseless practice of treating is the parent of by far the greater part of the drinking and drunkenness that curse our country to-day. Among a certain large class the ideas seem to prevail that a man who does not treat is mean, and a man who does not drink when his friend treats is unsocial. The dread of being considered mean or unsocial seems to be strong enough to compel a great many to do what they know and confess to be wrong. Such deference to the tyranny of a custom they condemn speaks badly for the moral backbone of those who acknowledge it. A man of spirit would be ashamed to own that he was craven enough to do wrong because somebody might sneer at him if he did right. One whose good opinion is worth anything, can only despise the want of manliness evidenced in thus truckling, from sheer cowardliness, to this absurd and villainous notion.

It is a mistaken idea that the reckless spendthrift, the free-handed treater, is the embodiment of big-heartedness and generosity. We know some who are most slavish in their subjection to this stupid habit, most extravagant in their payment for the commendation of maudlin sottishness, and who are at home the most contemptible misers. This is only natural. Stinginess, cowardice, and vanity are all indications of littleness, and generally found together. True courage is above purchasing exemption from the sneers of the worthless by the sacrifice of self respect, or at the cost of depriving a loving wife or child of some little luxury or comfort.

The seduction of the young to the ways of dissipation and ruin is almost invariably accomplished by the treating system. It is the debaucher of public morals, and the ever potent ally of political corruption. Well might the learned judge, who saw some of its fruit in his investigation of the late Muskoka election, stigmatize it as a "vicious and destructive custom." It is a national disgrace, as well as a terrible curse, and we earnestly entreat our young men to free themselves from its degrading bondage.

Leading druggists on this continent testify to the large and constantly increasing sales of Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery and Dyspeptic Cure, and report its beneficial effects upon their customers troubled with Liver complaint, Constipation, Dyspepsia, Impurity of the Blood, and other physical infirmities. It has accomplished remarkable cures.