

The County superintendents are arranging with the Unions in each county to offer prizes for the best essays on "The Evils of Alcohol." These prizes will be given at the time the county fairs are held throughout the Province, of course with the permission of the county fair authorities. Several unions have on hand quite a large sum of money to be given in prizes in their own towns and cities for best essays on the subject mentioned. In Eglington, at the request of the union recently formed there, the public school-teachers have willingly consented to give the children instruction in "Temperance and Hygiene" once a week.

The Hon. Minister of Education will feel that he is being besieged by the W. C. T. U. ladies, for, at nearly every point in his tour a deputation has waited on him in reference to this question of scientific temperance instruction in our public schools. At Brookville, the delegation consisted of ladies from Brockville, Prescott, and Gananoque Unions. It is gratifying to know from the Hon. Minister, that this subject will be placed on the school curriculum for the fall term, not as an optional study, but as part of the ordinary school work. It will also be necessary for students in Normal and Model Schools to pass an examination on this subject before receiving their certificates. A text-book is now in course of preparation for the schools, which will be better adopted for the use of the different grades of scholars than Dr. Richardson's Lesson Book is found to be.

Some of the teachers' associations meeting this month are to be favored with an address from Mrs. Hunt, of Boston, Superintendent of the Department of "Scientific Instruction in Temperance," in connection with the N. W. C. T. U., through whose efforts compulsory temperance education has been secured in the States of Vermont, New Hampshire, Michigan, and New York.

In Ottawa the coffee house movement is meeting with great success. Several prominent temperance gentlemen of means having taken hold of it with a will, a central location has been secured and it is confidently expected that this venture will be of great benefit to the city as well as a paying investment to the shareholders.

At the late meeting of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa, a communication from the Ontario W. C. T. U., was received with applause, and a resolution passed expressing hearty recognition and appreciation of the good work in which this Society is engaged. A very full report was presented by the Temperance Committee appointed by the Synod. Among many recommendations was the following:—"That we encourage the active co-operation of women in the prohibition campaign," and "our session recommends securing for women a vote in this matter, as in matters connected with the Public Schools of Ontario." Also, "elect as members of Parliament men who are already staunch prohibitionists, and who do not need to be told their duty and educated to it, but who, by legislation and otherwise, will educate the masses, make prohibition a principal test of a man's qualifications as legislator," etc. Bearing this in mind, let the candidate in 1888, or sooner, begin at once to show an interest in this Temperance question, for these good brethren evidently will not be disposed to believe in a sudden conversion at the time.

It is pleasing to note the Christian oneness in the minds of the Synod, as shown in the clause, "Let the officers and members of our church co-operate with those of other Churches in this work." If it be true, as a distinguished military authority has said, "Nothing cements a nation like blood," surely enough blood has been shed, enough lives sacrificed by the drink traffic, to cement not only our Christian churches, but to make the whole nation a unit on this subject and in this work.

Selected Articles.

PALLIATIVES.

There is in the city of New York an institution known as the "Christian Home," which, at great expense, receives from 50 to 60 men, drunkards, who go thither to be cured of the appetite for rum. It is full all the time, some of the inmates going out radically cured, others to relapse into the habit. It is an excellent institution, founded by philanthropic men, and has accomplished some good.

Every city in the country has these reformatories, maintained by the victims of rum, and the private contributions of good men and women.

The public has provided reformatories likewise. There are Houses of Correction for the young victims of rum, the children of drunken parents, who inherit not only the appetite for liquor but also the thousand vices of which rum is the parent. In these are held for restraint and reformation probably about one in 10,000 of those who need the discipline. There are penitentiaries for those whom rum has driven into crime, there are insane asylums for those whose minds rum has destroyed, and asylums for the diots that rum is, in nine cases out of ten, answerable for.

It will be observed that these institutions are, all of them, provided to take up men and women where rum has left them. They are institutions for salvage purposes, to save what is possible out of wrecks. Except in a few States there are no provisions to restrain conscienceless men from making drunkards, thieves, prostitutes, criminals, idiots and lunatics. All that law has done, thus far, is to care for about one in 10,000 of the victims of rum. Rum is permitted to go on manufacturing these unfortunates, and the people tax themselves, publicly and privately, to care for hundreds out of the millions.

This is attempting to stay a torrent with a tea spoon. It is attempting to pump out the overflowed lands of the Mississippi with a syringe, instead of mending the break in the levee.

Where there is one reformatory to care for criminals, idiots and paupers, there are a thousand rum and beer shops manufacturing them. The city of Toledo has one House of Correction, one jail and one infirmary to care for the victims of rum, and 800 rum and beer shops busy night and day, week days and Sundays, manufacturing subjects for them. Philadelphia has the same proportion of reformatories, and 40 miles of rum and beer shops, were they put side by side, and 20 feet front allowed for each. The county seats and country villages preserve about the same proportion. A boy is corrupted in a beer shop, he is taken to a reformatory serves a time, comes out only to fall into the same trap again, landing the next time in a jail, and the next in the penitentiary.

Would it not be well to commence at the other end of this business? Instead of trying to dip out the stream would it not be well to try drying up the source? If society has the right to restrain the criminal has it not the right to put its strong hands upon the criminal maker? If the drunkard is dangerous as a criminal, or expensive as a pauper, has not the community the right to prevent the manufacture of drunkards?

There is no other way under the sun. So long as the breweries are commissioning their creatures to put boys in training for the penitentiary or the poor-house, so long will penitentiaries and poor-houses be inadequate to the demands made upon them.

There is but little use in attempting to reform the drunkard: the only way to root out the giant evil is to prevent the making of drunkards. There is but little use in trying to patch up the man or boy who has the habit fixed: the proper thing to do is to prevent men and boys from getting the habit. It is better to prevent the storm than to patch the wreck. The "Christian-Home," in New York, harbors 50 men who are trying by its help to save themselves. Thousands of beer-shops and rum-mills in that city are making thousands of drunkards a day. Such Liliputian remedies cannot cure such giant diseases.

Maine, Kansas and Iowa have demonstrated the possibility of drying up the source. There are many hundreds of villages in Maine in which liquor has not been sold for 30 years, and a generation has grown up that knows not the destroyer. There are thousands upon thousands of middle-aged men who never saw liquor exposed for sale, and who were never in a whisky mill or beer-shop. Prohibition has converted Maine from one of the most drunken States in the Union into the most sober. It has driven rum into holes and corners in the cities, and completely extirpated it in the country. He who wants liquor in Portland must go and seek it—it is not exposed for sale on every street corner—and in most of the villages it cannot be had at all.

As it is in Maine, so it may be in all the States. All that is required to put down the traffic is for those who suffer by it to unite and say it shall be done. The people are greater than the brewers. There is no earthly use in making patch work of it. Reformatories, penitentiaries and poor-houses bear so small a relation to the extent of the disease as to be properly considered worthless. Prohibition is the only remedy for the evil that is eating up the country. Only by prohibition can we pulverize the Rum Power.—*Toledo Blade*