

## REPORT ON TELIPERANCE.

BY THE TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE OF THE  
PRESBYTERY OF PICTOU.

In pursuance of the trust committed to them your committee beg leave to present the following report. As most of the brethren are aware the queries of the Assembly's Committee on Temperance were sent to all the sessions of this Presbytery with instructions from this Presbytery that each session should give answers and remit them to us. These queries asked each session if it carried out the recommendations of the General Assembly to bring, the resolutions of that body before their respective congregations.

It is a matter for thankfulness that the Assembly itself, composed as it is of men who belonged to different lands who have come together out of so many different bodies, and who represent such a heterogeneous population as that of which our church is made up, is so cordial so unanimous and so pronounced in its views on this subject and further that all the sessions of this Presbytery are willing to carry out the recommendations of the highest court of the church. The General Assembly strongly recommends all the office bearers and members of the church not merely to practice the virtue of total abstinence from all intoxicating liquors, but also to co-operate with Temperance people and to unite in well-conducted associations having for their object the legislative prohibition of the Traffic.

The information furnished to the committee by the replies to the Assembly's queries was very meagre and the Presbytery in consequence instructed them to use such means as they might deem necessary in order to obtain the information with which to construct a report. Accordingly the Committee sent to all the sessions in this county in connection with this Presbytery the following queries and excepting two vacant congregations they have received considerate and on the whole very gratifying replies from them all.

The queries were as follows:

1. Is there any member of your congregation engaged in the Traffic? Is their any adherent or supporter of our church within your bounds so engaged?
2. Are there many members of your church who patronize the Traffic?
3. What, so far as your observation extends, has been the result of the C. T. Act having come into operation in this

county?

The committee were glad to learn from the replies that so far as known no member of any of our churches is in any way engaged in the Traffic, and with perhaps three exceptions two of which are at Vale Colliery and one at Westville there are no persons claiming any adherence to, or giving support to our church so engaged. We were glad also to hear that in the whole county of Antigonish there is not one protestant engaged in the nefarious business.

In reply to the enquiry, "Are there many members of your church who patronize the Traffic?" Sherbrooke, Union Centre and Lochaber, Blue Mountain and Barney's River, Little Harbour, West River and Green Hill report that very few members of the church use any alcoholic beverages at all, it is a matter for sorrow, however, that a considerable number of our church members fail to see that they sadly compromise the cause of Christ when they countenance a Traffic which is illegal and immoral and demoralising alike to seller and buyer.

In reply to enquiries respecting the effects of the Canada Temperance Act, the answers are not as satisfactory as could be desired. The Act has doubtless had a beneficial effect in this County, but the good results are not as great as Temperance people fondly hoped they would be. Nine or ten grogeries have been closed in this county and in Stellarton and New Glasgow none but those who are well versed in "things that are crooked and ways that are dark can obtain it at all.

And even in Westville, Vale Colliery and Pictou, people who value their respectability, —don't care about purchasing liquor in the dark dens where it is sold illegally, where they are liable to be subpoenaed to give evidence against the vender in a court of justice.

One thing that has operated against the efficient working of the C. T. Act is the amount of uncertainty that prevails, as to its constitutionality. Ever since it came into operation at all, it has been running the gauntlet of the courts of law. It is to be hoped however that as the law is more and more settled and confirmed it will be more and more stringently enforced, and the benefits will become greater and more apparent.

Your Committee firmly believe that the church and state greatly need to be wakened up to realize the awful magnitude of the traffic and of the evils that flow from it. It is impossible to ascertain definitely the quantity of intoxicating liquors used among us. We can make