

The Canada Citizen

AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

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F. S. SPENCE. - - - MANAGER.

TORONTO FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16th, 1883.

THE TEMPERANCE ORGANIZATIONS.

5.—THE UNITED TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

Inquiries are frequently made in reference to this society, and as one of its prominent members has kindly given us a short account of its history and present position, we take pleasure in placing the same before our readers.

On the 18th of November, 1858, there was organized in London Ont., a national temperance society known as the "British American Order of Good Templars," which rapidly extended throughout the Provinces of British America; and in the city of Montreal, January 18th, 1865, the name of the society was changed to "British Order of Good Templars," that its operations might be extended beyond these provinces. At a convention, held in St. John, N. B., August 2nd and 3rd, 1866, the Constitution and working of the Order were materially amended and the name changed to "British Templars." At this time there were over 40,000 members in the Order, which soon after was introduced into New Zealand, Australia, and the "Mother Country." At the annual session of the Most Worthy Grand Lodge, in 1872, at Montreal, the following resolution was unanimously passed:—"That, whereas, it is most highly desirable, for the advancement of the temperance movement, that all its agencies be concentrated and consolidated, and more particularly those laboring in the same nation or country; therefore, be it Resolved, That this M. W. G. Lodge, in order to accomplish so desirable an end, expresses its willingness to make judicious and liberal concessions, whereby those nearly allied by constitution and government, may be united into one grand national organization for this whole empire." A circular, embodying the above resolution and setting forth the advantages of a united temperance society, was sent to the chief officers of the grand bodies of all the existing temperance organizations in the British Empire. Responses and terms of union were received from the Free Templars of St. John, in Scotland; Independent Order of Free Templars, in England; the United Templar Order of Great Britain and Ireland, and the B. A. O. of G. T. A basis of union was drawn up and accepted by each, which resulted in the formation of the United Temperance Association, the National Lodge of Canada being organized in London, Ont., August 2nd, 1876. At the formation of the National Lodge, the present simplified system of working was adopted with the under-

standing that a Degree System should be instituted and affiliated with the Primary Lodge to do special temperance work and provide a Mutual Relief System for sick and death benefits. All necessary blank forms and such like documents had been published, but the protracted illness of the secretary of the Board delayed the opening out of the work. In the meantime a Beneficiary Temperance Society had obtained a footing in Canada in the Royal Templars of Temperance. As the U. T. A. had always favored the uniting rather than the dividing of the temperance forces, and strenuously labored against the multiplication of temperance orders, the Directors felt that an effort should be made to unite with R. T. of T. Negotiations were opened up with the Supreme Council of that Order. A basis of union was drawn up, adopted by the Supreme Council of R. T. of T., and approved by the Directors and Executive of the National Lodge of U. T. A., which secured an affiliation of the two Orders, without any constitutional interference of one with the other. Subsequently it was felt that a closer relation, or an amalgamation of the two Orders would work more successfully and harmoniously than their mere affiliation. The National Lodge, at Toronto, 1882, having been petitioned by the Provincial Lodge of Ontario, to bring about such amalgamation if possible, on equitable terms, appointed a committee to negotiate actual union upon certain conditions. The result of the negotiations was the adoption of the following terms of union:

"That the united Order be known as the "Royal Templars of Temperance."

"That the R. T. of T. adopt the working of the U. T. A. for general temperance work, and that U. T. A. Lodges become subordinate Councils, or the Primary Degree of the Order.

"That the Select Councils become the Second or beneficiary degree of the Order, such degree to be represented in Grand Councils.

"That independent beneficiary jurisdiction be granted the Order in Canada, which shall have full power to legislate upon all matters pertaining to the beneficiary funds in the Dominion and Newfoundland."

The two Orders are now practically united, and the work of consolidation is being carried out, mainly through the efforts of the Rev. A. M. Phillips, St. Thomas, General Secretary for the Subordinate Councils or Primary Degree, from whom all information may be obtained concerning that department. It should be understood that the Subordinate Council or Primary Degree is simply a temperance society, and may be worked without any reference to the Select Council or second degree, which is beneficiary.

We purpose publishing shortly further notice of the Royal Templars of Temperance, with a directory of the Order.

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION NATIONAL CONVENTION.

One of the most interesting and useful departments of modern temperance work is that of W. C. T. U., carried on as it is with unparalleled enthusiasm and success. We then need make no apology to our readers for taking up a great deal of our space (to the exclusion of some other matter) with a report of the Convention recently held at Detroit. We copy it almost exactly—with respectful acknowledgments—from our esteemed contemporary the *Chicago Lever*. The grandly eloquent and practical address of the president is held over for future publication.

The tenth annual meeting of the N. W. C. T. U. was held at Detroit, commencing Wednesday, Oct. 31.

Vice-Presidents were present from twenty five states, and delegates from thirty-one states and territories and Canada. After the appointment of the usual standing committees on Finance, Courtesies of Convention, Plan of Work and Resolutions, the President, Miss F. E. Willard, delivered her annual address. Some further routine business was then transacted and the session was closed with a devotional meeting conducted by Mrs. Hannah Whitall Smith of Pennsylvania.