

General Temperance News.

The friends of local option and prohibition in Oxford have reason to be proud of the success which already attends the campaign there, but this success should not lead them to believe victory will be easily accomplished. The petition in favor of submitting the Canada Temperance Act contains 3,064 names. This formidable array of voters carries consternation into the ranks of the enemy. On Monday a prohibition convention meets in Ingersoll, and in the evening Mr. G. W. Ross, M. P., will address a mass meeting in the Town Hall. In this section of the country we are rather proud of Halton's record, but we feel warranted in saying in the name of the temperance people of Halton and Hamilton, that if Oxford can roll up a larger majority for prohibition than Halton did we will not feel the least annoyed at the prestige and glory attending local prohibition being shared by Oxford as well. If Oxford, which has so long been renowned as one of the most progressive and intelligent counties in the province, goes back on the Canada Temperance Act, we shall be surprised indeed. To our friends who doubt the possibility of enforcing with fair success local prohibition, we would point to the wonderful change effected in Halton since a vigorous system of inspection has been enforced.—*Hamilton Tribune*.

Judge Lizars, of Stratford, by a recent decision, upheld the right of License Commissioners to make regulations for the government of the liquor traffic. A man who had been guilty of a breach of the regulations of the South Perth Commissioners pleaded guilty before a magistrate, but afterwards appealed mainly on the ground that the Commissioners in framing rules and regulations exceeded their powers. The appeal was heard before Judge Lizars at the last Quarter Sessions. His Honor reserved decision until the other day, when he dismissed the appeal.

Although prohibition in Maine does not prohibit entirely yet it is gratifying to know that the sellers are obliged to resort to all sorts of expedients to escape arrest. "The sheriffs were morally sure that a certain Portlander sold beer," says a correspondent of the *Philadelphia Times*, "and procuring a warrant they visited his cellar. They spaded up the floor and worked a whole day, clawing over drains and sewer pipes, but they found no beer. Finally, with grim determination in their faces and crow-bars in their hands, they went to the cellar wall. At one corner of the apartment was a heap of coal. The wall above it was blackened, as though a greater quantity had been there, and seemed unlikely that such appearances should deceive. As they gazed at the anthracite, however, an idea struck the head deputy and he struck the wall. A stone dropped out. Other stones came down under his blows revealing a partition of boards, faced with chip rock. Back of the partition, built into the wall, was a hiding-place, four feet long, three feet wide and three feet high. It was empty. The sheriffs ripped up the boards at one side and found a layer of earth, where there should have been solid stone. Clearing away the earth showed another hiding place, and the breaking down of a heavy door discovered two barrels of beer, from which a line of hose ran to the store above."—*Steuben Signal*.

Senator Vest, of Missouri, in a recent address said:

"There is a strong temperance sentiment in all the strongly Democratic counties in the State. Take Clay County, for instance, which usually gives a Democratic majority in any State election; there isn't a saloon in that county, and there has not been for eight years. Take Saline County, with 2,500 Democratic majority; it has refused all saloon-keepers' license, and there hasn't been a saloon there for years. In Clinton County, which gave 1,500 majority, no saloons are permitted to exist."

The Erie Railway has concluded to discharge every employee who is addicted to the use of liquor, whether he ever gets drunk or not. One of the general officers say:—"It needs no argument to show that a drinking man is an unsafe man for a position where a clear head and steady nerve are required. A glass too much or a glass too little, in the case of a moderate drinking engineer or other railroad employee who holds a place in which prompt and intelligent action in frequent occurring emergencies is required, may confuse the brain or leave it slow to act. No, a drinking man is not a safe man to trust in any position where a clear head and steady nerve are required. And the sooner a fact so patent to every one is made the basis of an inflexible rule by corporations who set men in responsible positions where human lives are at risk, the better it will be for the public."

In Traer, Ia., the City Council posts a list of drunkards in every saloon and orders the keepers to sell no drinks to them.

The jail of Randolph County, Mississippi, is empty. Not a drop of intoxicating liquor has been sold in the county for over a year.

There are five hundred magisterial districts in the State of Kentucky where the sale of liquor is prohibited.

The Alliance.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TORONTO AUXILIARY OF THE DOMINION ALLIANCE.

The annual public meeting of the Toronto Auxiliary of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance, for the suppression of the liquor traffic, was held in Shaftesbury Hall on the evening of Monday, the 1st inst. The chair was occupied by the president, Mr. W. H. Howland, who was well supported by prominent citizens and ministers of different denominations.

THE CHAIRMAN, in opening the meeting, stated that its object was to place before the general public the work that had been done and is being done by the Alliance; and to ask for this worthy and useful organization the support that it deserves. The Dominion Alliance was a mighty combination of the different temperance agencies of the land for the purpose of influencing legislation on the all important question of the liquor traffic by developing public sentiment in the right directions, and watching and criticising Parliamentary action. The same work was done in relation to Provincial political matters by the various provincial branches, all carrying out the same grand idea of agency and effort. We had local auxiliaries, working for the enforcement of law, the election of reliable representatives to all legislative positions, and the restriction of the liquor traffic, as far as restriction was in the hands of local authorities. He referred to the refusal of all liquor licenses for the Island as one victory for the Alliance. He discussed at length the issue of a license to the Industrial Exhibition Association, speaking very favorably of the Board of License Commissioners, but denouncing strongly the action of the Exhibition Directors. Men were only men, and it would have required extraordinary moral backbone to resist the pressure that had been brought to bear upon the Commissioners, although, no doubt, the action that had been taken was decidedly against the spirit of the law. Some of the Directors were good men, but the liquor interest was too strong for them, as their Board was too strong for the Commissioners, and the whole thing was an illustration of the futility of any attempt to regulate the unholy drink traffic. Giving it license was giving it power, and the only legislation that could effectually oppose it would be legislation for its total prohibition.

MR. JAMES THOMSON, the Secretary, read the annual report, giving an outline of the history, objects, and plan of organization of the Alliance, and detailing the work that had already been accomplished and what was proposed as a line of further action, calling attention to the marked improvement in public sentiment; and strongly presenting the claims of the Alliance upon public sympathy and support.

REV. JOHN SMITH moved the adoption of the report. He asked attention to moral suasion and what might be called legal coercion, as twin agencies of moral reform. The former was the function of the many temperance organizations which united in the Alliance to secure the latter. It had been urged that men could not be made sober by Act of Parliament, but law could help men to keep sober, and its condemnation of the liquor traffic would be a powerful agency in developing a right moral sentiment in the community. There were restrictive powers vested in the City Council; that body could separate the sale of liquor from the sale of groceries, could limit the number of licenses and could raise the license fees. All these are steps that, if taken, would be in the right direction. We ought, therefore, to work for the election of the right men, and thus secure local influence for good. While, however, he favored all measures of restriction as alleviations of the great evil, he was thoroughly convinced that a complete cure could be accomplished only by total prohibition.

MR. J. DONSON seconded the motion. He favored political action, was rejoiced at the union and success of temperance workers, and stated that though now seventy-four years of age he hoped to live to see prohibition an accomplished fact. The motion was carried.

MR. F. S. SPENCE moved a resolution, asserting that the duty of the hour was united action by individuals and organizations; that the ballot box should be used as the agency of this action upon all possible occasions, and endorsing the Alliance which in its electoral branch provided the means of attaining this end. He called attention to the combination of agencies in support of the drink traffic; the agencies of legal protection and social sanction. Law must meet the former, moral suasion the latter. We sometimes failed by ignoring one or other of these methods of reform. We ought to recognize our responsibility in relation to both. We wanted a union of forces as well as actions. All societies ought to unite for the common end of political action. They wanted to fix the responsibility for the evils of intemperance on the right parties, on the drink-seller, on the manufacturer, on the Government, and ultimately on the electors, who were responsible for the existence of all the other agencies. This was a land of liberty. Liberty was wanted for all that was good, and this involved the suppression of the evil that hampered all that was good. They did not work merely for present petty victories, but for ultimate triumph of right and truth.

MR. H. O'HARA seconded the resolution. He rejoiced in this hopeful and united action. The former speaker represented the Good