

W. C. T. U.

TORONTO.—The first quarterly meeting of the W. C. T. U. of this city and suburbs was held in Shaftesbury Hall last Monday according to previous arrangement. Mrs. Cowan, President of the Central, presided. Mrs. Rutherford acted as Recording Secretary, and Miss Rose as Corresponding Secretary. There was a good attendance. Reports were read or verbally given from the Secretaries of the Unions represented, Central, Western, North Toronto, Young Ladies'. East End and West Toronto Junction were represented, but had not been long enough in existence to report at this meeting.

The proceedings were enlivened by the singing of hymns, and a solo by Miss Skinner, President Y. L. U. An interesting paper was contributed by Mrs. Mutch, of the Western Union, on Band of Hope work and a very inspiring selection by Mrs. Roney from "Onward March." Views were freely interchanged on Band of Hope work.

At an early stage of the meeting one of the ladies brought forward the subject of issuing Sunday papers, and it was unanimously agreed to and resolved,—“That we place on record our entire disapproval of the action of the newspaper publishers who have issued from their establishments the daily papers on the Lord's Day, such action being deemed by us unnecessary under the present circumstances and hope that the publishers will consider the advisability of ceasing a practice, the continuance of which would be so detrimental to the moral welfare of our city. We have only to look across the borders for a too painful evidence of this.” The resolution was carried by a rising vote, and the meeting closed with the doxology.—*Com.*

The workers in Lincoln and Welland are making earnest efforts in the interest of the good cause. Miss Minnie Phelps and Miss Foster recently organized a Union in Port Robinson. Other organizations are in contemplation, and in view of the coming Scott Act campaigns it is very desirable that there should be a Union in every place where it can be sustained.

The W. C. T. U. of the West End is moving along steadily doing a good work.

We have reason to be encouraged, our meetings held on alternate Mondays are interesting and profitable, though we should be glad to see the attendance largely increased.

The Band of Hope meets each Friday afternoon, and has an average attendance of 150. Our President is very earnest in her work with the children, and is now taking them through a course of study on the effects of Alcohol on the Human System. We propose to commence a Mother's Meeting next Friday, which we trust may prove a great power for good in this neighborhood.

It is estimated that the W. C. T. U. of the United States numbers at least 6,000 unions, with a membership of nearly 200,000. Missouri, Kansas and Illinois have added about 100 new unions each this year. New York, 135; Pennsylvania, 180.

Contributed Articles.

To the Editor of THE CANADA CITIZEN.

DEAR SIR,—I must admit a little surprise in reading your article on “The Church of England Temperance Society,” in THE CANADA CITIZEN of February 20th. I was surprised, because I thought the article as the Dual Basis of our Society which I sent to you would make it clear that our platform is not prohibition, nor is “the Church of England Temperance Society in sympathy with the Scott Act,” as is asserted in an article by Mr. W. Burgess in a recent number of your paper. I have no doubt that there are many members of the Church of England Temperance Society in favor of the Act, but that is a very different thing from saying that the Society is “in sympathy with it.” That we are not a prohibition Society our Dual Basis shows and I am sorry you did not, while quoting from “the sixteen reasons for the Dual Basis,” quote reason No. 2, viz.: “It is Honest.” “Honesty is the best policy”; and if we do not take the line of prohibition, and aim entirely to destroy the drink traffic, let us honestly proclaim our principles as “moderate.” We can do so once for all by cordially embracing and recommending the Dual Basis. This will go far to remove misconceptions as to our

Society's aims and methods.” I would also commend to your readers the following from the *Carlisle (Eng.) Journal*.—“The Church of England Temperance Society seeks to accomplish its ends by moral rather than by legislative means, and especially by the influence of the widespread organization of the Church of England, it does not insist upon absolute teetotalism, it holds it much nobler for a man to refrain from excessive indulgence by an effort of self-control than to do so merely because it is legally impossible for him to act otherwise. So far it may be said to differ from Sir Wilfrid Lawson and his followers, who seem to think that if the sale of intoxicating drinks can only be prohibited, we shall at once inaugurate an era of unexceptional virtue, in which the people will become more prosperous, and crime and poverty will be unknown. That the advocates of repressive legislation are taking a very sanguine view of the subject, the Bishop (of Carlisle) gave a foreboding proof in his introductory address. Referring to the dynamite outrages of Saturday, which he said have thrilled every soul with horror, he went on to observe that ‘those sins were not connected with drink; on the other hand they were the cold, plotting, long-sighted, long-thought-of villainy of men determined to do evil against those who had done no harm to them. The fact is that evil came into the world long before drink was thought of, and it will endure long after drink has ceased to be consumed. Whatever might be the effect of a permissive liquor Act, we may be sure it would neither suppress the dynamitard nor empty our goals and workhouses.’ I have no desire, Mr. Editor, to enter into controversy upon the question of the Scott Act or of prohibition, I leave that to far more able pens than mine, but I feel that as an individual I must raise my voice (rather my pen) to place the Church of England Temperance Society in what I believe to be her true position before your readers, that it may not be supposed that she is aiming at prohibition when she is not. Her endeavor is to teach true temperance which is “self-control.” And of her interpretation of the word Temperance well may you quote the words of Tennyson:

“Ring out the false, ring in the true,
Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife,
Ring in a truer, nobler life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.”

Thanking you for your space.
Parkdale, March 11th, 1885.

CHAS. L. INGLIS, Jr.

CRIME IN HALTON.

As supplementary to my former article on crime in Halton, I submit the following: It is frequently stated that there has been an increase of crime in 1884 over 1883, and great capital is made of this by the anti-Scotts. As usual with their assertions, a little investigation shows the falsity of such a statement. The figures they use are taken from the report of the Inspector of Prisons for Ontario, in which the number of commitments to Milton gaol for 1883 is 97, and for 1884 is 140. This looks, at first sight, as though the Act was losing its efficacy to stem the tide of immorality and of crime; but by a careful investigation we find that of the 140 persons committed, 123 were vagrants, and 4 were lunatics. I showed in my last article that vagrants cannot properly be counted, for the reason that in Milton there is no lock-up, and all vagrants travelling through are sent to the gaol, whereas in other county towns they would be sent to the lock-up. Nor can we charge the Scott Act with the number of lunatics, though, to judge by some of the reckless statements of the anti-Scotts, we would almost come to the conclusion that their hatred of the Act had made some of them literally mad. Deducting the vagrants and lunatics then, we find that there were 13 persons committed to the gaol in Milton in 1884. During the same year the number sentenced was 24, of which 19 were vagrants, leaving 5 others of all offences. During the same year the number of persons committed in Peel, deducting vagrants and lunatics, was 20, in Wellington 119, in Wentworth 792, in Ontario 58, in Brant 139, in Simcoe 210, &c. I close by quoting an extract from the report of Dr. O'Reilly, Inspector of Prisons: “I made a second inspection of the Milton gaol on September 30th, 1884. I am glad to report that there were no prisoners in custody on that day, nor had there been for several weeks previous.” The italics are ours. Of no other gaol in Ontario does he give as favorable a report.

GEO. F. STEWART.