

India is at present what is called a crown colony, that is, it is governed directly from England, and is not at all self-governing. Its a kind of absolute monarchy. There is first the Viceroy, representative of the British sovereign, and governors appointed by the crown over the various provinces.

Associated with the Viceroy and the provincial governors are councils, both legislative and executive. The legislative council contains native members, but they are nominated by the Viceroy. Some of these are nominated after a form of election is gone through in the localities from which they come. The executive councils do not contain native members.

The situation at present demands a great deal of consideration, and it has been decided by the secretary for India, Lord Morely, to introduce certain changes which give a greater degree of independence and self-government to the Indians. The changes are:—

1. To increase the number in the legislative councils, and to enlarge their scope. The nomination system is to be kept, but the system of election is to be extended.

2. The number in the executive councils is also to be increased, as far as the two presidencies, Bombay and Madras, are concerned, and now for the first time, an Indian member to be appointed on each of these councils. The appointment of an Indian member for the executive council of the viceroy is to be made also as soon as a vacancy occurs.

This plan seems to be a step in the right direction: for it means partial self-government, and sufficient independence to give the natives an opportunity to educate themselves up to the point where they shall be able to govern themselves. At present, however, the people of India are extremely ignorant as a people, and the caste system prevents any unity of sentiment or sympathy on any line of constructive activity; under such circumstances, self-government is impossible.

THE LOCAL OPTION FIGHT.

The full returns from the various Ontario municipalities, in which local option contests have been held are now complete, and indicate a great victory for temperance people. There were 84 municipalities where the vote was taken, 22 places carrying the by-law by the three-fifths majority required. In this way 55 licenses were cut off. In 29 places an attempt to repeal the by-law was made, but was successful in only two of these cases. The fight was very fierce in some places, chiefly in Owen Sound, where the by-law was sustained. But the fight must be kept up all the time. And not only at election time. It must be remembered that passing by-laws is not the real fight, nor is it the real end of the fight. It is rather the general uplift and ennobling of the community, and by-laws are of value only when they serve to crystallize the enlightened public opinion of the community and bring its influence to bear upon the less enlightened minority.

The real fight is in the process of education, in instilling in the child the higher standards of morality and ideals of life: and showing men, that true