

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

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The Temperance Worker

PUBLISHERS' NOTES.

In this journal is presented a thorough weekly newspaper, giving the latest intelligence of the world's doings for the week preceding publication, with editorial comments and discussions; an organ of communication and counsel for temperance workers throughout the Dominion, and a pure literary and Sunday-school paper besides. Examine its points for yourselves is all we need say to those who now see it for the first time, while we would ask those familiar with its characteristics who are pleased with the paper to kindly recommend it to others. The *Weekly Messenger* and *Temperance Worker* costs only fifty cents a year, or forty cents to clubs of ten, in parcels or singly. Address JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Montreal.

Temperance news requires to be in our hands a week before date of issue, to insure insertion. Matter of extreme urgency can be admitted up to Wednesday.

Please show this paper to friends and introduce it into Divisions, Lodges, Unions, Clubs and families.

KEEP IN LINE.

It is one thing to have the liquor traffic outlawed, either under a license system or local option, but to enforce laws against it is the hardest part of the war. Every conceivable trick of evasion, every disreputable resort of villany, has to be contended against, while only a very small proportion of those professedly favorable to the abolition of the business show themselves at the battle-front. Some seem to think that the laws ought to destroy the traffic simply by being upon the statute books; others do not care to incur trouble, odium and spite by taking active part against the liquor interest, and many consider that the enforcement of the laws is a matter entirely for the officials paid for the work. With the law on their side the few who show fight are strong so long as the enemy is bold and shows himself, but when he retires into dens and holes and plys the engineering of mischief in slyness it is hard to drag him forth to justice. When he tries to take refuge in the intricacies of law, using writs of *habeas corpus* and of error, or any other safeguard of liberty that he can dodge behind, it costs much labor and money to dislodge him and make him face the penalties of violated law. These well-known tactics of the enemy, sometimes accompanied by treacherous acts of outrage, have many a time disconcerted and discouraged the small band that is usually found in every community where temperance sentiment has taken root—the half-dozen or so who are willing to bear not only the enmity of the liquor trade and its friends, but the coolness and indifference of professed temperance workers who, when all other excuses fail, say they believe only in using what they call "moral suasion," as if invoking legal penalties against law-breakers were not moral. It is remarkable to find how strong the temperance party

can muster when its principles are popular in a community. There are always enough influential citizens to go upon the temperance platform when the people are aroused by some unwonted agitation upon the subject, and when the enemy is driven out of his strongholds there are many times more people proud of the triumphs than had any share in achieving them. One day a great crowd was attracted about a notorious dram-shop that had for months been ruining many promising young men of a town, who gathered there at night to drink and gamble. Constables were, on the day in question, besieging the place in front and rear, and at length they found their way in and took the keeper of the den, together with quantities of his contraband stock, away to the gaol. The warden of the town personally superintended the raid, which resulted in the suppression of the establishment, and the people were loud in their praises of the activity of the town authorities in having the law enforced. Revenge was unsuccessfully sought against the warden in an act of incendiarism, the only result of which was to bring the traffic into more disrepute than ever. It was not known to the people of that town, however, that this successful crusade was due to the persevering vigilance of a few young members of a temperance society, who organized in secret and patrolled the streets nightly in pairs by turn, taking the names of every person likely to be a credible witness whom they saw entering or leaving a liquor shop. They gave the names to a staunch temperance man on the license committee of the town council, and had the offenders prosecuted and punished. When a few boys, with the law on the side of right, can thus vanquish the enemy, it is a shame that the Canada Temperance Act or any other restrictive liquor measure should be allowed to lapse into a dead letter where there are any true temperance men. One of the principal arguments against prohibitive liquor laws is that they cannot or will not be enforced, but it is for the temperance people who have the opportunity to prove the contrary. Organization to procure the Canada Temperance Act ought to be maintained to enforce it, and it is very important that every resident of a district should be made to show whether he is a friend, a foe, or totally indifferent to the cause.

SOCIETY MEETINGS.

Temperance societies ought to afford more to their membership than the security of a pledge and the support of mutual sympathy. Their meetings should always bear a sociable character, but yet have higher aims than mere pastime. As a means of mental improvement, and a training school for preparing its members to take part in public meetings and deliberative assemblies, organizations formed primarily for the promotion of temperance are exceedingly well adapted. Many men who have become eminent for their public spirit and their sagacity in affairs of the community and the state have acknowledged the beneficial character of the training they had received in temper-

ance societies. There is in the ordinary routine work of every properly constituted society a pretty extensive range of parliamentary practice, the principles of which govern all well-regulated assemblies. It is a matter of common remark in many places that men who have had experience in temperance societies can guide and direct a public meeting of any kind with far greater facility than those even who may have greater advantages otherwise but are without that experience. The field of improvement in temperance societies is not, however, limited by either code or ritual, but only by the members' capacities and tastes. Written and verbal discussions of various subjects, connected with temperance and otherwise, and systematic reading of standard literature, interspersed with music and light entertainment, so as to leave unserved no taste that is not vicious, all conducted under the direction of an intelligent and energetic committee, are sources of improvement which no association can ever exhaust. To introduce entertainment of an elevating and instructive sort into societies is sometimes not an easy task, and where the demand for amusement and nothing else has overwhelmed that for more useful occupation of the time, too much hurry should not be used in trying to bring about a change. It is not advisable, either, that there should be a complete revolution, for it will be for the good of both old and young to have some innocent diversion and a good deal of music at every meeting. There is a correct idea in the proverb about the unfitnes of young shoulders for old heads, and commanding interest in the serious concerns of life must grow with the natural growth, and the young person should be encouraged to drink at the springs of pure knowledge until his thirst therefor becomes a prevailing power. No particular system of entertainment for temperance societies which might be outlined here would be likely to suit the circumstances of all organizations, but it would doubtless be useful to describe in these columns methods that have proved successful, and we should therefore be glad to record the experience of temperance workers in this direction.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

The next quarterly session of the Grand Division of Nova Scotia will be held at Granville, May 1st.

"Royal" is the name of a new division to be started at Point Douglas, Winnipeg, Manitoba, with Mr. G. P. Bliss as the first W. P.

"Mountain View" division, No. 527, was instituted at East New Annan, Nova Scotia, by Mr. Henderson Gass, Deputy, of Tatmagouche, with thirty-eight charter applicants. W. P. and Deputy, William Drysdale; R. Sec., Charles Laurie.

A fraternal visit was paid by members from Galt to those in Paris, Ontario, recently, and a highly enjoyable evening was spent, entertainment mental and physical being furnished in abundance. A local paper says the Paris division is gaining

ground rapidly and its weekly meetings are entertained with much talent.

An aged and faithful Son passed off the stage of life when Mr. William Burrill, of Milton, Yarmouth, N. S., died on the ninth of this month. He was a retired merchant, in his eighty-second year, at the time of his death. For many years he had been identified with temperance, and was a Grand Worthy Patriarch of Nova Scotia and a member of the National Division.

The district Division of Brant county met recently and was well attended. Encouraging reports were made by representatives and the license question was discussed. A large public meeting was held in the evening, when besides a full literary and musical programme executed, the Rev. Mr. Little, of Cainsville, gave a practical and stirring address. Next meeting will be held at Cainsville.

The executive of the Grand Division of Ontario is looking for agents to extend the Order and its work in that Province. New divisions are reported as follows:—"Stouffville," No. 47, at place of same name, York county, by Mr. McMurray, Provincial Deputy; one at Port Perry, Ontario county, by the same, and one at Altona, same county. "Raglan" division, Ontario county, reorganized in December last, has already over one hundred members. A new division is to be formed at Wilkesport, Lambton county.

GOOD TEMPLARS.

A new lodge was instituted at Rutherford, Lambton County, last month, by Bro. W. A. Gordon, of Florence, with twenty charter members. Duncan McNeil, W. C. T., James Graham, W. S.; H. N. Roberts, L. D.

"Fort Garry" Lodge, Winnipeg, Manitoba, reports a good membership of three hundred and ninety-two members. This is the largest number reported by any lodge in Canada. There are three working lodges in Winnipeg.

A new lodge—"Silver Willow"—No. 727, was instituted at Cotswold, Wellington Co., a short time since, by A. J. Gilmour, and other members of "Young Canadian" Lodge with twenty-six charter members. John M. Darroch, W. C. T., Donald McEachran, W. S., Duncan McLellan, W. C.

The Sunday-closing bill for Ireland has passed the British House of Commons. A bill for the prohibition of payment of wages in public houses passed the House of Lords and was introduced in the House of Commons on March 19th. The bill for closing public houses on election days passed its second reading in the House of Commons after three o'clock in the morning of the 20th, motions to adjourn the debate and the House having been defeated. In this country the prohibition of liquor-selling on election days has proved a great boon, and the same must be true wherever it is adopted. It indirectly prepossesses the people in favor of abolition of the traffic altogether to see what a good effect even one day's prohibition has.