THE MANITOBA GOOD TEMPLAR

A MONTHLY JOURNAL

OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF

THE PROHIBITION CAUSE

Edited by Mrs. A M. BLAKELY
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NOTE.—It is proposed to make this the cheapest Temperance paper in the world, taking into consideration its size, the matter it contains and the price at which it is published.

Every friend of temperance is earnestly requested to assist in this effort by subscribing and by sending in facts or arguments that might be of interest or use to our workers.

The editor will be thankful for correspondence upon any topic connected with the temperance reform. Our limited space will compel condensation. No letter for publication should contain more than two hundred words—a shorter, still better.

WINNIPEG, FEBRUARY, 1897

OUR BOW.

We present our readers in this issue with the first number of a new paper, the columns of which will be devoted to the interests of Temperance, with special attention given to Good Templary. Our energies will be directed strictly along temperance lines. We ask every lodge of I. O. G. T. in our jurisdiction to heartily support us in making the literary and financial part of the enterprise a success. We shall do our utmost to make this the best publication in Canada.

THE CALL

The next annual session of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories will be held in Winnipeg on March 17, in the Sons of England Hall, Stobart Block, Portage Ave., commencing at 10 a. m.

Each lodge that has paid the capitation tax and other indebtedness is entitled to representation on the basis of one representative for every twenty-five members, or fraction of twenty-five. The membership will be taken from the returns for the quarter ending January 31st, 1897. The representatives should be elected at the last meeting in February. Any lodge organized since January 31st, 1897, will be entitled to representation on the basis of its membership. The secretaries of the lodges should forward to me the names of their representatives as soon as they are elected. Each lodge should endeavor to send its full representation. Representatives should require station agents to give them certificates when purchasing their tickets. These certificates, when countersigned by the Grand Secretary will entitle the representatives to return for one-third fare, provided twenty-five purchase tickets.

The Executive Committee has arranged an interesting programme for Grand Lodge. On Tuesday, March 16th, there will be a Demorest grand gold medal contest in Grace church. On Wednesday evening a Temperance Mass Meeting will be held. Addresses will be delivered by Hon. J. W. Sifton, G. C. T., Mr. Thomas Nixon, P. G. C. T., and others. The lodges that have been holding Demorest medal contests should arrange to send in their gold medal contestants, to take part in the Grand Gold Medal Contest.

The Grand Secretary's books will be closed March 8th, and it is earnestly hoped that every lodge in the jurisdiction will forward returns and capitation tax before that time. If this is attended to, we will be able to report a large increase in membership for the year.

HON. JOHN W. SIFTON, G. C. T.

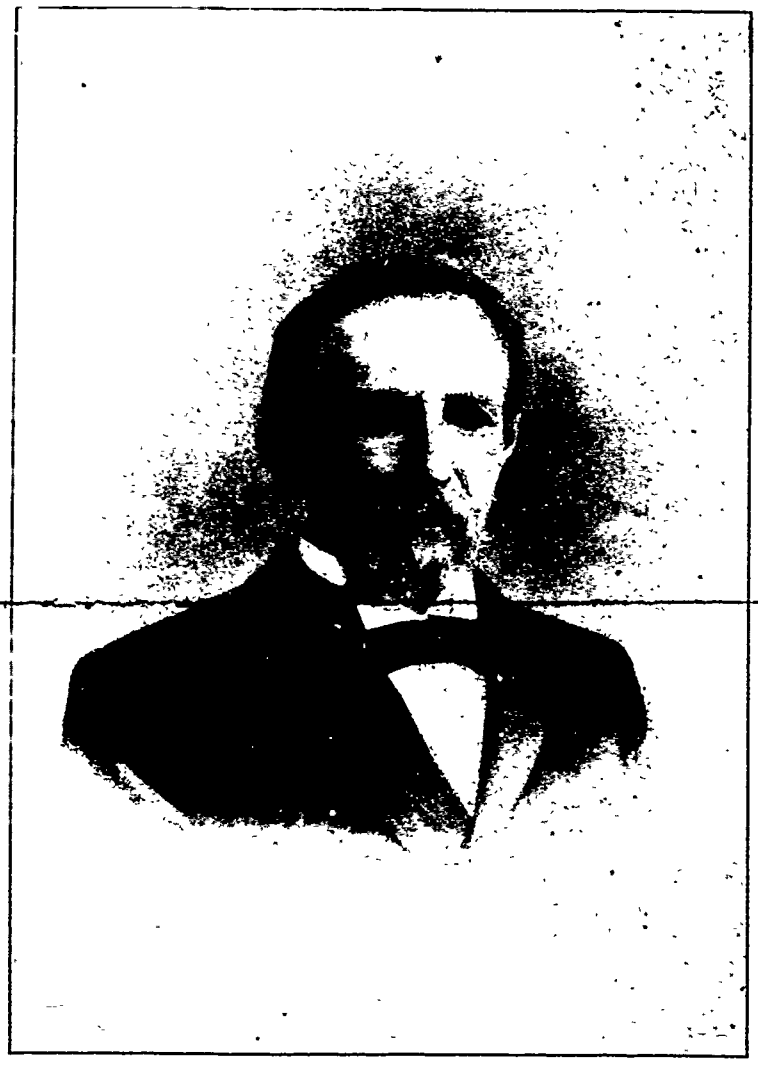
It is our privilege to present our readers with a sketch of one of Canada's most prominent temperance leaders, Hon. John W. Sifton, G. C. T. He has justly earned this position by his ability and faithful work, especially in the early days of temperance reform in this province. He is still actively engaged, and has always freely given his services and money to help along the good cause.

He was born in London township, Ontario, August 13th, 1833. His parents, Bamlett Sifton and Mary (Evans) Sifton, were Irish. He is the youngest son of a large family and was educated in the common and grammar schools of London. He was married in 1853 to Kate Watkin, and of a family of five children two sons are living, one, A. L. Sifton, is practicing law in Calgary, N.W.T., and the other, Hon. Clifford Sifton, late attorney-general of Manitoba, is now Minister of the Interior in the Federal Government at Ottawa.

He is a member of the Methodist church and has held at different times all the offices that are held by laymen. He took an active part in favor of Methodist union and has been a member of every general conference but one since the union.

He joined the Sons of Temperance in 1852, and became a member of one of the first lodges of I. O. G. T. established in Western Ontario about the same time. He organized the Grand Lodge of Manitoba on October 20th, 1883, and was elected its first Grand Chief Templar. He was again elected to that office at the last Grand Lodge, March 19th, 1896. He was a strong temperance worker in Ontario and has been a power for good since coming to this province. In 1879 he was largely instrumental in bringing about an agitation in this province in favor of passing the Canada Temperance Act, which is prohibition. He has been in the Provincial Legislature and was speaker of the House. He is now Deputy Minister of Public Works and Inspector of Public Institutions of Manitoba.

Bro. Sifton is a genial, whole-souled Irishman, thoroughly at home in telling a good story. He is held in high esteem by his fellow-workers, and is greatly appreciated by all who know him. He is a man of sterling worth and integrity of character, and is most respected where he is best known.—International Good Templar.



HON. JOHN W. SIFTON, G. C. T.

DEMOREST CONTEST.

The Demorest Medal Contests have become so well-known that any words of explanation or commendation at the present time are scarcely necessary. When W. J. Demorest inaugurated this wonderful plan he gave the temperance workers a weapon that has been used with telling effect in many places. The Demorest Medal Contests, though the first to enter this field, began its successful career only about ten years ago. The movement was popular from the commencement, but in our own province the progress was comparatively slow until last year. The superintendent of these contests, under instructions from the Executive Committee of our Grand Lodge, asked our lodges throughout the province to arrange silver medal contests, leading up to a Grand Gold Medal Contest at the meeting of the Grand Lodge. This arrangement is being successfully carried out, and on the evenings before the Grand Lodge session our delegates and the citizens of Winnipeg will have the pleasure of witnessing the first Grand Gold Medal Contest ever held in Canada. Gold Medal Contests are now being arranged in different parts of the province.

In Winnipeg silver medal contests have been held and medals awarded as follows: First series, Grace Church Loyal Legion; ...llist, Miss Ethel Adams; ...y League, Miss An... Bridge Lodge, I. ... Lyons; Grace C... ...e, Miss K. LeCap... with Emery Young, of Regina, will contest for the gold medal in Grace church lecture room on Tuesday, March 2nd.

Second Series—Fort Garry Lodge, Miss Jane McShane; Westminster Church Christian Endeavor, Fred Dewart; Knox Church C. E., Thos. Stewart; McDougall Church Epworth League, Miss Bertha Bowen, and a representative from St. Andrew's Church Christian Endeavor will compete for a gold medal in St. Andrew's church S. S. room on Thursday, March 4.

Icelandic Series—Skuld Lodge, two contests; medallists, O. A. Eggertson and Miss G. Freeman; Heckla Lodge, two contests, Miss B. Anderson and Miss H. Johnson.

Icelandic (First Lutheran) Church Young People's Society, R. Fjelstel.

The Gold Medal Contest for this series will be held in the Northwest Hall, corner of Ross Avenue and Isabel street, on Saturday, March 6th. A collection of ten cents will be taken at the door at each of these contests. Good musical programmes have been arranged.

The Grand Gold Medal Contest will be held in Grace Church lecture room on Tuesday, March 16th.

THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF GOOD TEMPLARS.

By Dr. D. H. Mann, R. W. G. T.

The history of the inception and growth of the Independent Order of Good Templars is one of the most remarkable narratives that has ever been written of any reformatory organization. In a little over forty years it has planted itself around the globe and its ritual has been translated into eleven different languages.

It was born and cradled in Central ... York in 1851 and soon spread through ... States and Territories, thence through the Canadian provinces, then across the Atlantic into England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, thence across the North Sea into Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Germany, and out to the islands of the sea and around the world, and to-day has about 400,000 adult and fully 200,000 juvenile members.

It is firmly grounded in nearly every civilized nation on the globe and has 85 Grand Lodges and about 12,000 Subordinate Lodges. It has always been its aim, through moral, religious and philanthropic teachings and examples, to instill into the minds of men, women and children the evils of the drink habit, and to point out to them the path of safety, total abstinence from anything that can intoxicate, and the absolute prohibition of manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors.

It has administered at its altar the ... long pledge of total abstinence to ... than 8,000,000 of people, and more ... 250,000 confirmed drinkers have been ... formed to lives of absolute sobri... through its influence.

It made the origin of our great W. ... T. U. possible. In 1873 some of our Good Templar sisters went out from their lodge rooms and inaugurated the great Ohio crusade against the saloons, and from ... band in 1874 sprang our sister organization, and we feel an unbounded pride ... our offspring.

The spread of Good Templary ... the other side of the sea with such strong odds against it has been truly marvellous. Our good Bro. Malins was its founder in England, and through his energies and influence it was planted in other countries.

In 1876 the commander of a Norwegian ves... initiated as a Good Templar ... and was so much pleased with ... that in 1877 he introduced ... to his own country, by in... lodge at Porsgrund, having ... joined by Bro. Malins ... Templar of ...