



REV. JOSEPH McLEOD, D. D.

truth to practical, concrete affairs.

The Canadian organ of the great Methodist church, "The Christian Guardian," has now for its editor Rev. A. C. Courtice, B.D., who assumed editorial control in June. He has completely changed the policy of the paper with regard to its attitude on Prohibition, and he declares that the journal will be aggressive in its advocacy of the principles laid down by the General Conference with respect to Temperance and Prohibition.

The Test case, as it is popularly called, being the appeal from the Supreme Court of Canada to the Privy Council, on a series of questions jointly submitted by the Ontario and Dominion Governments respecting the right of the Provinces to prohibit the liquor traffic, has been heard before the law lords of the Empire, and judgment will probably be known within a few months. J. J. MacLaren, Q.C., and Richard H. Haldane, Q.C., M.P., argued the case for the Province of Ontario, claiming that the Provincial Legislature possessed the power to entirely prohibit the sale of strong drink. Edward Blake, Q.C., M.P., and Wallace Nesbitt represented the Brewers and Distillers, and E. L. Newcombe and H. W. Lockins represented the Dominion of Canada.

If expressions dropped by the members of the Privy Council during the argument are any indication,

the decision of the Supreme Court will be sustained. This is that restrictive legislation is within the jurisdiction of Provincial Legislatures, but that Prohibition is vested in the Dominion Parliament. Such a decision will justify the policy of the Advanced Prohibitionists, who demand National Prohibition, and insist that the final battle must be fought in the Federal arena.

Such a decision will also mean a complete overhauling of the License Law of Ontario, popularly known as the Crooks Act. The Ontario Government practically promised that important amendments and increased restrictions would be adopted immediately following the decision of the Privy Council, if that decision did not make it clear that the Provinces had the power to entirely prohibit the traffic in strong drink.

It is gratifying to learn that Sir William Vernon Harcourt, who introduced Local Veto in the late British Parliament, and was defeated by "beer and the Bible" in Dorby, has just been returned for West Monmouth by a majority of 7,243. Sir William, notwithstanding his experience in Derby, persisted in declaring in his speeches in West Monmouth that temperance was still the chief plank in his platform.

THE MINORITY REPORT.

What the Rev. Dr. McLeod Found and Recommends to Canadians.

Though the evidence taken by the Royal Commissioners, filling six large volumes, was printed and laid before Parliament nearly four months ago, the majority and minority reports submitted to the House on April 24th and 25th, respectively, have only now reached the country, notwithstanding the promise of the Hon. Mr. Foster, on 3rd June last, in reply to Mr. Flint, M.P., that the reports would soon appear.

To meet a demand we publish the following condensation of the synopsis of Dr. McLeod's minority report, given to the public at the time of its presentation to Parliament:

"There is no room for difference of opinion in regard to the fact that intemperance and its inevitable train of harmful consequences constitute one of the most formidable evils that afflict society, diminish the wealth of the country and impede the progress of civilization. The fact is universally admitted. In Canada, as in other lands, intemperance is the prolific cause of pauperism, disease, insanity, idleness, excessive mortality and crime, with all the suffering and sorrow which attend these conditions."

"Whatever evidence relating to pauperism was heard in the course of the Commission's investigations in the United States was in agreement with the foregoing statements that nearly all of it is traceable, directly or indirectly, to intemperance."

"A majority of medical men unhesitatingly endorse total abstinence as safe. Many claim that it is essential to the fullest degree of physical health. All the evidence obtainable goes to show that heavy drinking is universally condemned, and also that there is a growing tendency among medical men to discountenance even what is known as moderate drinking."

"Replies to questions sent by the Commission to the physicians and life insurance companies in Canada suggest the physical evils resulting from strong drink. "Of 1,355 Canadian physicians 1,068 said that the general health would be improved by total abstinence. Of 1,340 who gave definite answer to a question about moderate drinking 901 said the use of intoxicants, even in moderation, is injurious to health and to an active condition of body and mind. Of 779 physicians a large majority said that the use of intoxicants increases the number of the insane."

The doctor quotes the Hon. Mr. Foster's statement in Parliament in 1885 that 3,000 deaths per year might safely be set down to liquor in Canada. Vice and crime engendered by strong drink is also very fully set forth and sustained by extracts from the evidence. "From 1882 to 1892 inclusive the number of convicts in the Dominion was 383,459. Of these 133,371 were for drunkenness, and probably not one-third of those who drink to drunkenness ever appear in these records."

A conservative estimate of the amount paid annually by the consumers of liquor in Canada is placed at \$40,000,000. The cost of prisons, loss of labor and misdirected efforts should, Dr. McLeod thinks, be added to the expenditures on account of the traffic, and he therefore makes the following estimate:

"Amount paid for liquor by consumers, \$39,879,854; value of grain, etc., destroyed, \$1,839,765; cost of pauperism, \$3,149,037; loss of productive labor, \$76,238,000; loss through morality caused