

Better License Law Enforcement.

We are glad to learn from a somewhat unexpected source that the Ontario license officials are commencing a more thorough law-enforcement crusade. The Advocate, writing in the interests of its patrons, the license holders, forewarns them that they will best consult their own interests by carefully observing the provisions of the law under which their business is sanctioned and protected.

It goes on to say: "The license inspectors and their hired men have, under orders from headquarters, inaugurated a most energetic campaign looking to securing convictions for the infractions of the license laws. By means of a very literal translation of the law and owing to carelessness on the part of license holders they have been to a large extent successful. In Toronto, we are informed, evidence to convict two-thirds of the hotel-keepers has been secured. But the campaign is not confined to the city. It extends to all parts of the Province."

The Advocate goes on to say: "We warn our readers who are in the business that they will need to exercise extraordinary care, for the least mistake may bring severe punishment." The only "extraordinary care" that license holders need exercise is to obey the plain provisions of the license law. The Ontario Government has never shown any desire to put license holders to any trouble or expense further than is just necessary to secure an observance of the salutary provisions of the law. The failings of the inspectors have nearly all been on the side of too much leniency to those engaged in the business. The mistakes of the magistrates have generally been in imposing too light penalties where the charges have been clearly proven.

Had the inspectors as a whole been a good deal sharper in following up all causes of complaints, and had the magistrates generally imposed penalties a good deal more severe, there would have been a much better general observance of the license law all over the Province long ago than there has been. Such an administration would have given much more general satisfaction to the public, and the license holders themselves would as a rule have been better satisfied. In some districts the inspectors have done their duties well and faithfully, and the law has been more popular on that account, both with the people and with the license holders themselves. In some other districts we could name there has been a looseness which has been no way creditable to either officers or department, and it has proved a source of great dissatisfaction to the general public.

So far as we have the means of knowing the principal causes of complaints regarding license holders have been unlawful selling during prohibited hours, and to persons already intoxicated. Saturday night and Sunday selling by license holders has been much too general. A very intelligent and reliable Ottawa gentleman, whose business has taken him to nearly every part of the Province during the past three or four years, informs us that he has seldom stopped at a licensed hotel over Sunday in all that time where liquor selling has not gone on to a greater or less extent. Several leading commercial travelers have informed us that they have had a similar experience. One gentleman connected with the Royal Commission informed us that in a majority of the public houses he stopped at over Sunday he saw unmistakable evidences of pretty systematic Sunday sales. We have good reason to know that the feeling of dissatisfaction and distrust regarding this matter is very general throughout Ontario. We sincerely hope and trust that the license department is now taking it in hand to do its clear duty regarding proper law observance in this respect.

No license liquor seller has any more legal right to sell during from 7 o'clock on Saturday night till 6 o'clock on Monday morning than any other person. His license does not give him any such legal right. On the contrary, it expressly prohibits all such sales. The laws of God and man regarding Sabbath observance should be as carefully observed by licensed liquor sellers as by any other class of businessmen in the country. Any "carelessness" on the part of license holders in this respect should be punished wherever it can be discovered.

The simple reason why many now sell during prohibited hours is that they have found it money in their pockets to take the risks of an occasional conviction, and generally the payment of a minimum fine when convicted. Let prosecutions for all such violations become more general and certain and let the penalties imposed be such as to destroy all chances of profits and the evils will at once cease. Every officer found inefficient in these respects should at once be attended to. The license department would then command a good deal more confidence and respect than it has.

So far as stamping out unlicensed selling is concerned we believe that the department has done reasonably well its duty for years past. In many of our large towns and in some entire counties the license holders express themselves well satisfied at the protection their business has thus received from illicit traffickers. There have been very few complaints from the general public. We believe there is far less unlicensed liquor selling in Ontario

than in any other of the Provinces of the Dominion. Let our proper officers now do their clear duty regarding the enforcement of the other provisions of the law and few complaints will be heard.

T. W. CASEY.

Remored License Law Changes.

The Toronto Star of one day last week gives what purports to be an interview with Mr. James Cleland, M. P. for North Gray, and an active supporter of the Mowat Government, in which that gentleman gives the following opinion regarding probable future amendments to the Ontario License Law, in case the courts decide against the contention for Provincial prohibition. We give the report for what it may be worth, but have little faith that it amounts to anything like an authoritative declaration.

Mr. Cleland is reported as saying: "There will be some changes in the license law even if it is found that the Province is unable to pass a prohibitory law. There will be some changes made so that no one can say that the licensing granting is controlled by a political party for political purposes. I don't know how it will be done, but the system of appointing the license board will probably be changed. Then there are some changes which the hotel-keepers ask for that should be conceded, for it is convenient to them and does not affect detrimentally the cause of temperance. One is that the municipal authorities should not be able to reduce the number of licenses. Other changes such as making uniform rules as to hours will probably be made."

One thing may be put down as pretty certain. No changes will meet the approval of a majority of the people of the country that will relax the stringency of any of the present provisions of the license laws.

European Sunday Observance.

Sunday in most European countries has been observed more as a day of pleasure, demonstrations and business than as of rest and worship. In nearly all the countries the postoffices have been open and business done as on other days, and much other government work carried on. In this respect our Canadian Sunday observance is scarcely known in many parts of Europe. A strong effort is being made, however, to bring about a better state of things, and good progress is being made.

The Christian Statesman recently gave a summary of the work done and the success, so far. In France, where a good deal of Sunday observance agitation has been carried on, the country postmen have now been granted one free Sunday in each month; and in Paris deliveries of letters, papers and other postal matter are now confined to one-half on Sunday. In Germany the law requiring shops and places of ordinary business to close on Sunday was for many years almost entirely ignored. The law is being more rigidly enforced now, however. Recently one large mercantile firm was fined \$300 for making its clerks work too long on Sunday. In many parts of Germany there is but little observance of the day at all as a day of Christian worship. In Holland the suppression of Sunday newspapers has become general. In Russia the postoffices are still open on Sunday, but the hours have been restricted to two. A law is being prepared for the purpose of better observance of the day in manufacturing establishments, the mines, and among tradespeople.

In Norway Sunday is now being well observed. Shops and factories are all closed, as a rule. All liquor selling shops are required by law to be closed from 5 o'clock on Saturday evening until 8 o'clock on Monday morning. This is more stringent than our Ontario law. In Switzerland, too, nearly all the cantons have laws in force requiring Sunday observance. No newspapers are printed on that day. On some of the railways trains are not run on Sundays, though on most of them such is not the case. In Canada Sunday observance is becoming more general and better respected. In the United States the presence of such a large population of European origin seems to make good Sunday observance almost impossible.

Lucany in England.

The enormous drink traffic in England is producing an enormous crop of lunacy which is alarming a good many thoughtful people. It is now many years since Lord Shaftsbury assured the English public that his investigations of twenty years had convinced him that six-tenths of the insanity of the country had its origin in intemperance. He was chairman of the lunacy commission for about a quarter of a century. The 48th annual report of the English lunacy commission has been recently published. Some of the facts it contains are as follows:

"There were on Jan. 1 in England and Wales 92,067 lunatics, idiots, and persons of unsound mind. According to various returns to the commissioners this number was 2,245 in excess of the corresponding returns for the previous year, and 'showed the largest in the number of officially known lunatics yet recorded.' The report proceeds: 'This large increase calls the more for some special consideration because it follows an increase of 1,974 in the pre-

ceding year, that being far above the average for the ten years 1882 to 1892, which was only 1,300. The increase seems to have been fairly general throughout England and Wales, but the predominant feature of the figures is the great increase shown in the county of London, its pauper lunatics numbering on Jan. 1 800 more than they did a year previously. It is perhaps right in this connection to point out that for the administrative county of Middlesex, which is fast becoming metropolitan, there is shown for last year an excessive increase—namely 103, against an average for the previous ten years of 42." From one of the tables attached to the report it appears that this state of affairs, though alarming, is not quite so serious when considered in conjunction with the increase of population, the ratio being one insane person in 326, as against one in 331 for the previous year. There is no doubt the brain of the country is giving way through drink. The battle of Dorking would be an easy victory for the invaders.

Do not despise your situation; in it you must act, suffer and conquer. From every point on earth we are equally near to heaven and to the Infinite.—Amiel.

The Battle of Life.

We seek, this hour, the strength and wisdom for the battle of life. We look back over our life-path, and we see weakness, dalliance, defeat. Many things have conspired to aid and encourage us; home and friends, education to a greater or less degree, the beauty of the world, the necessities of life—which have brought us into contact with the forces which work together for the progress of the world. Many things have conspired to aid and encourage us, if we have but looked upon them as we should, and used them as we should. And many things also have conspired against us—pangs of nature, sins of will, defects of doubt, and taints of blood—lions in our path; and we have faltered, yielded, and been overcome by them. We have done those things which we ought not to have done, and left undone those things which we should have done. With great desire, we desire at this time, and in all coming time, strength and wisdom; that hereafter we may do better; that hereafter we may be stronger, making new and sure progress each new day—as we wish to do, as we strive to do—in the way of perfection; which is the way of holiness—wholeness. A part of this universe, we feel that we have work to do. A part of this mighty scheme of ever-increasing beauty and strength and grandeur which the ages are evolving, we feel that we have, every one of us, a duty to perform. The forces of life about us call to us—physical, mental, moral, spiritual. And beyond this, through love, to the source of love we faint would look, and, finding the highest love, would therein dwell, that ours and the world's may be not only health of body and happiness of heart, but also the fruits of the spirit.

JAMES H. WEST.

Woman Suffrage in New Zealand.

An interesting interview with Sir John Hall upon the woman's vote in New Zealand was published in a recent issue of the Westminster Gazette. Sir John points out that the best helpers in procuring the woman's suffrage for New Zealand have been the franchise branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. They have kept the subject at all times before the public, "not in an hysterical, but in a sensible and level-headed manner." Although the election came on only two months after the bill had passed, 129,000 women applied to be put on the roll, and 90,000 voted. This means that, although so short a time has elapsed since the bill had become a law, a larger proportion on the electoral roll than men gave their vote. It is clear that the New Zealand women took their new responsibility seriously.

Prohibition May Come as a War Measure.

(From the Christian Nation.) It is not assuming too much to say that all men deep down in their hearts feel that the saloon is a public enemy. The national conscience condemns the rum traffic, and yet it is protected and fostered contrary to the deepest convictions of almost, if not altogether, the entire people. The reason for the continuance of the rum power is not because the judgment of the people is not convinced of its dangerous nature, but the national will is not moved. With the conviction deep-seated in the nation that the rum power is an enemy, all that is needed to transform that conviction into action is a social crisis. Providential indications point to that crisis as not far distant. And we may, in the near future, when the nation is in the throes of civil commotion, witness the abolition of the saloon as an imperative means of public safety.

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A Lady Representative.

Exciting Debate at the Wesleyan Conference.

[From the London, Eng., Woman's Signal.] The fact that a lady representative had, contrary to all precedent, been chosen by the third London district to represent it at this year's conference, has been creating much discussion in Methodism. When I reached Birmingham, where the conference was being held, I found the wind blew very softly in the direction of Miss Dawson, the lady who was about to test the question whether a woman might sit and vote in the Annual Parliament of Wesleyanism.

"I do not see how she can be prevented; she is a circuit steward, a member of the district synod and a legally chosen representative to conference." This was the burden of the cry amongst the conference people who discussed the question in the coffee-room of the hotel. I was assured that no "scene" was anticipated, and that Miss Dawson would be permitted to take her seat quietly.

The first note of alarm came when, at 9 o'clock on Monday morning, I presented myself at Islington Chapel, Birmingham, and asked the astonished doorkeeper for admission to the press table.

"You mean the visitors' gallery," he replied, "ladies are not admitted to the conference press table."

"No, I wish to be at the press table, and I have a ticket, you see."

"Well," replied this worthy functionary, with a bewildered look, "I suppose I cannot stop you from going in; there are changes coming about, I am told. This with a deep sigh."

I passed the lion at the gate and found myself in a more congenial atmosphere inside the chapel, where the representatives of the Press Association, the Daily Chronicle, and the Methodist times were getting into position. "You take your seat and we will stand by you," was the courteous advice of these gentlemen. Finally, after I had sent up my card and a copy of the Woman's Signal to the president, it was arranged that I should have a corner to myself, immediately behind the press table, and in the very center of that august portion of the conference known in Methodism as the "Legal Hundred."

By 9:30 the commodious chapel was well filled from end to end with representatives, while the galleries were literally packed with visitors of both sexes. Mrs. Hugh Price Hughes occupying a prominent position. "There are a number of ladies in the gallery," whispered a worthy brother to a friend seated near to me. "We shall have children admitted next," was the horrified rejoinder. Last year, I was told, the editor of a newspaper falling suddenly ill sent his wife to report. She took a quiet corner in the gallery, but her presence was quickly discovered and a representative called out in conference, "There is a lady in the gallery." To the honor of Methodism it was decided not to eject her.

The entrance of Miss Dawson was the signal for an outburst of cheering. Then the president, the Rev. Walford Green, took his seat behind the silver inkstand engraved with a portrait of John Wesley, and the ex-presidents ranged themselves on either side. After a short devotional service the secretary, Dr. Waller, moved that the roll of attendance be adopted. Whereupon the Rev. Owen Watkins threw down the apple of discord by calling the attention of the president to the fact that a lady representative was present in the conference. In the course of an excited speech Mr. Watkins argued that the introduction of ladies into the representative session of the conference was never contemplated. The sessional conference was to consist of 240 ministers and 240 laymen. "It is not respectful to this conference that a lady representative should be sprung upon it in this manner," said Mr. Watkins, "and I beg respectfully to challenge the election of this good lady, and to ask that the whole question be referred to a special committee."

This was seconded by Mr. John Cooper, of Manchester. "It was a matter, he said, 'which must be fully discussed before the conference could depart from the literal meaning of the constitution.' At the same time he admitted that the lady in presenting herself had done her duty with great moral courage.

Meantime Mr. Hugh Price Hughes had been getting ready for the fray, and now arose amid interruptions of "Time," "Time," to move as an amendment to Mr. Watkins' resolution that the question of the lady's appointment be now discussed and a vote taken.

Mr. Watkins rose to protest against allowing this "most excellent lady" to sit in the conference until the question had been decided by a committee. I felt a little surprised after the eulogistic epithets which the opponents literally showered upon Miss Dawson—"most estimable," "most excellent," "most worthy lady,"—that it never occurred to them that the conference would profit by her taking a share in its deliberations.

After much excitement and protestation a hearing was at length given to the Rev. Hugh Price Hughes.

"I ask that this question be decided now," said Mr. Hughes. "Why agitate Methodism for a whole year while a committee discusses the question? I should like to point out that there is

really nothing at all alarming in the presence of a lady in the conference."

Representatives now rose to their feet in rapid succession to protest against allowing a precedent of admitting a lady member to be made. The venerable Dr. Rigg said that the minister of the third London district, who had moved in the appointment of the lady, had taken a very great liberty with the conference. It was an infringement of the constitution. The Rev. J. R. Hargreaves, Dr. Bowden, and others took part in the rapid controversy. At length the president procured a lull in the storm and Mr. Hughes was allowed to proceed.

"This is not a constitutional change," he said, "and it has not been 'sprung upon' the conference. Let us settle it now. Does this conference intend to slam the door of the conference in the face of all women? I submit that the constitution never intended to exclude women. The word laymen must in a legal sense include woman. That is the law of the country. The judges interpret ancient law in harmony with modern requirements. The constitution does not specify that women may be class leaders, trustees, or circuit stewards, but women act in these capacities. Are you going," continued Mr. Hughes, with great earnestness, "to boycott woman? Think of the noble work done by women like Florence Nightingale, Mrs. Josephine Butler and Lady Henry Somerset. Women are taking up public work on all sides, and they will be in Parliament soon."

John Wesley conceded that gifted women had a right to preach. There is nothing in Scripture against it. The success of the Quakers and of the Salvation Army is largely due to the position accorded to women. Why, even the Church of Rome has given great recognition to women. Think of the power wielded by Catherine of Sienna. It is a monstrous thing that Methodism should be more reactionary than the Church of Rome. Depend upon it, this agitation will never cease until women sit in the Conferences of Methodism." The Rev. J. B. Shrewsbury seconded Mr. Hughes' amendment.

The agitation had now reached an acute stage. Resolutions amendments, counter amendments were proposed so rapidly that the president had great difficulty in keeping the conference informed of the motion before it. The only "cool" person in the whole assembly was Miss Dawson. Throughout the two hours of heated discussion the lady representative scarcely moved a muscle of her face. "Women will not exceed men in talking if they are admitted to conference," she drily said to me when it was all over.

A bewildering array of ministers and laymen took part in the final discussions. Some proposed that the lady should be allowed to remain on sufferance, others that her presence should be accepted in courtesy. Two or three gentlemen were on their feet at once, and it was with difficulty that the president kept order. Finally the ex-president, the Rev. Dr. Pope succeeded in passing a resolution to the effect that "The attention of the conference having been called to the presence of a lady representative, elected by the third London district, resolves, in view of all the special circumstances of this case, and without deciding the question of the validity of this election, to proceed to the order of the day, but directs that in future no chairman of synod shall receive the nomination of a lady representative until the conference shall have determined by legislative action to admit ladies as representatives, and until such new legislation has been submitted for approval to the districts synods."

This was passed unanimously. The conference was then allowed a short interval to recover its composure before the Rev. Walford Green gave his presidential address.

In the luncheon-room a party of non-progressives were rejoicing that the lady representative was "suspended in the air," while a few hours later I found Miss Dawson in the tea-room, the center of a circle of friends who were congratulating her upon the victory. She told me that she should attend every sitting of the conference and take part in the voting. It still remains, however, for Methodism to give its decisive utterance regarding women representatives. Honor is due to the Rev. George Hawtreay Camburn, who is practically the originator of the whole agitation by making Miss Dawson his circuit steward, and by procuring her admission to the district synod, and her appointment to conference. I wish I had space to write all the good things he told me about the usefulness of the first lady representative to the Wesleyan Conference.

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CITIZEN AND HOME GUARD,
London, Ont.**Co-Education.**

In the July Forum Mrs. Martha F. Crow, of Chicago University, presents a spirited summary of the answers of women graduates of co-educational colleges to the question: "Will the co-educated co-educate their children?" The question was submitted to all married members of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae Association who graduated before 1875. Of these there were 180, and "the prayer for answer by return mail was responded to by 133," indicating an uncommon interest in the question. One hundred and nine of the answers were unreservedly in favor of co-education, twenty reservedly so, three strongly in favor of separate schools, and one undecided. Either the letters were remarkably well written, or Mrs. Crow has a genius for editing. The following are a few of the replies given.

"The association (of young men and women) is intellectually an inspiration, socially a benefit, and morally a restraint."

"It is in the interest of women's advancement that men should learn increasingly to respect her intellect, and also that she herself should discover that she has an intellect that can cope with man's without disparagement."

"The constant association tends to lessen rather than create the desire for each other's society."

"It leads to a broader sympathy, a truer understanding between men and women; and it tends to banish that consciousness of sex which is inimical to purity of mind."

The letter of one of the few in favor of separate education is quoted by Mrs. Crow almost entire. In brief, it says:

"I think a course in a co-educational college is less protected and agreeable socially for a girl than a course in a girls' college. I do not think I should send my daughter to a co-educational institution unless she could live at home at the same time."

The subject of co-educational marriages is frequently touched upon in the correspondence. "Sixteen" says Mrs. Crow, "mention the fact that they have united in marriage with a college mate, and the exclamation has usually a note of jubility unmistakably spontaneous."

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