

# Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

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## The Temperance Worker

### PUBLISHERS' NOTES.

A WELCOME.—Mr. Jacob Spence, of Toronto, for many years a zealous Temperance worker, and the ex-Secretary of the Ontario Alliance, writes:—With much delight I hail the advent of the *Temperance Worker*. We need vastly increased means of this kind adapted to arouse more attention to the temperance theme and its importance. I do greatly admire the business ability that can provide such a fifty cent weekly paper, and that, too, without pages of advertisements. There is ground of further rejoicing that this is undertaken by publishers whose high standing gives ample guarantee both for its character and permanence. Surely friends ought to rally to secure such extended subscription lists as may well sustain the enterprise and extend its sphere of usefulness.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER AND TEMPERANCE WORKER, besides discussing practical temperance questions and giving a large variety of news and notes concerning the cause at home and abroad, gives the world's news with brief commentary in terse and readable style, as also a large amount of home and Sunday-school literature. Montreal market reports on the date of going to press are given each week. The paper contains excellent pictures to please the eye of young and old, sometimes two or three in the number. Readers will do a kindness to the publishers and a good work in their communities by getting new subscribers, showing their friends the paper for that purpose. It costs but fifty cents a year, or forty cents in clubs of ten, sent either in parcels or to separate addresses. Send subscriptions at request for samples to JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Montreal.

### LICENSE AMENDMENTS.

On Wednesday of last week a very important and influential petition was presented to the Senate and House of Commons from the Province of Quebec in regard to the liquor license business. It was signed by the R. C. Archbishop of Quebec, the bishops of Three Rivers, Rimouski, Montreal, Sherbrooke, Ottawa, St. Hyacinthe, Chicoutimi and Cythere, V. A. of Pontiac; also by Mr. T. S. Brown, President of the Quebec Alliance, the church of England bishops of Montreal and Quebec; and Dr. MacVicar, Principal of the Presbyterian College, Montreal; Dr. Wilkes, Principal of the Congregational College, B. N. A.; Dr. Douglas, Principal of the Methodist Theological College; Dr. Clarke, pastor of Olivet Baptist Church, and Dr. Marsden, President Quebec Vigilance Association. The distinguished representatives of all these churches and organizations unite in the statement that in their opinion there is in this Province an alarming increase of all kinds of crime, due principally to the increase of the number of houses where intoxicating liquors are sold, and their defective administration. They also complain of the demoralizing influence of allowing

liquors to be sold in connection with groceries, and that the present license law is inadequate to prevent these great evils. It is urged that the difficulties in the way of obtaining a license should be greater to the applicant than to those opposed to the granting of the license. Understanding that the Dominion Government intend to introduce a measure for regulating the sale of liquors, the petitioners pray that none of the restrictions now upon the liquor traffic in this Province be relaxed, and that the following additional restrictions be imposed, so far as they may be within the jurisdiction of Parliament:—That where a license is granted a majority of the municipal electors of the polling division should sign a certificate of their willingness to have such license granted, or else that a petition in favor of the license shall be signed by a larger number of the electors than one against it. That among the infractions of the license law there may be incorporated as punishable acts, the keeping of a disorderly house, selling drink or permitting noise or reunions on Sunday, selling after prohibited hours, selling from seven o'clock Saturday evening until six on Monday morning, as the law now is in Ontario, "inebriating the people or giving drink to persons drunk," selling or giving liquor to minors under the age of sixteen years, and permitting card or other playing for money. It is also asked that higher customs duties be collected on imported or home manufactured liquors so as to lessen the profits to the liquor dealers, that the penalties for violations of the license law be increased, and that two convictions during the year shall work the forfeiture of the license and the disqualification of the license holder for two years. It is also petitioned that the licenses be granted to persons, and in no cases to houses, as the licensed victuallers of Ontario have desired. A petition so strongly urged and so strongly supported will, no doubt, have its weight in Parliament whenever the question may come up for legislation. It is a healthy and encouraging indication to see men of all churches and all creeds forget for the time their differences and unite in an effort to curtail the liquor traffic as much as is practicable so long as it is to be licensed at all. In case the Dominion Parliament decides to take the license question in its own hands we hope to see similar petitions pour in from the other Provinces. The petition was presented to the Commons by Mr. G. A. Gignault, M. P., and to the Senate by the Hon. Mr. DeBoucherville. One Senator remarked that it was the strongest petition ever presented to that House. It might be added that few have been on questions of such vital interest to the people.

SOME OF THE ENGLISH POST OFFICIALS having objected to the habit of some of the letter carriers wearing the blue ribbon, the Hon. Postmaster General, Mr. Fawcett, gave orders that the carriers should not be interfered with in this matter. He very wisely said that he would be happy to have the men wearing all the colors of the rainbow if it would only help them to keep from the drink.

### NEWS AND NOTES.

THE DUKE OF ALBANY, better known as Prince Leopold, Queen Victoria's youngest son, is a Vice-President of the Church of England Temperance Society.

A UNION HAS BEEN EFFECTED between the Royal Templars of Temperance, of the United States, and the United Temperance Association, formerly the British Templars, of Canada.

THE GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI has stood proof against the strong pressure of the liquor interest to prevent him assenting to the high license bill. He declines to answer the constitutional objections raised from that quarter, preferring to have them settled in the law courts.

VERMONT GOES A LONG STEP in advance of other States, in its Compulsory Temperance Education Bill, "adding to the list of required studies in the public school, elementary physiology and hygiene, which shall give special prominence to the effect of alcoholic drinks, stimulants and narcotics upon the human system."

A COUNTY ALLIANCE has been formed in Colchester, Nova Scotia, for the maintenance of the Scott Act and the propagation of prohibition sentiment. The meeting in Truro, the shire town, for organization was large, enthusiastic and business-like, and a splendid public meeting was held in the evening. Complaints are made in Pictou county, N. S., of the slackening of efforts to enforce the Scott Act there. In Prince Edward Island friends of the Act claim that, contrary to impressions sent abroad, the law has reduced drunkenness materially.

DR. ANDREW CLARK, the eminent physician to whom Sir John Macdonald went, when sick in England, and to whom Mr. Gladstone goes in sickness, gives this testimony:—"I am speaking solemnly and carefully in the presence of truth, and I tell you I am considerably within the mark when I say that, going the rounds of my hospital wards to-day, seven out of every ten there owed their ill health to alcohol. Now what does this mean? That out of every hundred patients which I have charge of at the London Hospital, seventy percent of them directly owe their ill health to alcohol."

A MEMBER OF THE NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENT introduced a bill into the Legislature to amend the license law of the city of Halifax, by providing that when a license holder got the consent of a majority of the ratepayers in his district, that consent would stand until a majority of the ratepayers petitioned to the contrary. The bill was pitched out without much ceremony, only five members in the House of Assembly, consisting of thirty-nine members, voting for its second reading. So Halifax liquor dealers will every year have to go round upon a weary tramp in their respective districts for signatures to a petition asking for license to sell. It is to be hoped that in this annual pilgrimage some of the publicans may be brought face to face with their work among the homes of their customers and thereby made ashamed of their business.

THE REV. GEORGE WYNDHAM KENNION, recently appointed bishop of South Adelaide, Australia, is a total abstainer and has been an active temperance worker for many years.

THE CHICAGO "TIMES," one of the leading political journals of the West, though not usually giving attention to the temperance question, thus gives vent to its feelings in regard to the outlook:—"The whole world knows drunkenness for a curse. The United States sees that, despite all regulation, the traffic in alcohol continues to increase more rapidly than the population, and that manufacturers and sellers of spirits and beer yearly become more aggressive and dogmatic in politics. Last year in Chicago they had no difficulty in controlling the expression of both parties."

MR. JOSEPH LIVESEY, the well known father of the teetotal movement in England, recently celebrated his eighty-ninth birthday. Great honors were paid to the grand old man on that occasion at his home in Preston. Letters of congratulation and telegrams were received from nearly every part of England and several deputations waited on him, presenting illuminated addresses from some of the great temperance bodies of the country. Mr. Livesey seems still in possession of a large amount of intellectual and physical power, and is capable of doing a good deal of work. He is a grand example of the advantages of temperance and pure living.

THE ALBANY, NEW YORK, *Law Journal* is not a temperance paper, by any means, and the "intemperate language" so often imputed to temperance workers need not be expected from that source, yet the following from its editorial columns is about as strong as we usually meet with anywhere. The actual truth, however, is not too strongly told. The *Journal* says:—"We insist that every avenue to hell, such as rum-shops, shall be shut on Sunday. Keeping Sunday is not a mere puritanic tradition, but is obedience to the law of God, and of the physical well being of mankind, and until the country determines to go to the devil as France did a century ago, it will cling to its Sunday laws."

ACCORDING TO THE UNITED STATES REVENUE LAWS alcoholic liquors may remain in bond for a certain length of time after they are manufactured, the duty only requiring to be paid as they are needed for sale or use. It seems that, in consequence of over production for some years past, a much larger quantity now remains on hand, than can be disposed of in the time required by law. Yankee ingenuity has been taxed to know what to do under the circumstances. If such liquors are exported from the country the duties are not required. An attempt seems to have been made to get the Canadian authorities to allow them to be sent to Canada in bond for a while and then returned again, as needed, but that did not succeed. It is now proposed to send them to Honduras. It is claimed that the quality of the liquors will be much improved by the trip. If they should never return so much the better.