

LIQUOR LEGISLATION.

There is, in the progressive record of temperance legislation everywhere, correct and remarkably encouraging testimony to the rapid growth of right sentiment in relation to this important reform. There seems to be at present between our political parties a rivalry as to which will go furthest in restricting the evils of intemperance. The McCarthy Act, as passed by the Dominion Parliament last year, was more advanced than any license law that had been previously enacted, and now we find that the Ontario Legislature has given us an act that goes further still. We hope to publish shortly a detailed statement of its many points of merit, at present we merely call attention to it as being in the class of strong evidence to which we have referred.

In another part of this issue we quote from an English paper a condensed report of a part of the proceedings in the British House of Commons on several days, and the inference is inevitable that legislators there are feeling the strong pressure of public demand that law must bear a part in the extermination of the evil. The sound common-sense of the day not only declares its convictions, but insists upon a practical recognition of what it asserts.

Temperance sentiment in the State of Iowa has just won a signal victory. A constitutional amendment prohibiting the liquor traffic was adopted by an overwhelming vote by the electorate. The Courts, however, decided that on account of informality in its submission the amendment was not legally carried, and could not be enforced. Subsequently, the regular State elections were held. The leaders of the Republican party avowed their willingness to accept the people's verdict, and pledged their party, if returned to power, to suppress the liquor traffic by statute. The proposal was accepted. The temperance voters rallied to the polls, and triumphantly rolled up a grand majority for the Republican party because it was pledged to be a Prohibition Party.

The Republican party in Iowa has not shirked its duty, it has not tried to evade fulfilment of its pledge. The State Legislature has met and redeemed its promise by enacting for the State one of the best prohibitory laws that we have yet seen. As another evidence of progress we quote a part of this admirable statute:—

"Every person who shall manufacture any intoxicating liquor, as in this Act prohibited, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall pay, on his first conviction for said offense, a fine of one hundred dollars and the costs of prosecution, and shall stand committed thirty days unless the fine be sooner paid; on his second conviction he shall pay a fine of two hundred dollars and the costs of prosecution, and shall stand committed sixty days unless the fine be sooner paid. And on the third and every subsequent conviction for said offense, he shall pay a fine of two hundred dollars and the costs of prosecution, and shall be imprisoned in the county jail ninety days."

"If any person by himself, his clerk, servant or agent, shall, for himself, or any person else, directly, or indirectly, or on any pretense, or by device, sell, or in consideration of the purchase of any other property, give any other person any intoxicating liquor, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall pay, on his first conviction for said offense, a fine of twenty dollars, and the costs of prosecution, and shall stand committed ten days, unless the same be sooner paid; on the second conviction for said offence, he shall pay a fine of fifty dollars and costs of prosecution, and shall stand committed thirty days unless the same be sooner paid. And on the third and every subsequent conviction for said offence, he shall pay a fine of one hundred dollars and the costs of prosecution, and shall be imprisoned in the county jail not less than three nor more than six months."

UNION.

One of the most encouraging features of the recent contests in Toronto and elsewhere was the unanimity and harmony that characterized the councils and actions of the temperance workers.

This was the more noticeable from the fact of the number and diversity of organizations that were brought together. It would require considerable space to even name the many different societies that co-operated for the attainment of the same great end.

We must stand together if we are to accomplish any good. Our opponents are united. The brewing, distilling, wholesaling and retailing interests are solid. There is no danger of disunion in the ranks of liquordom. They are in earnest, terribly in earnest. Witness the action reported elsewhere under the heading, "A Manifesto."

The annual meeting of the Ontario Alliance is near at hand. Very important questions will be discussed upon that occasion. There will doubtless be diversity of opinion in consultation, but let there be unity in our resulting action. We are at a critical period in the history of our cause, and we have no energy to spare for internal dissension. The present year promises more agitation, more work, more effort than we have met in any other stage of our progress, and a long pull, a strong pull, and a *pull all together* is what we need at our coming Convention and in the coming contests.

A MANIFESTO.

The liquor trade of New York State has met in solemn conclave to plan how best to secure for its ruin-producing operations, "protection and respect."

It is matter for profound thankfulness that the whisky business feels the need of something to respectabilize it. We have no desire to asperse the good name of any member of society. Our object is to lift and help those who have injured themselves either physically, socially or morally by doing that which is wrong. We want to save the saloon-keeper as well as his customers from the degrading influences of his unholy calling. We are as ready to receive the repentant distiller and aid him to reform, as we are to receive the prodigal drunkard, though the former may have done to his fellowmen far more injury and wrong than has his victim,—his reclamation will be the greater gain. We recognize the legal recognition that the whisky trade has gained, we know that law upholds these men, and our controversy is not with them, but with that iniquitous law and that trade, whose existence and toleration are outrages upon society. That law we will endeavor to amend, and that trade we will denounce until the eyes of the public are fully open to the enormity of the one and the vileness and disreputableness of the other. We append the "Manifesto" to which we have alluded:

"Whereas, The liquor and beer dealers of the State of New York have for some years past, and at the present time, felt the necessity to band themselves together for mutual protection, do hereby declare in convention assembled, the following declaration of principles:

1. While recognizing the duty we owe as good citizens to the laws of the State, yet we proclaim to the conservative citizens of the State that we believe our business to be legitimate and worthy of protection and respect, as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and the State of New York.

2. That as citizens and tax-payers we have in common with our fellow-citizens (engaged in other interests) one common object, the advancement of the interests of the whole people.

3. While recognizing the justice and intelligence of the masses who believe in equality and who respect the avocations of all who are not narrow-minded or prejudiced against any calling that a citizen may choose for himself, we are sorry to say that a certain class of citizens who pretend to be representative men, have on several occasions in public denounced the business in which we are engaged.

4. That we, as the representatives of liquor, wine, ale and beer dealers, do hereby declare, in convention assembled, that we intend to see that our rights are respected, and moreover, having to pay our share of the taxes (which we do willingly), we consider ourselves entitled to the respect of our fellow-citizens, and not to be treated like the criminal classes.