

OLD COUNTRY NEWS.

The May Meetings - Trotrollers to the Front - Important Anniversaries - The Compensation Fight, and the Future

A Big Time for Big Meetings.

The Executive Hall "May" meetings are now at their height. They begin usually early in April, and will probably continue until nearly the end of June.

The United Kingdom Band of Hope Union—a great union of unions—also got a date at Exeter Hall. Nearly two millions of British boys and girls are ranked as abstemious, and most of them are looked after through the instrumentality of this important institution.

The Compensation Clause of the new local self government Bill of the present Government. Not only temperance advocates and temperance organizations, but the whole Christian and philanthropic press, as well as level-headed men both in and out of Parliament, are crying out against this attempt to create, for the first time in the history of the kingdom, a vested interest in license.

By the decision given in the Court of Queen's Bench in this case the fact that the law acknowledges no such thing as a vested interest in license has been re-asserted. It is however on the assumption that "renewals of licenses cannot be refused unless for fault shown," that Mr. Ritchie on behalf of the Government, bases his plea for compensation; and though the ground is now cut completely from under their feet the Government are still doggedly determined to throw the sop to their faithful supporters, the "bungles"—doubtless, in anticipation of services which may be urgently needed at no very distant date.

Cold Blooded Cruelty

Mr. W. S. Caine says they will "raise up a wall between the Temperance party and their objects which it would take a generation to pull down." Mr. Joseph Mallins says he can conceive of greater calamity. Sir Geo. Trevelyan, in an address to his constituents thus refers to the matter: "Individual men owned scores of licenses, and in the case of great firms of brewers hundreds of licenses were in a few pairs of hands. These, he said, are the men who, at a time when all other interests have been fighting a hard battle to make both ends meet, have been rolling in wealth, gained from sources which are not always the most pleasant to reflect on; and these are the men who have enjoyed a monopoly for many years—during which their gains have been enormous and are now to be compensated out of the money of the struggling ratepayers, because, having been the only favored people in the country in the past, they are now to be favored no longer. The plain way to put the matter is this. Here is a man who owns a house which pays £50 a year rent. One year he is lucky enough to get a license for it, and the rent rises to £250. For every year in which that license is renewed he gets an extra two hundred pounds per annum; and the fact that he gets that extra £200 a year with out any merit of his own, or any outlay of his own, is his claim to be paid compensation whenever the State ceases to put that sum yearly into his pocket."

Yet the Government have the votes, and, for the time there can be no doubt liquorism will triumph. But

The Cloud Has a Silver Lining, for every movement of this sort makes the hue of division clearer and separates "the sheep from the goats." Temperance men are learning on both sides of the water; they are feeling their way to the light. These experiences teach us to be cautious. We expected much from the adoption, but we are finding out its weak points, and how those may be further weakened by bad provisions and bad machinery. We must feel to realize, we must fall to rise by and-by, when men take a full square view of the traffic, they will get clear ideas. When they see only as the end, extirpation, as the means, Prohibition, there will be an end of the traffic and all its ills. YES, SIR.

No More Compromise.

A LEADING CLERGYMAN'S IDEA.

The Scott Act Was Only an Expedient—Something Better Must Follow. And is Surely Coming—Omnipotent Goodness Will Crush the Ram Traffic

At Spadina Avenue Tabernacle recently, Rev. Dr. Parker preached a stirring sermon on the recent Scott Act campaign, taking for his text Rev. vii 6. In the course of his remarks the Rev. gentleman said—

"In this declaration there are symbolized the speedy accomplishment, on a grand scale, of stirring and national events intimately associated with human amelioration and progress. One of these, I sincerely believe, is the momentous question of Temperance and Prohibition, whose mighty tidal wave is surging over Canada, the United States and England, and indeed touching the shores of every land. I am not in the least disturbed, much less discouraged, by the recent vote in several counties of Ontario rescinding the Scott Act. This is but a compromise measure at best. It was so offered by the Dominion Government and accepted by the Temperance people, who voted for Prohibition. The vote of those counties that carried the Act by enormous majorities, and not the repeal vote, is the expression of the Prohibition sentiment of our country.

The people are tired of compromises, and we want no more of them. All great movements have been checked and delayed by just such questionable methods. The Missouri compromise on the question of African slavery in America, delayed abolition, and extended the term of bondage to the time when the Civil War was instituted by the South for the maintenance of slavery. The Federal force fought only for the perpetuation of the Federal government, and did not aim at emancipation. The displeasure of the God of Justice at such compromising was seen in a succession of crushing defeats for the North. And it was only when the immortal Lincoln's immortal proclamation of freedom for every slave was penned and promulgated, that victory crowned the Federal army.

So now our God is jealous of the people enslaved by the curse of Intemperance. In answer to the widow's tears, the orphan's wails, and the intercession of his saints, God will soon cast burning coals from his altar upon this unmitigated evil, and there will be lightnings and thunderings, and an earthquake. He will destroy this curse root and branch, and the people, spurning all local option compromises, will move in concert with the God of Heaven for entire Prohibition of the manufacture, sale and use of intoxicating liquors. The oncoming of Temperance will find that opposing elements, instead of checking this human, God-like movement, only serve to rouse the country, and intensify the invincible purpose to speedily rid the land of the accursed traffic. May God speed the day!

LADY DELEGATES

Excluded from the Methodist General Conference.

The opening session of the Quadrennial Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church of America was dignified by a very exciting debate. Four ladies, namely, Miss Frances E. Willard of Illinois, Mrs. Lizzie Vankirk of Pennsylvania, Mrs. Amanda C. Rippey of Kansas, and Mrs. Mary C. Winde, appeared at the Conference duly delegated by their respective constituencies, and the question of their admission came before the assembled delegates.

The question at issue hinged mainly on the interpretation of a clause in the Methodist discipline, which provides for the representation of laymen. It was claimed that ladies could be classed as laymen, the term under discussion being generic, and including males and females. If the contention were held to be wrong, then ladies would be excluded by the present law, and it would require a change in the usual form to entitle them to representation. The law of the Church can only be altered by a vote of the General Conference to submit the question to the Annual Conferences, and then a vote of three-fourths of the Annual Conferences in favor of the proposition.

The General Conference decided, by a vote of 249 to 173, that "laymen" does not include women. A motion was subsequently adopted submitting to the Annual Conferences the question of the admission of ladies to the General Conference. The ladies are, therefore, for the present excluded; but it is more than probable that the next General Conference to be held in 1892, instructed in the meantime by the Annual Conferences, will receive women as well as men.

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