

Temperance Column.

"A NEW PLAN OF CAMPAIGN,"

for the Irish Leaders Messrs. Parrell, Dillon & Co, was suggested by Mr. W. Livesey—(son of the well known Joseph Livesey) viz. that they should endeavour to elevate the people by freeing them from the great waste of money of the many evils inseparable from excessive drinking,—he writes :

"Now what is one of the greatest curses under which Ireland at present labours, and which inevitably brings poverty upon the people, and fills her workhouses, jails, and asylums? The consumption of intoxicating liquors. If it is said that England is similarly afflicted, I reply, so much the worse for her; but then there is this most important difference betwixt England and Ireland, and to this I call your special attention—in England, for seven years, the sum per head wasted upon intoxicating liquors has been yearly lessening, while in Ireland the amount per head has been increasing. In Ireland, with its loud complaints of the increasing poverty, its people have, in recent years, wasted more per head of their substance in the purchase of articles which are wholly unnecessary and always injurious.

Now not only has England largely lessened the amount per head spent yearly upon intoxicating liquors, but she has also lessened the number of public houses during the above years, so that the alleged increase of poverty in Ireland is coincident with the growth of the liquor traffic, and with the increased per head of her waste of money upon intoxicants. Even if there were no increase per head of the money wasted upon liquors, yet for a country like Ireland, complaining of poverty, to spend eleven millions sterling per year on intoxicating liquors, is a fearful state of things. English statisticians, on this question double the money cost of liquors—setting down an equal amount as representing the loss of time in drinking. If that calculation is adopted, we have in Ireland an annual waste of 22 millions. Well may poverty abound; how could it be otherwise? As regards the increase of public houses, when you enter upon the campaign for the lessening of poverty and pauperism of your country, you will be able to obtain the assistance of many Englishmen—prominent amongst them will be Sir Wilfrid Lawson, who has long been campaigning in England for not merely lessening such an increase of drink shops as shown above, but for closing them altogether, for the prohibition of the liquor traffic—an object to which you, as patriots, will no doubt give your sympathy and support.

I am rather unwilling to intrude any vexed questions into this letter, but cannot refrain from calling your attention to this announcement, which I have never seen questioned: that comparing 1881 with 1884 the increase in money wasted upon intoxicating liquors in Ireland amounts to three-quarters of a mil-

lion, and that the reduction in rents under the Land Act of 1881 has been more than equalled by the increased expenditure upon spirits and beers during the same period! If the amount saved in rent is spent in drink the country is not profited by the change; nay, it is even poorer. If the money saved was taken to some bridge and thrown into the stream and carried out to the ocean, and lost for ever, it would evoke, universal condemnation; but wicked as that would be, such had far better be done than spend it, waste it, upon intoxicants. In the one case there would only be the waste of money, while in the other there is not only the wilful sacrifice of money, but the waste of time, the injury of health, and the demoralization which drinking induces.

That grand self-sacrificing patriot and true benefactor to Ireland—Father Mathew—commenced and carried on such a campaign as the one I now implore you to begin, and in which, no doubt, you would get the help of the Fathers in Ireland, who, with you, if they follow noble Father Mathew's excellent example, will earn the gratitude of a people freed from the drink curse, and achieve for Ireland such a great and grand emancipation as to cause your names to go down to posterity as true and self-sacrificing patriots.

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A. P. BRADLEY, Secretary.

Department of Railways and Canals, Ottawa, 24th August, 1887. } 21-3

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Truro, June, 1887.

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