

PENNSYLVANIA.—The Constitutional Amendment Association of our State is petitioning the Legislature for the submission of an Amendment to our Constitution. The W. C. T. U. is working for the enactment of the Scientific Instruction Bill for our public schools. If the Republican party possesses the strong temperance proclivities attributed to it during the campaign, there is every reason to hope for favorable action on both propositions. If however, our Legislature carries out the policy of the Chicago Convention, we have nothing to expect, and shall not be disappointed, but we don't want to hear anything more about the temperance legislation given us by the Republican party.—*Cor. of Voice.*

Gov. ST. JOHN attended the meeting of the Illinois Prohibition State Convention at Decatur, December 29 and 30, and received a most enthusiastic reception. As an evidence that he has not lost the confidence of his friends anywhere—East or West—it may be stated that he has agreed to deliver a series of ten addresses in Minnesota during January, and has urgent invitations to speak in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Michigan, Wisconsin, Kansas and Missouri. That he could put in his entire season as an independent speaker and lecturer is beyond question; but it is expected and believed that a systematic campaign will be mapped out at the meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Prohibition party, which is to be held in New York on January 7, and that Gov. St. John and other speakers will be employed the entire year under the committee's direction.—*American Reformer.*

### W. C. T. U.

Miss Minnie Phelps, Supt. of Press Department of the Provincial W.C.T.U., has sent to the different Local Unions the following circular:—

DEAR SISTERS,—A great moral, social, political and economic question is just now arresting the attention of the people of this Province. It is the presence of the Canadian saloon as against the Canadian fire-side. It is an institution stooped with years, hoary headed with vice, that invites you, Women's Christian Temperance Union, to devise ways and means by which this hydra headed monster may be overthrown. Beloved women of this Province, all the grand advances in the march of civilization have been the triumph of brain over muscle, by the development of thought, by the education of the masses. To-day there is in our midst a voice stronger, louder, and more influential than all the pulpits in our land—it is the never ceasing, tireless action of the secular and religious press, speaking weekly and daily on all the social problems that this nineteenth century has developed. For you in the interests of your home, for the welfare of humanity, hundreds of these voices are waiting your use. Will you not see to it that the local press of your community be made interested on the subject? We desire, if possible, a uniformity in this work all over the Province, so that daily or weekly there may be going forth, seen and read the work of the W. C. T. U.,—the friend of the home, the enemy of the saloon.

Also to the Editors of different newspapers, the following:—

DEAR SIR,—A wonderful agitation is upon the Country. It is a question of License or no License, Saloon or Home, Virtue or Vice. We call your attention to these facts and solicit your influence personal and public, on the side of home as against the saloon. Will you help the women of this Province by the dissemination of Temperance matter through the columns of your paper by granting space to the local Women's Christian Temperance Union of your community or selecting items in behalf of this agitation yourself?

The favor of an answer is requested.

### General News.

#### CANADIAN.

Mrs. J. K. Smith has been elected school trustee at Brussels, Ont. Mr. Pruyn, Conservative, was elected for Lennox and Addington by a majority of 31.

The rolling mill hands and nail workers at Hamilton are on strike.

Four children have died from diphtheria in the family of Edward Parker, Dorchester station.

Some very disgraceful cases of fraud have been discovered in connection with the Toronto municipal elections.

Small pox is fast disappearing from Hastings Co. Not a single new case has occurred for a considerable time.

The farmers of South Renfrew have again nominated Dr. Dowling for the local Legislature.

Wm. Algie, aged 5, son of a conductor, was killed on the railway at St. Thomas.

Edward Burke was shot at Buckingham, Ottawa, in a quarrel with a Frenchman named Qupe.

A number of skating accidents are reported. Thos. Bolton was drowned at Peterboro', and several boys at Pottsville.

Messrs. Blake and Mowat addressed a very successful meeting of the Toronto Young Men's Liberal Club on Tuesday evening.

The banquet to Sir John Macdonald held in Montreal on Tuesday evening was a great success. Sir John delivered a stirring address.

Two farmers, Maurice Cox, and John Bush, were drowned in the River Lievre on Monday by their sleigh breaking through the ice. James McGuire, who was with them, escaped.

FIRES.—A great fire occurred in Halifax on Tuesday. The Mayflower House and Arcadian Hotel were completely destroyed. Several other buildings were damaged. The loss will be great.—A tallow factory in London was totally destroyed by fire last Friday. Loss, \$8,000.—The Grand Trunk passenger station at Lindsay was burned last week.

#### UNITED STATES.

New York city is suffering from an epidemic of typhus fever.

Diphtheria of a malignant type, is prevalent in Bedford Co., Va.

There were 429 business failures in the United States for the first week of the present year.

Strikes are creating serious riots in mining districts. Several men have been killed and others seriously injured.

Hon. Schulyer Colfax, died suddenly at Minneapolis, on the 12th inst. Mr. Colfax was elected Vice-President on the same ticket with Gen. Grant as President.

Two railway employees on the Lexington Railway fought with knives on a running train. Both are fearfully injured.

Fredericksburg gaol, in Texas, was burned last week. Two prisoners lost their lives.

The schooner *George W. Churchman* is missing. She left Savannah last month for Delaware with a crew of 7 men. It is supposed that she is wrecked.

A man named Thos. F. Phelan, of Kansas city, was stabbed and nearly killed in O'Donovan Rossa's office, New York, last week. He was supposed to have been a traitor to the Fenian cause.

#### BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Great Britain celebrated the 21st birthday of Prince Albert Victor, elder son of the Prince of Wales, on Friday of last week.

It is reported that the Cabinet at the last meeting decided that England should assume the responsibility of the Egyptian finances and proclaim a protectorate.

A Newfoundland despatch states that Dr. Richard Dun, a Roman Catholic, was mobbed at Broad Cove, and seriously injured.

More than 40,000 people were left homeless by the Spanish earthquake.

Earthquake shocks still continue in Spain, and have extended to France, and even to Switzerland.

The Austrian Government will introduce bills into Parliament largely increasing the duties on French imports in reprisal for French duties on corn and cattle.

The U. S. consul at Rome reports 11,072 deaths from cholera in Italy, from July to November.

The river Tiber has risen 40 feet, inundating vast tracts of country, and now threatens the city of Rome.

The Russian Budget for 1885 gives the balance of receipt and expenditure of \$66,295,000 roubles; 50,000,000 roubles are devoted to the reduction of debt and 27,000,000 to the building of railways and ports.

Gen. Wolsley has telegraphed the Prince of Wales that he will reach Khartoum on January 24th.

All agents of the French Government have been ordered to leave China. 6000 French troops have been sent to reinforce the army in Tonquin. More will follow later.

A serious financial crisis is imminent in Buenos Ayres. Trade is badly demoralized.