

A METHODIST MANIFESTO.

The Methodist Conferences now in session in different parts of the Dominion are speaking out with their usual energy and directness on the question of temperance. As an example of the strongly worded reports that are being adopted we publish the following, which was the unanimous finding of the Montreal Methodist Conference:

Your Committee remember with gratitude that from the days of the Wesleys to the present, our Church has had an intelligent and hearty sympathy with the great temperance reform. Our attitude as a Church has been and must continue to be one of uncompromising hostility to the liquor traffic until its evils shall cease to exist in our midst.

We commend careful home training in the principles of total abstinence from all intoxicants.

We remind our Sabbath Schools of the pledge that so many have taken, and hope that all members of the school may be so plodged, and that more careful yearly returns of all such be made to the conference.

We are glad that our Epworth League and young people's societies in connection with the Church have special departments devoted to this great and growing cause, and we trust that they will continue to give special prominence to temperance work.

We would also urge our representative men to insist that temperance instruction authorized by law be duly recognized in all our public schools.

Our ministers will not fail to bring the claims of total abstinence before their congregations every year.

Your committee heartily commend those newspapers that at great financial sacrifice exclude from their columns the advertisements of the liquor interests, and deplore the fact that so many otherwise respectable periodicals have not as yet seen their way clear to declare in favor of total abstinence and prohibition.

The important judgment recently rendered by the Imperial Privy Council on the question of jurisdiction regarding prohibitory legislation, having reaffirmed the authority of the Dominion Parliament alone to pass a law for the total prohibition of the liquor traffic, and also maintaining the local option legislation of Ontario, and confirming the right of municipal councils to enact prohibitory by-laws, in the province of Quebec, it is of the highest importance that in the approaching general elections to the Dominion Parliament, and all provincial and municipal elections, Methodist electors support by their influence and votes such candidates as are known and avowed prohibitionists, and who can be depended upon to loyally support prohibitory legislation regardless of party exigencies, candidates practicing total abstinence principles to always have the preference.

We recommend the friends of temperance to continually press upon their representatives the duty of enacting the utmost measure of prohibitory legislation within their power.

That the conference deeply deplores the fact that the sale of intoxicating liquor has been so long permitted within the precincts of the House of Commons at Ottawa. The facilities thus officially provided by our government for the supply of liquor ought not to have the countenance of a Christian people. We earnestly hope that the parliament about to be elected will at once abolish this unseemly and unnecessary phase of the liquor traffic.

That this conference reaffirms its declaration in favor of the plebiscite on the question of prohibition as offering a grand opportunity of disseminating temperance and prohibition instruction, and of registering the will of the people of Canada on this great question, apart from all political or party complications.

We exceedingly regret that this subject of prohibition has received such scant consideration by the parliament of Canada. During the thirty sessions of the House of Commons that have been held since Confederation in only one has there been introduced and passed any prohibitory legislation.

We deem it but fair to remind our people that while neither of the two great political parties now before the country has declared in favor of prohibition, one has entirely ignored the question while the other has put the matter of taking a plebiscite on the question of prohibition as a plank in

its platform; and on the hustings the leader, Mr. Laurier, has promised that in the event of his accession to power, if a declaration in favor of prohibition be the result of said plebiscite his administration will enact a prohibitory law in regard to the liquor traffic.

We reaffirm the paragraph of the conference report of 1893 which reads as follows: That we as a conference declare that in view of the magnitude of the evils of intemperance, so apparent to all; and the great barrier to the extension of Christ's kingdom, which the liquor traffic undoubtedly is, no government having the power to prohibit the traffic and neglecting to do so is worthy of the support of Canadian electors.

TOBACCO.

That while not desiring to interfere with the personal conscientious judgment of any man, it is the solemn conviction of this conference that the best qualification for faithful and efficient service in the cause of Christ cannot be attained by persons who indulge in the use of tobacco in any form. For this reason as well as others, we earnestly appeal to all our members to entirely abstain from its use.

Your committee recommend that the conference comply with the request of the Dominion Alliance to send four delegates to the annual meeting of the Alliance council, and that the delegates be the Rev. John Webster, the Rev. C. D. Baldwin, Mr. George M. Webster and Mr. Arthur Chown.

That it be an instruction of this conference to its ministers to read this report in their congregations next Sabbath.

VICTIMS OF DRINK.

SOCIETY WOMEN ADDICTED TO THE USE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

A reporter of the New York Recorder recently interviewed a woman doctor who conducts an institution in Brooklyn for the treatment of female inebriates. Following are a few facts gleaned:

She was rather reticent when it came to discussing her work, says the interviewer, but was enthusiastic. She said that many persons would undoubtedly be surprised if they knew of the large number of women in Brooklyn who are victims of drink. It has been stated, she said, that most of the drinking women were prominent in social affairs.

"This statement," said she, "has been denied by several, yet it is reasonable to say that it is true. In the natural course of events society women are more likely to drink than those who are not interested in social affairs. This is because they are under a constant strain. Any one will tell you there is nothing more trying than the duties of a society woman in a large city.

Take, for example, a woman, not strong physically, who has something on in the afternoon and then a dinner and a dance, and even perhaps the theater in the evening. When she finishes her afternoon affair, she is tired out. She cannot eat and does not want to go to sleep. She takes a glass of champagne. Only a little glass at first. The effect surprises her. She feels 100 per cent better and able to go through the evening and enjoy herself more than she had done in weeks. The next day it is the same. The one glass suffices, and she apparently feels no evil effects from the wine.

"But there comes a day when one glass of champagne does not satisfy her. She takes two. The next night she drinks three, and then her downward course is rapid. In the weeks that follow she makes the discovery that wine does not taste as it did—it does not satisfy that awful craving. She experiments a bit. She finds that brandy does what the wine fails to do, so she drops the latter and becomes addicted to the former. Whisky is the next step, and the next in many cases is morphine or some other narcotic. And the next step is death—that is, unless the victim is brought up with a round turn. This is how most of the women start. How they end depends entirely upon themselves."

BRITISH SONS.

The British National Division Sons of Temperance has just held its 41st Annual Session at Darlington. The report showed a membership of nearly 50,000. 161 representatives were present.

BRITISH DAUGHTERS.

Nearly 200 ladies were present at the Annual Meeting of the British Women's Total Abstinence Union held at Zion College, London, on May 13th. Lady Biddulph, the newly elected President, occupied the chair. The number of affiliated societies was reported as being 183.

TWO MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR FOR WHISKY.

In round numbers 51,000 barrels of domestic whisky were consumed in New York city during 1895, while during the same period, say men who know, 48,000 barrels of domestic alcohol were used to "stretch" or "blend" this whisky. Beaufort's Wine and Spirit Gazette estimates that enough other liquids were mixed with these to make New York's total capacity for whisky in 1895 130,000 barrels. This, in drinks, cost the thirsty men and women of Gotham away over \$2,000,000.—Selected.

A WONDERFUL WORK.

The work among children in Great Britain is carried on with an energy and success that ought to be instructive to Canadian workers. On the 13th of last month, the United Kingdom Band of Hope Union held its 41st anniversary. The annual reports showed that there were in the United Kingdom 22,302 Bands of Hope and other Juvenile Temperance Societies, with an aggregate membership of 2,813,000. This was an increase of 848 societies and 70,000 members over last year. A number of addresses were delivered by leading workers.

THE PROHIBITION BATTLE.

CHEERING NEWS FROM THE FIELD OF FIGHT.

A meeting of Methodists held in Brantford on May 20th, declared its confidence in Mr. Wm. Patterson, the Liberal candidate, and called upon prohibitionists to loyally come to his support. Mr. Patterson has always been an ardent and consistent prohibitionist.

In Charlotte Co., N.B., Mr. Ganon, the Conservative candidate, has publicly declared that he will do everything in his power to secure the enactment of a prohibitory law.

A TEAM IN THE FIELD.

Hamilton prohibitionists have nominated a second independent candidate for the House of Commons. At a convention held on Thursday, May 21st, Mr. Frederick W. Watkins, President of the Advanced Prohibitionists, was selected to contest this constituency along with Mr. W. W. Buchanan, editor of *The Templar*, who has been in the field for some time. Both candidates are known to be earnest and enthusiastic candidates of immediate total prohibition. Committee Rooms have been opened, and a vigorous campaign is in progress.

P. E. I., W. C. T. U.

The W.C.T.U. workers of Prince Edward Island have organized a Provincial Union which held its first meeting in Charlottetown, commencing on Friday, May 22nd. A good attendance of workers was on hand, and the proceedings were full of interest. Mrs. Strong, Summerside, was elected President, Mrs. Holman, Summerside, Corresponding Secretary, and Mrs. Matheson, Recording Secretary.

SUNDAY CLOSING.

The friends of the temperance cause in the Imperial Parliament have won a substantial victory in the carrying of the second reading of the Sunday Closing Bill which was carried by a majority of eight. Although the measure is not expected to become law during the present Parliament, this step of progress is hailed with acclaim. The following is the wording of this important measure: "Whereas the provisions in force against the sale of intoxicating liquors during certain hours of the Sunday have been found to be attended with great public benefits, and it is expedient to extend such provisions to the other hours of Sunday. Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lord's spiritual and temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—(1) After

the 10th day of October, 1896, all premises in which intoxicating liquors are sold or exposed for sale by retail, shall be closed during the whole of Sunday, subject to the provisions (except as to the hours of closing on that day) of the Licensing Acts, 1872-74. (2) This Act shall not apply to Scotland, Ireland, or the Principality of Wales. (3) This Act may be cited for all purposes as the Sunday Closing Act, 1896."

A GREAT WORK.

The National Temperance Society and Publishing House of the United States, held its 31st annual meeting at 58 Reed St., New York, on Thursday, May 14th. A report was presented showing a year's earnest work on educational lines, special prominence being given to the very successful missionary work among colored people of the southern States. The number of pages of literature printed in different forms during the year was 22,671,270, making a total number of pages printed since the organization of the society of 934,045,582. Rev. Joshua L. Bailey was re-elected President.

THE B.W.T.A.

Cable reports give an interesting account of the enthusiastic gathering of the British Women's Temperance Association in their 20th Annual Council. Miss Agnes Weston presided. Among the distinguished visitors were Miss Frances E. Willard, President of the W.C.T.U.; Lady Henry Somerset, President of the B.W.T.A., and Canon Wilberforce. Fuller mention of the work done will be made later on.

QUEBEC ALLIANCE.

The Annual Meeting of the Quebec Branch of the Dominion Alliance was held in Montreal on Tuesday, May 26th, Mr. J. R. Dougall, President, in the chair. Reports were received of the replies made by Parliamentary candidates to questions submitted by the Alliance. The most important business transacted was the adoption of the following report of the Committee on Political Action, presented by Rev. A. M. Phillips:—"That this Alliance deems it the duty of the prohibitionist electorate to use all possible means to secure direct representation in the House of Commons at the approaching elections, in accordance with the report on political action adopted by the Dominion Prohibition Convention held in Montreal on July 18, 1894, either through the representative or the political party.

That the following course for political action be suggested:—

1.—Where the candidates of the political parties are known and avowed prohibitionists, then the elector may support either, according to his preference.

2.—Where one is a prohibitionist and the other is not, then political party feeling should be sacrificed and the prohibitionist receive the support.

3.—Where neither is a prohibitionist, and it is not practicable to bring out an independent candidate, then the support should be given to the political party which has pledged itself to promote prohibitory legislation where the candidate of the party can be conscientiously supported.

4.—The Dominion Government of the day, in its manifesto to the electors, makes no reference to the question of temperance, and has wholly ignored the prohibition issue, as well as by parliamentary action refused to give any pledge to promote prohibitory legislation, and whereas, the Opposition did place it as plank 19 in the party platform at the National Liberal Convention held at Ottawa in June, 1893: that, whereas, public attention is at present much directed to the admittedly great evils of intemperance, it is desirable the minds of the people should be clearly ascertained on the question of prohibition by means of a Dominion plebiscite, in reference to which, Mr. Laurier, leader of the Liberal party, has said that he would plenge his honor as a man that, as soon as the Liberals came into power at Ottawa, they would take a plebiscite all over the Dominion, and by that declaration the party would stand, and the will of the people would be carried out, were it to cost power for ever to the Liberal party. This, the *Montreal Gazette* says, "is one of the largest promises ever made by a political leader."

Full replies not having been received from candidates in all districts, we recommend that the application of these principles be left to the local branches of this Alliance, or, where there is no local organization, to the General Executive.