

The Manitoba Good Templar.

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GRAND LODGE OF MANITOBA AND N. W. T.

Chartered October 20th, 1893.

Office of Grand Secretary, 149 River Ave., Winnipeg.

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS FOR 1896-97.

- G.C.T.—Hon. J. W. Sifton, Winnipeg.
 - G.C.—I. W. Platt, Greenway.
 - G.V.—Mrs. B. Benson, Winnipeg.
 - G.S.J.T.—Dr. E. A. Blakely, Winnipeg.
 - G.S.—Mrs. A. Myrtle Blakely, " "
 - G.T.—B. T. Bjoraeson, Winnipeg.
 - G.Ch.—Rev. C. T. Baylis, Winnipeg.
 - G.M.—B. M. Long, Winnipeg.
 - P.G.C.T.—Thos. Nixon, Winnipeg.
- The above constitute the Executive Committee.
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 - G.D.M.—Miss A. Vigfusson, Winnipeg.
 - G.G.—Fred. Leach, Neepawa.
 - G.Sen.—Reuben Cross, Killarney.
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TO GOOD TEMPLARS.

The last quarter of the current Grand Lodge year is upon us. Three months' more work and we shall be called upon again to take stock of our position, progress and prospects.

Earnestly do we appeal to our loyal workers who have stood by our cause through good report and ill report, to do their best to build up and strengthen the great organization which has proved such a potent factor for good.

This is the harvest time for missionary effort. It is the time for holding meetings, developing public opinion, gathering in members and making ourselves strong for the future.

A few months more and the great plebiscite contest will be on. The sentiment of the people will be finding its expression in a vote that means either the speedy de-legalization of the liquor traffic, or its establishing on a firmer basis.

We have the full result. The evidencing more than earnest, faithful support of the large voluntary charities for the benefit of the victims of the drink habit.

ful for what their organization has done in moulding public opinion and paving the way for the triumphal incoming of effective prohibitory legislation.

In view of these facts the coming session of the Grand Lodge will be one of unusual interest and importance. Every lodge ought to be there represented. It is not too soon to begin preparations for this event.

From many parts of the jurisdiction comes news of activity and progress. Lodges that have been dormant are again sending in returns. We have some new organizations reported and others on the way. There is time still for every Lodge to make a record of extension and mission work.

We desire to call special attention to the Juvenile Department of Good Templar effort. This important feature is sadly neglected by too many of our Subordinate Lodges. Compared with the opportunities for work, the work done has been very small.

There is in our Province a vast, comparatively unoccupied field for temperance work among the young. We have the organization, we have the plans and methods, why should we not build up here as we do in other places, a mighty Juvenile Templar Department.

There is no one to lose. Great opportunities are open before us. The need for work is as strong as ever, it has been. Let us loyally meet the responsibilities that are now upon us.

THE PLEBISCITE.

A great mistake will be made by any prohibitionists who take time at the present crisis to discuss the coming plebiscite from the standpoint of party politics. Whatever may have been its origin, it now affords us an opportunity to crush the legalized liquor traffic in Canada and for that result every effort should be made. In the Dominion Parliament a plebiscite was advocated by both Conservatives and Liberals. Hon. George E. Foster and Hon. David Mills have both been among its strongest advocates. It was however, before the last election, made a part of the declared policy of the Liberal Party, so that when the present Government took office, it was with the definite pledge that a vote of the people would be taken on the question of total national prohibition.

The government is not only committed to the taking of a vote, but by the definite declaration of the First Minister, is committed to the promotion of legislation giving effect to the will of the people as declared at the polls. There is no uncertainty regarding this matter. Such a victory as we expect to win for the cause of prohibition means nothing short of legislation for the total suppression of the traffic in intoxicating beverages.

The liquor traffic recognizes this. Already there is sore anxiety in the ranks of our opponents. They are making preparations for a despatch. It will be a struggle in interference of the liquor business. The outcome will be perhaps, a blow to the traffic. The result is of life and death.

This is the crucial year. On every Christian woman and man a heavy responsibility rests. Everyone has a duty in relation to the contest in which everyone ought to have a share. Our full strength cannot be exerted unless we act unitedly. We must forget all differences and divisions and go into the contest as one man. The discussion of dead issues is worse than a waste of time. It is a dissipation of power.

In these facts we have the highest kind of incentives to earnest, determined, judicious work. We must let no prejudice or sectionalism interfere with the responsible duty that we have on hand. We must sink out of sight minor differences. We must completely abandon the discussion of side issues and unimportant details. **TOTAL NATIONAL PROHIBITION** is the question to be presented, argued and advocated. Matters regarding which we have differences of opinion, may well lie in abeyance, while we concentrate our energies on winning a splendid triumph out of this providential opportunity.

For the sake of thousands of sin-cursed homes, for the salvation of thousands of imperilled souls and bodies, for the emancipation and elevation of our country and our people, let us go forward in the strength of God with this single inquiry. "What can I personally do to help in this serious crisis?" Let the inquiry be accompanied with decision to fearlessly obey the answer that judgment and conscience dictate. If we face the issue in the right spirit with the right determination, we are absolutely certain to win.

WHAT THE PRIESTS SAY.

What is it that keeps the Irish people in these low social conditions? The saloon. Thither goes the money earned by the sweat of their brows. Thence do men issue, broken down in health and strength, to swell the list of idlers and paupers. Our disgrace and our misfortune is the number of Irish saloon-keepers.—*Archbishop Ireland.*

I impeach the liquor traffic of high crimes and misdemeanors. . . It is mere mockery to ask us to put down drunkenness by moral and religious means.—*Cardinal Manning.*

We who labor so hard to rid our mother country of landlords and landlord iniquity ought not to become slaves of the rum lord and bow to the iniquity of intemperance.—*Father Conaty.*

The saloon is the recruiting office of the devil, of blasphemy and of infidelity. It is the duty, therefore, of all who love God and the Church to oppose the influence of the saloon.—*Father Burns.*

Let no man say that he is safe enough that he has no occasion to take the pledge. I have seen the stars of heaven fall and the cedars of Lebanon laid low. The pledge which I ask you and others to take does not enslave—it makes free. Temperance brings blessings in both hands—blessings for time and blessings for eternity.—*Father Mathew.*

We do not believe that the Church should leave the field entirely alone to the saloon-keeper to champion our laws. We believe that as long as the saloon dares, with brazen effrontery, to demoralize our politics that the Church, with uprightness, with clear and serene countenance should enter the arena.—*Father*

GOOD TEMPLARY.

A great league a world wide fraternity—declaring to the world its principles, and proclaiming by these we stand for all time. Such is the Independent Order of Good Templars. Not an Association, not a society into which one may go to-day, and from which one can step to-morrow—not an enrollment for purposes of pleasure or of profit, but a banding together of men and women, stirred by one common impulse, and that the uplifting of the better nature, first within ourselves, and then in all humanity beside.

Our obligation, for life, for nothing short of this can accomplish the work for which we band together. Our pledge, eternal hatred to intoxicants, because intoxicants debase and bring low all we would lift up and develop.

We organize for incessant activity because influence never sleeps, and the laws of our being do not intermit in action. We cover the town, the state, the world, for this day of electric energy knows no bounds and the entire human race are but members of one great family.

The bible our hand book, the central object of our Lodge room, for in it is crystalized all our teachings, from it is drawn all our teachings, and in it, and it alone, the nations of earth have found the law from which there is no appeal in all that relates to humanity's upward progress. No sacred books, no Veda, the Bible, the Bible only is the Good Templar's anchorage.

Bound together by such rock-ribbed principles, impelled, enthused, inspired by such intent, we dare lift the prayer of faith, and expect that from the heart of the world, there shall roll out to us a wave of sympathetic force whose crest will bear us on to higher and to better work.

Templary is in its infancy. Not half a century and the world has been hand-girted, another fifty years and the constitutions of the nations shall be a record of our principles.—*Official Organ.*

CAMPAIGN EQUIPMENT.

The Vanguard, all numbers issued, in neat cloth binding, is the most important Canadian contribution yet made to the literature of the temperance and prohibition reform, containing over 650 pages full of invaluable arguments, facts and statistics, all reliable, fresh and good, fully and carefully indexed.

The People vs. The Liquor Traffic, a set of lectures by the late Hon. J. B. Finch, is one of the most forcible and comprehensive arguments for Prohibition ever made. Special Canadian edition, 240 pages. Fine cloth binding, price 40 cents.

The Camp Fire is a neat four-page monthly campaign journal, specially published for campaign work. It summarizes the latest news about the prohibition reform, and presents an array of live, pithy articles and brief statements of important and helpful facts and incidents. Subscription, 25 cents per year.

The two great books above named, will be sent postage pre-paid, and also THE CAMP FIRE to December, 1897 inclusive, to any person sending at once ONE DOLLAR to F. S. Spence, 51 Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

With these three sources of information, any pulpit, press or platform worker will be fully equipped for the great plebiscite campaign.