

Temperance News.

THE MILTON CAMP MEETING.—On Monday morning, the 18th inst., there was held a conference of Scott Act workers from different parts of the county to discuss the present situation, and perfect plans for action in the coming contest.

In the afternoon the meeting was addressed by Rev. John Smith, of Toronto, vice-president of the Dominion Alliance. In an earnest and stirring address he compared the Scott Act with the old Dunkin Act, showing its vast superiority, after which he dealt with the general question of prohibiting the liquor traffic, showing the soundness of such a policy, and the unchristian folly of any other line of action.

Mr. J. R. Clark, of Michigan, spoke to an immense audience in the evening. The subject of his lecture was "To and fro in London," and his address, mainly of a descriptive character, was remarkably eloquent and well received.

The most interesting as well as the most largely attended of the meetings, was that of Tuesday afternoon, addressed by ex-Governor St. John, of Kansas, the present Prohibition candidate for the United States presidency.

We clip from the *Globe* the following synopsis of his able address:—

After some preliminary discussion he deduced what seemed to him a rule that total abstinence was the only safe rule for the individual, and what was true of the individual was true of the State. License was recommended by many as the proper means for dealing with the liquor traffic. This was equivalent to saying that the way to put a stop to drunkenness, was to license some men to make others drink. "In Canada," said the speaker, "you contribute fifteen times as much to tear down through the saloons as you do to build up through the school system. In the United States we spend twenty times as much to tear down as we do to build up. And yet we complain that the boys are bad. Many a father tells me with a long face that his boy is a bad boy. If he will go back to his own personal example, to his own ballot, he will find what in part caused it. In this country you pay twenty dollars for liquor for every one that you spend for missionary efforts. Twenty dollars for the devil and only one for Christ—and the devil can't save one of you." Speaking of the plea that we were a free people, and that prohibition would restrict freedom, he said, "God pity the poor, shrivelled-up human soul that imagines there is any liberty that comes from a grog-shop. (Cheers.) The man behind the prison bars, sober, is freer than the man who is drunk in front of them. He dealt at some length with the great argument in Canada that if prohibition was carried it would injure the market for barley, but his arguments were all summed up in the scornful question, "Have you got any boys here to sell for a market for barley?" (Applause.) Speaking of the statement that prohibition was a failure he ridiculed unsparingly those who, without knowledge of the facts, contended that it was a failure where tried. He referred specially to the results in Kansas, declaring proudly that the commonwealth that had the strength to crush out human slavery within its boundaries had the strength to crush out the liquor traffic. Before prohibition they had 1,900 saloons; on the 1st of last December they had only 313. Since that time they had reduced the number to 238. It was said they were unable to convict in Kansas. They had prosecuted 972 for breaking the law, convicted 729, imposed fines aggregating \$100,000, and imprisonment, in all, for 11 years 5 months and 19 days. "And," he said, "speaking to any of these scoundrels behind the bars, you can't convince one of them that prohibition won't prohibit." (Cheers.) "It is said," he went on, "it will bring financial distress. In Kansas, since the inauguration of prohibition we have increased fifty millions in taxable wealth. No State of a like population has made such wonderful progress. The crops never were better with us than they have been since we adopted prohibition."

A voice—They are better in Halton.

Mr. St. John—I am glad of it. I hope God will measure your crops by your votes. (Applause.) In Kansas we have this year a crop of 50,000,000 bushels of wheat, and corn that promises to yield 250,000,000 bushels. No commonwealth or equal population can show such magnificent results. And more, no bushel of that corn can be legally turned into liquor within our own boundaries. There were four distilleries and thirty-two breweries in Kansas before prohibition. All were gone but four of the breweries, and they would soon

be closed up. The largest of the distilleries was now occupied as a broom factory, and the women of the commonwealth had strength enough to sweep away every grog shop in the country. (Cheers.) They said the population would decrease if they adopted prohibition. As a matter of fact they had increased 200,000. Among them were many from Ontario, the best men and women in muscle, brain, and moral power, that Canada could produce. (Applause.) Prohibition called to the best and most industrious and gave no encouragement to the thieves, the tramps, the roughs, and the bummers, the product of the liquor traffic. "We have some falling off in population," the speaker went on. "The population of the Penitentiary has decreased. (Applause.) We have lost 1,500 saloon keepers (Applause.) I saw one of them in Hamilton as I came to this place. He keeps a little grog-shop in that city, and as I saw him I didn't envy you people a bit. I suppose that he came to Hamilton because prohibition didn't prohibit. Why didn't he come to Halton where prohibition exists? Because prohibition doesn't prohibit, I suppose. (Laughter and applause.) The remainder of the address was an arraignment of the liquor traffic, for the evils to which it led, and

AN APPEAL TO THE VOTERS

of Halton to stand by the vote they had given, to stand by the homes and the mother, the wives and children, whose happiness in many cases depended on this vote.

Wednesday the 20th inst., was the closing day of the camp-meeting, and the principal speaker was D. Dorchester, D.D., of Massachusetts, who gave a very interesting lecture upon "History and present aspect of the great temperance reform."

In the evening a very successful concert was held under the direction of Prof. J. Jeffrey, of Lockport, N. Y. This brought to a close one of the most successful gatherings ever held in this province, and one for which the promoters deserve the warmest commendation.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND.—The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland met in Londonderry recently, when the report of the Temperance Committee was submitted. Great regret was expressed at the protracted illness of the Rev. J. N. Harkness, who has ably acted as convener for many years.

On the following morning the ministers and elders of the General Assembly were entertained to breakfast in the Union Hall by the Londonderry Temperance Council. There was a very large attendance, a number of ladies being present.

The Moderator was moved to the chair, and the annual report of the General Assembly's Temperance Association was presented by the Rev. William Park, who stated that 311 of the Assembly's ministers were now enrolled abstainers, twenty-seven names having been added during the year. Encouraging reports were received from Magee College and the Belfast College, a membership of seventy-two students being reported from Magee College. The report went on to say that when the association was formed on July 4, 1850, "it was done almost with fear and trembling, and only fifteen of our ministers could be induced to attend that first meeting. For many years those early founders of our association had to battle with opposition—apathy, misrepresentation, sneers, scoffing, and direct attack—but, knowing that they had the truth, and that God was on their side, they held on their way undaunted. Most of them have gone to their reward. Only five out of those fifteen are now living, and what are these survivors privileged at present to behold? A wondrous change, indeed. This cause, then so slighted, is now one of the most popular moral enterprises in the world. The greater number of our ministers are now total abstainers. Nearly all our young men recently ordained are enrolled in our ranks. With only a few exceptions all our theological students are abstainers. Total abstinence societies for young and old people exist in most of our congregations—large numbers of our people have taken the pledge—intoxicating drinks are steadily being removed from the festive boards, and, indeed, from the homes of our people—our women have taken up the cause, and are carrying it forward with vigor and energy, and at no previous period has our pulpit given forth such a clear and certain sound on this question."

A series of resolutions based upon the report were adopted.—*Temperance Record.*