

Temperance Department.

AN ABUSE OF POWER.

HOW DRUGGISTS' LICENSES ARE BEING GIVEN OUT UNDER THE SCOTT ACT.

According to the provisions of the Canada Temperance Act nothing approaching a retail license can be given out anywhere except to druggists. The object of the druggists' licenses is to provide the facilities for procuring alcoholic liquors for medicinal purposes. Complaints have been made that in several counties the Commissioners under the McCarthy Act have actually given out these druggists' licenses to old tavern-keepers and ex licensed grocers, to the actual exclusion of bona fide druggists. A statement was made by a recent deputation to the Attorney-General that such had been the case in Huron county, where the Scott Act has been declared in force. In order to lay the honest facts before TRUTH readers, letters of enquiry were sent to leading and reliable citizens of Huron county asking for definite information. In reply to one of these letters the following information has been sent by a leading citizen of Goderich, — a gentleman well informed on the matter and in whose veracity we have no doubt whatever. A state of things such as he describes is truly shameful, and well calculated to bring the officials themselves into contempt. The wonder is that the Ottawa Government has not at once instituted an enquiry into the matter. Surely the people are not to be trifled with in that way about the enforcement of a law adopted by themselves by such an an overwhelming majority.

Our correspondent, whose name can be obtained at any time, writes as follows. — "In the county of Huron the druggists have been ignored entirely in the matter of license under the Scott Act. We have in this county four towns and four or five incorporated villages, and a number of small villages, but not a druggist has been licensed. Nearly all have been given to hotels or shop keepers formerly licensed to sell liquors. The exceptions to this are so few that they are not worth mentioning.

"Not only so, but these licenses are not even given to the best of these, in most cases. The druggists nearly all made application for licenses, but it was no go. The Dominion Inspectors are men strongly opposed to the Act, and, I fear, will do but little to enforce it."

Intemperance and Pauperism.

The *Lancet* is well known as the leading medical journal of England. It is not given to much "temperance rant," and yet some of the strongest temperance arguments published are found in its columns. Here is an article clipped from a recent issue: — Several different causes have been assigned for the pauperism which is increasingly prevalent in our great cities. It is well that everything which has influence on this subject should receive due attention at the present time, when the greatness of the evil is rendered more apparent by a general depression in trade, and when the minds are turned to consider any possible schemes for the proper maintenance and housing of the poor. The destitute man, if he were now asked to state the cause of his condition, would almost certainly blame the times and would be largely justified in doing so. Whatever be the origin of the present inaction, whether business competition, the store system, the spendthrift extravagance of many whom a false ambition tempts to live above their means, or other circumstances, the fact remains that work is more difficult to find and to hold than formerly. Nor does the very poor man alone suffer, but the shoe pinches everyone in some degree. This want of employment and lapse of the regular habits which belong to it, have doubtless very much to do with such poverty as is generally felt. It does not, however, account for all the misery of the so-called "outcast." Other factors enter into that dismal pressure which rests upon

each member of many households, not alone in our days, but even in more prosperous times. It was not for the first time at a recent meeting in Exeter Hall that drunkenness and unthrift were condemned as the twin and chief producers of abject poverty. The connection between those vices is too much a matter of daily remark to call for proof. It is as real as the opposite union between thought and shrift. Words are not needed to explain how the poor must go to the wall when the trade is slack, if their exchequer never too full, is in literal liquidation on behalf of a morbid appetite, while the giving hand of the employer is restrained by an enforced economy. On our own part, also, as medical men, we cannot but speak in support of these opinions of the political moralist. Science recommends alcohol to no one who has health; but, on the contrary, enjoins abstinence in this particular to all such, and in reference to all states of labour, mental or bodily, to exposure, worry, and even fatigue. In circumstances of exposure and exhaustion, indeed, testimony goes to prove that such drinks as tea and coffee afford a stay nearly as speedy in action as, and much more trustworthy and enduring than, any that alcoholic stimulants can give.

Temperance in the Soudan.

A correspondent of the *L. L. Journal* writes: — From time to time we are cheered by testimony in favor of total abstinence from unlooked quarters. We do not require assurance that our principle is a safe working one; on the contrary, our anxiety is, that it should be put to the test of practice. But to non-abstainers the following may be as a revelation: — The *Times*' correspondent in the Soudan says in a recent letter: — If further proof were required that drink is the source of ninety per cent. of the crime in the army it would be furnished by the conduct of those troops who, as you know, have nothing to get drunk upon, and while their conduct is all that could be desired their physique has certainly not suffered, for a finer body of men it would be impossible to pick out of any army in the civilized world." So too, in the *Expositor* for March, a writer who is careful to assure us that his "paper is not intended as a plea for temperance," in an article on "A Campaigner's Beverage" says "This Psalmist" (the writer of the 110th Psalm) "knew what he was telling of when he represents the mighty man as refreshed by the brook, not the wine flask." Again — "Doubtless, David, Thobis, Machir, and Barzillai, all, probably men used to border warfare in their time, knew that wine was not a necessary commissariat of an army, though it might hold a valuable place among the medical stores." Further — "David knew that wine is not a good leverage to work on, however useful it may be as a restorative after over work; even as a restorative, he knew that there were good substitutes for it, and for other purposes he treated it at best as a harmless luxury. The only occasion when we can prove (the italics are the writer's) that he personally used wine is in the shameful story of Uriah's drunkenness." The quasi "good creature of God" is surely falling into disrepute. The idol is tottering. Workers worn, but not yet weary, may yet hear the shouts that proclaim its fall.

NEWS AND NOTES.

CANADA'S DRINK BILL — Prof. George E. Foster, M.P., is now a leading member of our Dominion House of Commons, and he possesses excellent opportunities of obtaining full and reliable information in regard to the extent of the drink traffic in Canada, at the present time. Here are the results of his recent careful inquiries summarized: — "The people of Canada consumed in the calendar year of 1882 18,908,611 gallons of intoxicating liquors, at a cost of \$36,769,618. During the fifteen years that have elapsed since confederation Canadians have drunk 206,171,147 gallons, and for it they paid \$473,200,000."

A TEMPERANCE CENTENNIAL. — It is now about a hundred years since the temperance work first began in the United States, and it is proposed to celebrate the event in a proper manner. Recently representatives

of the several national temperance societies and organizations met in Boston, and decided upon the week commencing Sunday, September 20, 1885, as the time for a centennial celebration all over the country; that ministers of all creeds and denominations be requested to preach on that day, and that Monday, the 21st, be set apart specially as the day of the week upon which to hold public demonstrations, and the entire week be known as Centennial Week.

DR. LEES. — One of the most prominent and respected temperance workers in England is Dr. Frederick R. Lees, of Leeds. Researches and writings in regard to the scientific aspect of the temperance question nearly a century ago, did more to arouse the interest of scientific men than probably those of any other man. His contributions to the scripture phase of the temperance question have also been of a very valuable character. Recently Dr. Lees completed fifty years of labor in the temperance cause, and his numerous friends presented him with a beautifully illuminated testimonial. The *Irish League Journal* very properly says of him: — "As an author and temperance speaker, he has no equal, and, as far as we know, is not likely to have a successor."

AN ENORMOUS WASTE. — *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly* is a literary journal, and not given to dabbling in temperance matters, but in a recent issue a sensible editorial appeared considering the drink traffic from a purely financial point of view. Here are some extracts from the article. — "Writing not at all from the point of view of the temperance agitator, but from that of the political economist, it is evident that the annual expenditure for liquor in the United States constitutes a very serious drain on the wealth and resources of the people. The statistics gathered by distillers and brewers, and by officials of the Government, show that in the year ending June 30th, 1884, 79,616,601 gallons of distilled liquor and 18,995,816 barrels of fermented liquor were consumed in the United States. It is estimated that about 5,000,000 gallons of distilled liquor were used for medicinal and mechanical purposes. To the consumer, at ordinary rates, the cost of distilled liquor drunk was \$478,546,246, and of malt liquor \$638,252,798. The drink bill of the American people for a single year was thus no less than \$1,114,799,044. By such extravagance the political economist may well be troubled. So great a tax on resources would easily and soon drive the ordinary nations into bankruptcy. It is only the great wealth and large profits of the people which permit such a waste, without entailing most lamentable financial consequences. The drink bill of England is less than that of the United States, and the expenditure in Germany for liquor is only about one-half what it is in this country. The United States is, in its annual drink bill, wasting more than it can afford to use."

CARDINAL MANNING. — While Archbishop Lynch, of Toronto, is engaged in writing to the press in opposition to the Scott Act, and consequently in favor of the continuance of the legalized drink traffic, a higher and better known dignitary of the Roman Catholic church, Cardinal Manning, of London, is earnestly imploring his people to become total abstainers, and earnestly working for the adoption of a law for England similar in its provisions to our Canada Temperance Act. At a recent public meeting Cardinal Manning spoke as follows: — Only a few hours ago I heard something that made my heart heavy. Men are more sober than they were; the League of the Cross has enrolled thousands, and the men keep their pledges, and become temperate, prosperous, and sober; but women drink more than the men. Drink is increasing among the women and the young women, and when a woman, especially a young woman, drinks, alas for her! Nine times in ten, if a young woman goes wrong, it is when her brain is turned by a little drink — not by drunkenness — she is no longer herself. I implore you to give up and renounce even the taste of that deadly poison which poisons the soul, wrecks and ruins it both in this life and in eternity. The other night the one who told me saw in a public house five or six girls of 17 or 18 years of age, six or seven girls of 14 years of age, and five or six of only 11 years. Is it possible

that any children of God or children of Mary of the age of 18, of 17, of 14, or of even 12 years of age, are beginning this cursed habit of intoxication? These surely are the dead trees in the garden of our Lord. Let us see then what we can do. If there is a young man or young woman here who is in danger, I call upon them never again to touch that poison. There are men and women among you who have never tasted that poison or never taken too much. I call on you, too, temperate people, to set the example and promise never to touch drink again for the sake of those who are dear to you. You may have talked to them in vain, but one thing you have not done — taken the pledge yourselves. If we only preached to you, you might fairly say, "Oh, you bishop or you priests talk fine things in the church, but let us see them exhibited in your lives." Surely it is a very little self denial to do this, and if you have the love of souls in your heart you will give up the use of these things for the sake of many who cannot use their liberty properly. If you will do this and pray for the conversion of those under the habit and in the power of drink, you may not know in this world the effect of what you have done, but you shall know it when you meet in the kingdom of God those to whom you have given the example, and who shall rise up then and bless you.

GOOD TEMPLARS.

R. W. G. L. MERTING. — The Annual Session of the Right Worthy Grand Lodge of Good Templars will be held in the theatre of the Normal School building, commencing Tuesday, 20th inst., at 10 o'clock, and it will probably continue during the week. There will, probably, be about a hundred members present, representing the various Grand Lodges of the order in the Dominion of Canada, the United States, Great Britain, New Zealand and Australia. The Toronto Good Templars propose giving them a reception and an entertainment on Tuesday evening. The members of the order in the city are all expected to attend, and all of the Protestant ministers, the aldermen, and other officials are invited. The Hon. Geo. W. Ross, himself a Good Templar, is expected to preside, and the Hon. Lieut. Governor has kindly consented to be present and extend a welcome on behalf of the Province. Probably this will be the most important representative meeting of temperance workers ever held in Toronto. On Sunday next a number of the leading members are expected to give addresses on temperance in the Park, some of the leading public halls and the principal churches throughout the city. The announcements will be made in full in the daily papers on Saturday.

For the Scott Act.

BY J. B. DENHAM.

While publicans and sinners were eye classed as one of old,
They cannot yet be sundered, if all the truth were told,
For now as then, and then as now, this is our cry:
There is no wab, there is no room for Jesus in the inn.

They pay their licenses and say: they ply a lawful trade,
And legally as others do, they seek to earn their bread,
Regardless of the higher law and lawgiver as well,
Who holds them all responsible for the liquid fire they sell.

They say they only sell to those who come to them to buy,
That neither force nor flattery to gain them do they try,
That if they do not drink provide, they're sure that others will,
But not for these but for themselves, they're here accountable.

They say "see-total" is not found in all God's Holy Word,
That, therefore, total abstinence is impious and absurd,
But can they dare they pray to God to increase and bless their trade,
Ah! no; for this world but increase His curses on their head.

What think they of the run and the wretchedness they cause,
Can they shirk the woeful issues, under shield of human laws,
Or face the day of destiny, as if free from any blame,
And dare the Judge of all earth to roll their spilt lens name?

The wisdom of this world is but foolishness with God,
And all who take no other guide are on the downward road;
The wisdom from above, alone, can lead to whence it came,
While all who lack will read their doom in gleams of quenchless flame.
Dunbarton, Ont.