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Notes of the Week.

Nothing could more clearly show the intense earnestness of the Prohibitionists who assembled last week in convention in the city, than the readiness of men of strong conviction on both sides of politics to sink them out of sight for the purpose of promoting the one great end they are seeking, total prohibition. A most hopeful feature also for the future and further advancement of this great end, was the fact that no one in the convention appeared to suppose that their work was done. It was again and again stated and fully understood that in some important respects it is only just begun, and that the same sleepless vigilance, unresting activity and persistent work of education, which have been kept up for years, will require to be kept up for years yet to come.

The Presbyterian Council of Toronto is a body composed of elders, and ministers who have charges or are resident in Toronto. The whole body when assembled should number somewhere about two hundred. A paper or papers on some previously assigned subject are read and thereafter discussed. Such a body might, one would naturally think, considering the kind of men who compose it, be capable of doing much good work in the city, or be a means of uniting the Presbyterian Churches by some strong and common bond. Unhappily its meetings are rather meagrely attended, and so it fails of doing much that at first sight it would appear capable of doing. At the meeting on the evening of February 5th a very thoughtful paper was read by Mr. Mortimer Clark, on "The Worship of the Presbyterian Church," containing many excellent suggestions which could with profit be brought under the notice of the church at large and which elicited a very interesting discussion in the meeting on the various points referred to by Mr. Clark in his paper.

From time to time the question comes up in the States, what shall be done with the negroes? Deputation to Africa has some times been talked of. The National Emigration Society has been incorporated at Birmingham, Alabama, with a capital stock of \$100,000 to be added to by contributions to be asked throughout the south, and by an appropriation to be sought for from Congress. Removal of six or seven millions of people to an inhospitable climate—or even an appreciable number of them—are enough to stamp the enterprise as utterly impracticable. The negroes themselves, with rare exceptions, do not wish to go to Africa; and the great mass of the white people of the south do not wish them to leave the country, as any one will soon learn if he will go south and let it be known that he wishes to take colored men and women north where they will get higher wages. He will very quickly be told to leave within a specified time, or he will have to take the consequences. The fact is, the south needs the negroes and cannot get along without them. White men from Ireland, Germany, Sweden, and Norway, cannot endure the heat of the climate. The negroes are in the country to stay; and it is for the white people to make them as intelligent, industrious, religious and successful as possible.

It can be said with truth that, Sir Oliver Mowat has earned golden opinions from all Prohibitionists of both political parties, by the frank and cordial manner in which he received the large deputation which waited upon him to ascertain the mind of the Government of Ontario in view of the large majority for Prohibition expressed by the plebiscite, and by the heartiness with which he accepted the decision of the people upon this question. We can say this without being charged with political partiality, for those in the convention who differ politically from the Premier were the most hearty in their expressions of entire satisfaction with the assurances he gave the deputation. Representative men frankly de-

clared that, so far as temperance legislation is concerned, it was their duty now to stand by the men who have stood by their cause, and the country's cause. We see some papers doing their best to show in how many ways Mr. Mowat may make his promises mean little or nothing. These same things were said before and during the plebiscite, and it is now seen that those who said them were mistaken, and we believe it will be very hard indeed to convince any who were on the deputation which met the Government, or who heard their report to the convention, that Sir Oliver did not mean just what he said, all that he said, and that he will not do what he said.

NOTES ON THE TEMPERANCE CONVENTION

CONTRIBUTED.

The Convention was large, representatives most enthusiastic, and never seemed for a moment to lose sight of the object for which it was called. The speeches were short, pointed, pithy and argumentative.

Notwithstanding the fact that certain sections of the Press attempted to create the impression that the leaders of the Convention were animated by bitter personal feelings and that they held widely different views, the results showed that such things existed only in the imagination of the writers. It was the privilege of the writer to be present in committee when the resolutions were drafted, and he must say that he admired the good sense and liberality of those who took part in the discussion. All seemed determined to sink their personal differences and to stand shoulder to shoulder in support of the cause they held so dear.

The Convention was most fortunate in the selection of a chairman. It requires a man of great tact, wise discrimination, ready discernment and strong personality to preside over such a large gathering, but ex-Mayor Fleming filled the bill to the satisfaction of all.

The first speaker, Mr. W. W. Buchanan—a writer who wields a ready and vigorous pen—struck a happy key-note when he said. "A man who would not feel enthusiastic at such a time as this, is not worthy of the name of Prohibitionist."

The same speaker also said, and the statement was loudly applauded: "There is no time to be lost between the time when the victory is gained and the effects of the victory are forced into practical politics." The statement of Mr. Joseph Gibson, of Ingersoll, was equally well received when he declared that Prohibition is going to be the great National Policy in this Dominion.

It is now more manifest than ever that the press more especially the religious press, was a mighty factor in bringing about the recent great victory. Exclusive of newspapers, there were seven million pages of temperance literature sent out by the Executive Committee. It must be remembered, however, that through other channels a vast amount of literature found its way into the hands of the electors.

The deputation which waited upon the Government, acted wisely in selecting Rev. Dr. Potts and Mr. John Cameron, of London, as spokesmen. The one represents one great evangelical church, and the other another. The one represents the clergy, the other the laity. The one is popularly supposed to be on one side in politics, the other is well known to be on the other. The one represents the pulpit, and the other the press. Perhaps the deputation

"bulted wiser than they knew." It was fitting also that the ladies should be represented there, and certainly no better representative could have been found than Mrs. Thornley, of London, President of the Provincial W.C.T.U. Those who had the pleasure of hearing her address to the Government, spoke of it in most eulogistic terms. One gentleman said, "she took the cake."

Two things were made very clear. One was that Prohibitionists have long and earnestly considered how they should meet the Government, and the other was that the Government had been considering just as earnestly how they would meet the Prohibitionists. The first point was made clear by the directness of the addresses and the second by the fact that the Premier, in the name of the Government, read his reply. When the reply of Sir Oliver was read by Mr. Kettlewell at the evening meeting, the enthusiasm of the delegates knew no bounds. By cheers, applause and the waving of handkerchiefs, they manifested their delight. It is to be hoped now that the Government will have as good reason to be satisfied with the Prohibitionists as the Prohibitionists have with the Government.

The Presbyterian Church occupied no mean position in the Convention. Many of the delegates were honored elders in the church. The ministers, as was to be expected, were present in large numbers. Rev. W. S. McTavish, B.D., of St. Georges, opened one of the committee meetings with prayer; Rev. J. S. Hardie, President of Waterloo County Association, offered prayer at the opening of the morning session of the Convention, Dr. McLaughlin, ex-M.P.P., made some capital suggestions at the same sederunt; as did also the Rev. E. R. Hutt, of Ingersoll; a masterly address was delivered by Hon. G. W. Ross at the evening meeting; Mr. John Cameron's practical experience was almost indispensable in committee, in the Convention and on the deputation; Rev. Mr. Frizzell, as an old campaigner, showed to good advantage in committee, while that great champion of Prohibition, Rev. Dr. MacKay, of Woodstock, twice roused the delegates to the highest pitch of enthusiasm by his stirring, aggressive addresses.

The evening meeting was a beautiful exemplification of the truth that it is pleasant to see brethren dwell together in unity. All shades of politics were represented as were also all religious denominations, including the Roman Catholic and Salvation Army. It was well, too, that all the speakers so persistently reminded the audience that the work of reform was just begun. The resolutions were all good and practical, but the passing of resolutions amid cheers and applause, is one thing, the putting of them into practical effect is another thing. These points all the speakers emphasized. If they are acted upon by the delegates in the time to come, the Convention has made history, if not, no practical results will be seen after the enthusiasm has evaporated.

Mrs. Thornley threw a flood of light on the objection that women do not vote when they have an opportunity of doing so. Taking the city of London as an illustration, she said there were the names of 1,141 women on the list. Of these 282 had no vote there, 85 were helpless or too old to go out, 42 were dead, leaving only 732 who could vote. 419 cast their ballots. Throughout the country while men voted 2 to 1 in favor of Prohibition, the women voted 6 to 1 in its favor.

It would, perhaps, be invidious to compare the work of one temperance publication with another when all have done and are doing so well. Too much credit, however, cannot be given to *The Templar*, of which Mr. W. W. Buchanan, of Hamilton, is editor. *The Templar* is always in the very front rank and its pithy notes and comments always contain food for reflection.