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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE Sons of Temperance, Ontario Grand Division, held their thirty fifth annual meeting in the city hall, Ottawa, last week. The report for the past year showed that the cause in which they are engaged has made remarkable progress. The rapid development of the Church of England Temperance Society is referred to as one of the encouraging indications of the hold the temperance cause has obtained over the public mind. The result of the Scott Act in Halton is also referred to as being most satisfactory. Mr. David Millar, of Toronto, Grand Treasurer of the Order, presented his report which showed that its affairs were on a sound financial basis.

A MOVEMENT is being made for the purpose of permitting drinking saloons to keep open till eleven o'clock on Saturday nights. Outside the liquor trade, this is a desire that will meet with no sympathy. The attempt has never yet been made to show that people have suffered hardship by the early closing of saloons, etc., on Saturday evening. Instead of relaxing in this direction, a growing number of people are strongly of opinion that the community would be still more benefited by closing at seven o'clock on every other evening of the week. The prayer of the petition is not likely to be granted. The people of Ontario are inclined to go forward, not backward, in temperance legislation.

DESTRUCTIVE fires occurred in rapid succession last week. Erskine Church was consumed, the bare walls only remaining. The following night a foundry in Toronto fell a prey to the flames. On Tuesday morning the Commercial Hotel and several public and other buildings in Cornwall were badly injured. On the same morning a disastrous fire occurred in Montreal. The large building erected by the St. Lawrence Sugar Refining Company was consumed. It is fortunate that in connection with these fires no lives have been lost, though great risks were run by inmates of the Cornwall hotel and the night workmen in the sugar refinery. The office of the *Hamilton Spectator* was also destroyed by fire, and Berkley Street Methodist Church, Toronto, suffered considerable damage.

AT the session of the Sons of Temperance in Ottawa last week, it was resolved that the executive call a convention of all friends in churches, temperance societies and elsewhere, to consider the whole question of temperance effort and ascertain whether the time has not come to press for total prohibition. At a subsequent meeting, the following resolution was adopted.—This Grand Division desires to affirm the opinion that in any vote of the electors provided for under liquor legislation it should not be required that more than a majority of the votes cast should be necessary to prohibit the sale or manufacture of intoxicating beverages. This Grand Division also asserts that we disapprove of any compromise with the liquor traffic by which the sale of liquor on the Sabbath day or any of its hours should be permitted.

SUDDEN death has happened to Mr. Alpheus C. Todd, Librarian of the Dominion parliamentary library. He was in his usual health to all appearance at the opening of the session. On Friday morning he became helpless from the bursting of a blood vessel in the brain. He died on the morning of the 21st inst. Mr. Todd was not only an excellent librarian, managing the greatest library the country possesses with care and efficiency, he was also a man of great attainments. He was looked up to as the most competent authority on constitutional questions, on which he has written several works that met with great acceptance. He was a man of most refined feeling and singularly modest demeanour. In 1881 Queen's University, Kingston, worthily conferred on him the honorary degree of LL.D.

THE Tonquin difficulty remains unsettled. Energetic diplomatic talk has been indulged in between France and China, but as yet, has contributed nothing

to the adjustment of the serious differences that have brought both nations to the verge of a great war. A declaration was attributed to the Marquis Tseng that an attack by the French on Bac Ninh would be regarded by China as a declaration of war. Whether as a result of the firm attitude of the Chinese ambassador or not, instructions have been sent to Admiral Courbet that he is not to attack Bac Ninh till he receives further orders. The excited war feeling in China is also said to be subsiding, and at present it does not seem improbable that the ominous war clouds hovering over the flowery kingdom may roll away and the peaceful relations between the east and west be restored.

THE congregation at Miles Platting, England, has not for a long time enjoyed the blessing of peace. The ritualistic war has been waged there for years. A former incumbent of pronounced ritualistic proclivities carried his zeal for histrionic services so far that he was imprisoned for contempt of court, though he hugged the happy delusion that it was for conscience' sake. The High Church party wanted as his successor an adherent of the same school. The evangelicals were equally determined in their opposition. A local magnate instituted legal proceedings to compel the Bishop of Manchester to induct the ritualistic candidate. And now the decision of the court is in the Bishop's favour. To many this will be gratifying, to others it will be saddening. A sacerdotal order arrayed in the cast off clothes of mediæval days is to some worth fighting for, if not dying for.

THE *Congregationalist* refers in this way to what is becoming a growing evil: The decline of commercial integrity, which so often is lamented in these days, finds melancholy illustration in the report of the chief of the special agents of the Treasury Department to Secretary Folger about frauds on the revenue through the undervaluation of goods by importers. The connivance of foreign dealers is involved, and on a large scale. United States consuls in England, Switzerland, Austria and Italy and other countries report the same scandalous practices, and declare that it is most difficult to break them up. All sorts of goods seem to be involved. This suggests the need of increased righteousness of character and intercourse in business. No revival at the present time would so change the face of society as one that would bring all men to the point of honest dealing.

A MAN whose name is known throughout the world has died at an advanced age, leaving a large fortune. Holloway, of pill and ointment fame, had reached the ripe old age of eighty-four, at the time of his death a few weeks ago. His great success in business is ascribed to extensive and judicious advertising. It is reported that latterly his advertising cost about \$200,000 a year. The famous pill vendor leaves behind a fortune estimated at \$25,000,000. He was a charitable and benevolent man. He built and maintained at his own expense a college for women, and a sanitarium for the insane. On these two institutions Mr. Holloway had expended large sums, and was in the habit of giving liberally for benevolent objects. Whether his pills were specially beneficial to mankind we cannot say; but at all events his benefactions will cause his name to be kindly remembered.

THE traditional boast of the Americans, that the condition of their working population was, from the nature of their political institutions, greatly superior to what it could possibly be under the effete monarchies of Europe, can no longer be made. Without undervaluing free institutions, it is permissible to say that Republicanism is no guarantee for the amelioration of the toiling masses. The greed of gain that grinds the faces of the poor is equally ready to show itself under any form of government. At the present moment, there is much distress among the operatives of republican France. Years ago, our American neighbours were keenly moved by Mrs. Browning's "Cry of the Factory Children," and the passionate lyrics of

Gerald Massy. These days are past. Oppressive child labour in American factories is now felt to be an evil, for which legislative restriction is required. The labour council at Albany recommend that children under fourteen years of age be no longer employed in establishments where raw material is manufactured. Wherever they are employed, the time to be restricted to ten hours a day, and that those between the years fourteen and sixteen be enabled to attend school for a definite term each year.

THE *Guardian* published in Truro, Nova Scotia, speaks out very plainly on a state of things by no means confined to the eastern Provinces. The remarks of the *Guardian* might apply to other communities besides Truro. Here are some of them: Do some fathers and mothers in Truro know where and how their boys spend their evenings? Do some wives and children, who are often scrimped for the necessities of life, know where their husbands and fathers spend their earnings? Perhaps, if they took a tramp along some of the streets of Truro, between ten o'clock p.m. and one o'clock a.m., any night in the week, they would make discoveries which would startle them. What business had thirty to thirty-five young men—some of them married men, in some of the places called saloons, after midnight on Saturday night last? Were they preparing to "remember the Sabbath day?" Not very likely. Playing billiards, cards, and other games of the kind, drinking beer, porter, ale, and "frozen whiskey," etc., and using up the vocabulary of slang and profanity in their choice conversation, are not generally supposed to be fitting preparations for the hallowed rest and occupations of the Lord's day. . . . Do the Christian people of Truro mean what they profess when they allow such things to go on without raising even a feeble protest? What a record these things are for a professedly Christian community, with its seven churches, Sabbath schools, Y.M.C.A., and temperance organizations! We are informed on good authority that a clerk lost eight dollars "at play" in a saloon on Inglis street, a few evenings ago. That young man don't earn eight dollars a month over his legitimate board and washing expenses. Where does the money come from?

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—The weather during the past week has been severe, and in some cases rapid changes of temperature have taken place. It has been in every way a typical winter week. In several cases extremely low temperatures have been reached. It will be plain that the extreme cold, in some cases with rapid changes, are the principal influences which were at work during the week. Though Bronchitis has not increased, but rather lessened in comparative prevalence, influenza maintains that high prevalence which it had reached during several weeks past, and closely associated with it is Neuralgia, which has advanced under circumstances so favourable as those above indicated. Rheumatism likewise has become more prevalent. Pneumonia and Pleurisy have not altered materially their previous positions. Amongst Fevers, Intermittent has shown some advance, while Enteric still is present, though in small amount. It cannot be said that Zymotic diseases show any great prevalence, except in the case of Whooping Cough, referred to last week as being very prevalent in the Lake Erie District. It has somewhat decreased but is still prevalent. Mumps is present in small amounts, but Measles and Scarlatina do not appear in the twenty prevalent diseases. Diphtheria appears still prevalent in various localities, but its percentage of total prevalence has decreased at least for a time. Regarding the total prevalence of disease it may be stated that while the reports for the week are not up to the average in number, yet those reports received show that the general character which the month of January has obtained for general healthfulness is being maintained. This general character is increased from the fact of the unusual absence of Zymotic diseases, which so commonly are present to produce a large addition to the general sickness always more or less existent.