

establishment of county or district work houses, in order that the county's poor and the county's criminals shall not be treated alike. There are only ten such refuges yet in existence, but a number of others are projected. Mrs. Brownell's report will give us information on this point.

The reason for reference to the Department is that I may make the following suggestion: That we endorse, by resolution, the proposition of the Prisoners' Aid Association to ask the Government to establish one or more inebriate asylums for the care of habitual drunkards; and further, that if there be any method, that shall not too much divert us from our first aim, the preventing of the *manufacture* of inebriates, we co-operate with them in endeavoring to secure this much-needed disposition of the dangerous wreckage of "the trade." Had we no interest in the miserable victims the happiness and safety of their unfortunate relatives should prompt us to this course.

POLITICAL.

The worker who is discouraged these days must be in need of a course of medical or spiritual treatment. To be sure the political sky is full of squalls, but what care we for that! The clouds are broken; between the lowering edges of even the blackest of them the blessed blue sky is peeping, with its promise of a glad to-morrow.

Do you remember how, as children, we watched, with eager eyes, the little blue patches grow larger till there was "enough to make an apron?"—then we were sure the sun was coming. Sisters, there is enough of God's heaven in this hour to justify every trusting heart in taking up the prophetic words of Isaiah before the destruction of Babylon: "The Lord of Hosts mustereth the host of the battle."

But let us examine the clouds.

Since the people's voice peeled out through the plebiscite, and for ever settled the question of which side held the immense majority of the voters, we have witnessed outbreaks of indefensible pandering to liquor interests on the part of local and government officials, such as have shocked the Christian public and kept the political apologist tongue in lively operation. In general terms, one may say that the enforcement of the restrictive and prohibitive provisions of the license law has been relaxed. Sunday and after-hour selling has taken a fresh lease of life, and officials sworn to prevent such violations have winked at them, as their public registry of convictions loudly proclaims.

Through letters received, and by personal contact with workers, I am kept in touch with the work of the province, and I think I can safely say that, without a single exception, to the enquiry "do the bars in your section observe the law?" *the reply has been in the negative*. Is not this a shameful condition of affairs? Oh! but you say, "this has been the habit of the trade; rebellion against every form of control is inbred in the very fibre of their being. It is nothing new, only an awakened Christian public is viewing the situation with open eyes." This is part of the truth, but not all. The picture has a darker shading. The triumph of the temperance people has aroused a resistance that bids fair to work its own ruin.

It must be remembered that, in the main, official positions, whether local or provincial, that in any way touch the control of the liquor business, are in the hands of liquor sympathizers or temperance (?) men whose gelatinous backbones may be depended on to bend before the behests of "the trade."