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The Temperance Worker

PUBLISHERS' NOTES.

Will our readers who can do so unhesitatingly—and we hope most of them can—kindly talk this paper up among friends and acquaintances who have not had an opportunity of knowing its merits? No other newspaper containing such a variety of matter can be got for the price, and it keeps its readers posted upon the principal events of current history, from one end of the year to the other.

As an organ of temperance workers of all societies in Canada we hope the *Messenger and Worker* will before long be universally accepted and its utility acknowledged.

Price, fifty cents a year; ten copies, four dollars.

The editor would be glad to answer questions of general interest in the columns of this paper.

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DOMINION ALLIANCE PICNIC.

To combine a day's enjoyment in the pure country air with a grand temperance rally was a good idea, as events have proved, and the example set by the Quebec Branch of the Dominion Alliance in this respect is worthy of being generally followed—not only by Provincial and county branches of the same organization, but by every temperance society. The third annual picnic of the Quebec Branch was held at Cowansville in the Eastern Townships on Friday of last week, and its most sanguine promoters could not have desired a more successful issue. Fuller's Grove, a beautiful maple wood about a mile from the village, was the spot selected for the occasion. There were present from two to four thousand people. Among the notable men who took part in the proceedings, besides members of the Alliance, were Sir A. T. Galt, late Canadian High Commissioner to England, Mr. John Dougall, of New York, who was a pioneer in the temperance movement in Montreal, the Hon. Mr. Lynch, Provincial Attorney General, Messrs. Fisher and Auger, members of the Dominion Parliament, and many clergymen.

Sir A. T. Galt was called to the chair, in assuming which he delivered an address that proved to be one of the most notable speeches of the day. After congratulating the assemblage upon the very favorable circumstances attending the gathering, he confessed to hesitancy in accepting the position because there were others whose services in the cause of temperance more entitled them to the distinction. He had, however, consented to take the offered honor with a view to identifying himself with a cause that already had his prayers for its success. Moreover, old recollections of the Eastern Townships had influenced him in desiring to be present and assist in the meeting. Having referred with approval to the recent Dominion liquor legislation and to the efforts for local option legislation being made in England, the distinguished gentleman referred to his presidency of a

meeting of the Alliance in Sherbrooke some years ago, saying he then felt some inconsistency in his position on account of not having identified himself with the cause. "But," he concluded, "I am not going to keep that inconsistent position, and from this time forward I hope to be able to abstain from the use of the hurtful beverages which it is the object of this Alliance of temperance societies to discourage and prohibit." This announcement was received, it is needless to remark, with enthusiastic expressions of gratification.

The Rev. Mr. Willett, of Cowansville, in an address of welcome on behalf of the local branch of the Alliance, spoke encouragingly of the prospects of having the counties of Missisquoi, Brome and Stanstead shortly placed under the operation of restrictive liquor laws. The Rev. Mr. Harris also gave the visitors a hearty welcome, and Mr. John Gough, after an appreciative reference to the presence of Sir A. T. Galt and the Hon. Mr. Lynch, read an address of welcome by the Missisquoi County Temperance Alliance.

Mr. J. Redpath Dougall, of Montreal, responded, in his remarks urging upon the young men the duty of enlisting in the service of the great reform, as the brunt of the battle seemed to be borne by men of an advanced age. He regretted the absence of the venerable President of the Provincial Branch, Mr. T. S. Brown; also of the Secretary, the Rev. Thomas Gales, who, having worn himself out in the work, was prevented by weak health from attending, and also the enforced absence of the veteran Colonel Dyde, that magnificent specimen of an abstinence at the age of ninety years. In discussing the aims of the Alliance, he reminded the audience that if they wanted prohibition it was requisite that they should show their sincerity by using the laws they already had got.

Recess for lunch, which was very happily spent, having passed, the chairman announced the inability of the Hon. Neal Dow, of Maine, to be present as expected, on account of being engaged in the temperance campaign in Ohio.

Mr. John Dougall, of New York, was then introduced as one than whom none had done more for the temperance cause in Canada. Mr. Dougall was enthusiastically received, and gave a succinct history of the temperance movement in Canada from the establishment of the first temperance society, fifty years ago, in the old St. Peter's Church, Montreal, by the Rev. Mr. Christmas. The change wrought from those days of stage coach travelling, when the coach stopped at every tavern for the passengers to drink and to treat the driver, was inconceivable. He urged upon the young men to espouse the cause for the sake of themselves and their fellow-beings. One of the most important facts in the history of the cause in Canada was that every meeting of the Montreal Temperance Society was opened and closed with prayer, and it had existed longer than any other society known to him.

The Rev. J. W. Manning, of Almonte, Ontario, followed with a very powerful and

racy speech, that recalled to some his vigorous eloquence when addressing them twenty years ago. Having been asked to speak of the temperance progress of twenty years, he essayed to put it in a nutshell by saying that when introduced by Mr. (now the Hon.) J. G. Robertson to the present chairman twenty years ago, Mr. Galt—not then Sir Alexander—gave him five dollars for the funds of the United Canadian Alliance, but to-day he had given himself to the temperance cause. Mr. Manning also related an anecdote of the late Hon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee, to the effect that when a delegation, of which the speaker was one, had called upon him in Quebec, in behalf of the Dunkin Act, that distinguished gentleman said:—"Well, gentlemen, I am with you heart and soul, and my vote shall be given for such a law; for," here fixing his eyes earnestly upon the deputation, "God knows I want the temptation out of the way."

Mr. S. J. Fisher, M. P. for the county of Brome, spoke of that constituency as an old temperance one, that had for its representative the late Mr. Dunkin, whose name would long be honored in this country in connection with temperance legislation. He reminded his hearers that Parliament would not give temperance legislation in advance of the demand of the people. Electors had a right to complain of the failure to enact prohibitory laws only when representatives chosen under pledges to promote such legislation did not do so. By the temperance sentiment that he was agreeably surprised to find so strong in the last session of Parliament, he was encouraged to believe that we might look in the not distant future for an absolute prohibitory law. That could only come, however, after the people were educated up to the point of enforcing it, as the essential element of success in all temperance legislation was that the people should be in sympathy with it and lend their aid in its enforcement.

Mr. Michael Auger, M.P. for Stefford, while apologizing for lack of facility in speaking English, as a life-long temperance man was always willing to assist the cause. He spoke effectively of two of the worst enemies to temperance, namely, the moderate drinker and the temperance man who was afraid of hurting his business interests by opposing the traffic. Temperance people should take action like men against all breaches of the law by liquor sellers, and the speaker urged upon the Townships people to do their duty as citizens and lose no time in treading down the liquor traffic in the midst of them.

Mr. James Baylis, of Montreal, representing the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, spoke of the progress that society had made and was striving after, and of the good work its members in Montreal, including Lady Galt, were accomplishing.

Mr. Gough, Chairman of the Missisquoi Alliance, urged the electors to choose for legislative and municipal representatives men who identified themselves with the Alliance, and said he would be satisfied with nothing short of national prohibition, as nothing else would meet the evil. He

moved that the Rev. Mr. McCaul take the chair, and that the thanks of the meeting be presented to Sir Alexander T. Galt for honoring it by his presence and so ably presiding over its proceedings.

The Hon. Mr. Lynch, in seconding the motion, said he came as a public man to ascertain what progress the temperance movement was making. He trusted that at the next similar gathering of the Alliance he might be able to make an announcement such as their distinguished chairman had made that day. His scorn for insincere professions prevented him from hastily taking such a stand. Speaking of the high estimation in which Sir A. T. Galt was deservedly held by the people of the Eastern Townships, he said that gentleman's avowal of entire adhesion to the temperance cause would do more for that cause than hundreds of discourses, and if they were proud of him before they were doubly so now.

The vote of thanks having been passed by three rousing cheers, after eloquent support by Mr. McCaul, Sir Alexander responded in felicitous terms, concluding by reminding the people that they must show themselves worthy of improved laws by making good use of the ones they had.

The Rev. Mr. McCaul, having learned from Mr. Gales by letter that his health was most precarious, invoked the prayers of Christian temperance men that his health might be restored, and, afterward, a resolution of sympathy with the faithful Secretary of the Quebec Branch, moved by Mr. Manning, and seconded by Mr. W. H. Lynch, was passed. Votes of thanks to the local committee and the ladies were also passed, and the day's proceedings were closed by singing the Doxology.

IT IS GRATIFYING to observe the French press of the Province of Quebec arousing to the awful havoc intemperance is making within its view. Lately *L'Evenement*, of Quebec city, contained remarks to the following effect, which apply only too accurately to the whole Dominion.—"The number of accidental deaths in Quebec within the past six months has been fearful. Drunkenness has played a large part in this sad harvest. We are really afraid to maintain a guilty silence in not stigmatizing in a striking manner each death caused by drink. Family chagrins and the grief of friends arrest our pen. We are wrong perhaps to have so often called to these considerations, for the scourge of intemperance augments in alarming proportions. There must certainly be a remedy to the evil. Christian preaching evidently no longer suffices and the secular arm must be placed at the service of religion and of morality. It cannot be denied that our country is overrun by drunkenness."

SOPHIA HOLZEL'S BODY was found partially devoured by rats in a hovel in Milwaukee. Her husband was sleeping the swinish sleep of the drunken, and two starving children were also in the apartment. It is supposed the woman died of starvation.