

Reference is made to the work done by the press, and the sacrifice that some journals have made in refusing the bribes of the Anti-Scott Act party. It is matter for congratulation that the moral tone of our Canadian journalism is so high, and that attempts to corrupt our press have in many cases so signally failed. We are thankful for the kindly mention of THE CANADA CITIZEN, and trust that our paper will always merit such approval.

The report of the Grand Scribe shows active work done that has resulted in large accessions to the membership of the Order. It estimates this increase at about one thousand members.

Allusion is made to the advantages of District Divisions, the formation of which seems to be much neglected. In places where these organizations have been tried they have been very successful in providing a most efficient agency for the extension of the Order and cause. The District Division ought to be a missionary committee of the subordinate organizations, looking after the necessities of a large section of country, visiting and strengthening weak divisions, and finding out and occupying every locality where a new centre of work could be established.

It is matter of regret that the special juvenile work of the Order is not being pushed forward. It is our work with the rising generation that has the most useful and permanent character, and we earnestly hope that it will not be allowed to die out among the Sons of Temperance.

One of the most encouraging features of the Grand Treasurer's report is that, while it shows the finances of the Order in a healthy condition, it exhibits no accumulating surplus. The Grand Division is very prosperous financially, and is wisely spending its funds in good and judicious temperance work. Specially must we notice the liberal support that was given to our workers in the Halton contest. We commend to all members of the Order very liberal and prompt payments to a fund that is used with so much benefit to our cause as this is.

The members of the new Executive are gentlemen of energy and ability, and we look to them for a vigorous carrying on of the policy inaugurated by their worthy predecessor. Bro. Manning is a P. G. W. P. of great experience, ability and zeal. Bro. Stewart is a well known and earnest worker; they will co-operate in pushing on what has been so well begun. Bros. McMillan and Webster retire from their positions with a record reflecting upon them the highest credit, and they well merit the warm thanks that they received. We heartily congratulate the Grand Division upon its past, its present, and its prospects.

HON. J. B. FINCH IN TORONTO.

A Crowded House—A Masterly Oration.

A lecture on temperance was delivered by the Hon. J. B. Finch, of Nebraska, in St. Andrew's Hall, Toronto, on Friday evening last, under the auspices of the Temperance Reformation Society. Mr. F. S. Spence occupied the chair. On the platform were a large number of the most prominent temperance workers in the city; among whom were noticed, Rev. John Smith, Rev. Mr. Macdonald, Messrs. Farley, French, Fleming, Thomson, Wilkinson, Casey, Munns, and Rev. Mr. Halsted from the North-West.

Mr. SPENCE, in introducing the lecturer, remarked that Mr. Finch had been recently leading a movement somewhat different from what we have been engaged in. He had held the position of Chairman of the Executive Committee managing the details of the recent Prohibition campaign for the Presidency of the United States. In this country of ours our friends were numerous in both of the great political parties; but still we wanted to show them that temperance sentiment was growing to such an extent, that any opposition displayed towards that sentiment by any party or Parliament would result in their complete overthrow. (Applause.) Some people had been doing a good deal to stir up a feeling of national jealousy against Mr. Finch because he was an American. Such paltry attempts had met with

the contempt they deserved. This was an international question. He with other Canadians had spoken on American platforms and had always been most kindly received. Mr. Finch held the position of Right Worth Brother Templar, the head of that great international and almost universal Order, the Good Templars, and as such, had a perfect right to address people on this side of the line.

Mr. FINCH, on coming forward, was greeted in a most enthusiastic manner. He said that in accepting the invitation some months since to visit this province and talk with this people, he did it with the greatest pleasure, not because of his own merits, but for the pleasure it afforded him to lead an organization that has no more loyal members in the States than it has in these Canadas. Differences may exist between the Eastern States and the Dominion Provinces, but away in the Western States there were no such feelings. Some of the grandest men and women in his State were born in Canada, and though they loved the State in which they live, he was half inclined to believe they loved their native land still more. These people still kept up relations with this country, took Canadian papers, and when any great victory was won for the temperance cause, they rejoiced in it as heartily as the Canadians themselves; and it gave them an additional impetus in defeating the American liquor men when the contests came on there. The doctrines that he now teaches are those which he learned in the lodges to which he had belonged to. This great temperance agitation which is stirring the whole world was not solely the work of temperance men, but was brought on by the very outrages of the liquor traffic itself. You might take every temperance man and woman and sweep them off the face of the earth, and the very character of the liquor trade would force into existence another lot of men and women to take their place. Nothing could more clearly prove the evil effects of the traffic than the determined opposition arrayed against it. Why has not the dry goods, the butcher's, the baker's trade generated an opposition? The nature, the character and the results of the liquor trade are the causes of the temperance movement to-day. You will never stop that movement as long as women's hearts are breaking, children starving, and men being driven to their graves. Did you ever hear of a man in Toronto going home and kicking his wife out of doors into the snow whilst under the influence of a beefsteak? Did you ever see a man stab another man to death whilst under the influence of bread and milk? (Laughter.)

Some people say that the drinkers are the only parties who are injured. He denied it. He instanced the case of a respected merchant in a western city going home at night from his office, passing by a grog-shop at the same time that some wretches maddened by drink were being hurled from the door. One of these men had a knife in his hand, and instead of attacking the individual who had kicked him out, he turned on the inoffensive passer-by and buried his knife to the hilt in his heart. That man was going home quietly to his wife and children,—a man who did not use liquor, but was its deadliest enemy. He was carried home cold and dead,—his death being the indirect result of the liquor he abhorred. Another case was that of a prominent citizen in St. Louis, who was going to the depot to meet his wife and daughter, who were coming home from a visit. On his way down, a man dashed rapidly by him. He turned round and asked him "What's your hurry?" The man replied, "I am going up for the Superintendent. There has been a wreck 40 miles from here on the other side of the river." "What train?" he questioned. "The Cincinnati express." He dashed down to the depot, and offered the officials large sums for a train to convey him to the spot. They replied that the wrecking train had just gone, and that no other was at their disposal. Three hours elapsed before news from that wreck, and then the train arrived with the mangled remains of his wife, and his child in such a condition as to cripple her for life, all because of a drunken engineer, who, in his delirium, had run his engine on the same track.

Will the liquor dealers, after ruining a man, and driving him to commit a murderous deed, pay for the coroner, jury, expenses of burying the murdered man and the executed murderer, support their wives and children, and pay for the education of the latter? If this was the case, not a liquor seller would be left in Canada. In some of the large cities of the Union, they had a police force, almost amounting in strength to a standing army. He had interviewed police captains and inspectors and they had expressed an unanimous opinion that the forces could be reduced three-fourths by closing the grog-shops. The fact was incontestable that a groggery could not run without police supervision. Has it been necessary to increase the police force of this city because Mr. Moody has drawn thousands of people from the country to hear his lectures? What sort of a force would be required if all these people were to go drinking in the grog-shops all day, and then set loose on the streets at seven o'clock at night?

The Dominion and Provincial Governments were forced to recognize that the liquor traffic was a most dangerous business, and that something was necessary to be done to fetter it. The character of the Government depended a great deal on the character of its ruler or governor. If the ruler is vicious and immoral, the country will be the same. In this country, the voter was, by right of the ballot, that ruler, and anything that debased that ruler has its effects both on the government and the morality and happiness of the country. At the present day the nation's safe-guard was the intelligence of the people.