

Temperance Department.

SCOTT ACT NOTES.

LEEDS COUNTY.—The Leeds County Scott Act Association are taking practical steps in regard to the coming campaign. It is proposed to raise a campaign fund of three thousand dollars in Leeds and Grenville, and the sums required of each municipality have been apportioned.

LENNOX COUNTY.—The Napanee Beaver says:—The "Scott Act" agitation is constantly gaining ground. The government has been asked to fix a day for polling in Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. The movement will spread gradually westward. The temperance party in Lennox and Adirondack are industriously working up the petitions asking for the submission of the Act, and polling may be expected some time next fall.

ENCOURAGING SUCCESS.—At the recent Brampton meeting Mr. Spence gave the following significant facts in regard to Scott Act progress:—The Act has been submitted to the electors of forty counties and cities, in thirty-three of which it has been adopted. The total vote in the forty contests gave a majority of 22,159 in favor of the Act. So far it had never been repealed in any city or county where it had gone into force.

WENTWORTH CO.—The temperance men of Wentworth County are at work again. Nearly three years ago a vote was taken in that county for the adoption of the Act, and the temperance men were defeated. Now they are resolving to try it again, being convinced that there has been considerable growth in public opinion since that time. The fact that the Act is in successful operation in the adjoining County of Halton is doing much to help the new movement.

WELLINGTON CO.—At Guelph, on the 17th inst at a meeting of the Women's Christian Temperance Union the question of submitting the Scott Act this year was taken up and discussed at length, and the feeling expressed by the meeting was that while it might not be advisable to bring matters to an issue so soon, all the energies of the Union should be directed to preparing the way for the Act, by means of lectures, distribution of "War Notes," and other temperance literature.

GLENGARY COUNTY.—The temperance men of Glengarry County have been at work getting ready for the adoption of the Scott Act. Last week the necessary petition signed by over twenty-five per cent of the electors, was presented at Ottawa by Rev. Mr. McGillivray of Williamstown and others, and the next step will be to issue the official proclamation, ordering the vote. The counties of Dundas and Stormont are united with Glengarry for municipal and judicial purposes and the vote must be taken in all at the one time.

The Anti party are evidently hard at work. The two men, E. King Dodds, of Toronto, and J. T. Bell, of Dundas, employed by the Licensed Victuallers Association, have been at work in the county. They recently addressed large meetings at Cornwall and Morrisburgh in opposition to the Act. There was no opposition at these meetings. The custom of Mr. Dodds is always to insist on the last speech at any such meeting and his opponents complain so much of his unfairness in connection with this cause as to refuse to meet him on such terms.

PORT PERRY.—An influential meeting was held here on Friday afternoon, at which delegates from various parts of the country were present. Rev. Geo. J. Bishop, of Uxbridge, was appointed Chairman, and Mr. N. F. Paterson, Q. C., Secretary. Several stirring speeches were made, and a Central Committee appointed with headquarters at Port Perry, to continue the campaign throughout the county. Local organizations are being formed through which the Central Committee will act. It is expected that active

canvassing and the holding of meetings will begin in about ten days.

THE MOVEMENT GENERAL.—The Presbyterian of last week says:—Active steps are being taken for the early submission of the Scott Act to the electors in various counties. In Northumberland, West Durham, Ontario, York, Brant, Middlesex, Elgin, St. Thomas, Lambton and Kent, the question is being discussed with much keenness. In several of these constituencies, there is no doubt that the Act will be adopted. In other, the contest will be carried on with the utmost determination on both sides. The liquor interest is being thoroughly organized, large sums of money have been subscribed for carrying on the war, and speakers have been engaged to oppose the Act. It is obviously the duty of all in favor of temperance to perfect their organizations in every district to work unitedly and energetically in favour of this prohibitory measure. Steady and persistent effort will secure victory all along the line.

PERTH COUNTY.—A large County Convention of the representative temperance men of Perth took place at Stratford on Wednesday of last week. There were about 160 delegates present representing every municipality in the county. J. H. Flagg Esq., of Mitchell, G. W. C. T. of the Good Templars, presided. After considerable speech making and considering the whole question a resolution was adopted to take steps at once to have the Scott Act submitted for adoption by the electors of the county. It was resolved to raise a fund of \$1,655 to carry on the campaign, the required amount to be appropriated among the several municipalities. A County Association was formed for the purpose of carrying on the campaign and the following officers were elected:—President, J. H. Flagg Esq., Mitchell; Secretary, Rev. Mr. Tulley, Mitchell; Treasurer, Walter Thompson, Mitchell. Vice-Presidents were chosen from each municipality. The petitions will be put in circulation at once and another convention will be held about the first of July when the result of the canvass will be made known and future steps will be decided upon.

DRINKS DOINGS

A BRUTAL ASSAULT.—On Sunday last a young Toronto man, Thomas Downs, got drunk and while in that state brutally kicked and injured his mother, an old woman, at her own home. He was arrested and imprisoned.

BIGAMY AND DRINK.—A man named Dugald McKenzie pleaded guilty to a charge of bigamy at the Police Court on Wednesday last week. It was explained that while intoxicated, and not realizing what he was doing, he became illegally married to a prostitute here. The Magistrate took a lenient view of the case and sentenced him to thirty days imprisonment.

NEARLY A SUICIDE.—William Christie, a middle aged Englishman, residing in Toronto, had been drinking heavily for some days and in consequence was requested to leave his boarding house. He went to his room and was found hanging there a short time after just in time to save his life. He was cut down when black in the face and insensible. He was taken to the hospital and restored with great difficulty.

ANOTHER OUTRAGE.—On Saturday last an old woman, Sarah Sloper, was found lying insensible at the foot of the stairs of a house on Richmond street of this city. Her head was badly cut and there was a pool of blood on the floor beside her. She was taken to the hospital and cared for. Her complaint was that a man named Richard Broderick attempted an outrage and then struck her violently knocking her down stairs. The Mail reports: "It is said that all the occupants of the house were under the influence of liquor when the affair occurred." That accounts for it all.

WIT AND WHISKY.—A man named John Maher, described by the Mail as being "always dry himself," was up at the Police Court last week for drunkenness, one day after he had served six months in the Central Prison as a penalty for former drunken acts. The Mail says that "for many years he has been an inmate of the gaol, with brief intervals for rest and refreshment," all through drink. He begged hard for a few days liberty, any way, and got it, but it is quite possible he will soon be up again. The old temptations are around him and his powers of resistance appear to have become too feeble, by former habits, to stand.

BURNED TO DEATH.—One of the most terrible warnings of the dangers of drink to those who do drink, and to others who do not, took place at Sharbot Lake, north of Kingston, on the 19th inst. An old man, George Peters, a resident of that place, got drunk and went home, where, in a quarrel with some members of the family, he threw an oil lamp down stairs, and a blaze took place at once. His son tried to extinguish the fire by throwing on a pail of water, which only made matters worse. In a few minutes the small frame house was all in flames. George Peters, a grown up daughter, and a Miss Bridgen, all perished in the flames, only portions of their bodies being afterward found. Another grown up daughter was so badly burned that if she lives she will probably be maimed for life. Other occupants of the house made narrow escapes. The son states that through the flames he could hear the drunken old man cursing his luck in his last moments. During the last two or three years there have been a number of drunken men killed or maimed for life in the vicinity of Sharbot Lake, and one murder in which drink had a prominent part. Still the Provincial authorities continue to license the business bringing about so much evil.

NEWS AND NOTES.

THE DIFFERENCE.—There is wisdom in the remark of a contemporary that while all other temperance effort is directed toward stopping the stream, prohibition proposes to dry up the fountain. When this is accomplished, there will be no streams to stop, and until it is, they can be but temporarily checked. Lay the axe to the root of the tree and the branches will die.

WHAT EACH DRINK.—It seems that the average inhabitant of Great Britain spends \$17.64 annually upon intoxicating liquor, \$1.57 on the education of his children, and 15 cents on Christian missions. The average Canadian lays out \$6.33 on intoxicating drink, \$1.77 on education, and 11½ cents upon missions. This comparison may be said to be "odorous," but not to us. It would be interesting to know how much of the \$1.77 goes for school readers.

A SERIOUS QUESTION.—The Witness says:—The catalogue of the dead and wounded rioters at Cincinnati shows that a great majority bear German names and most of the minority are Irish. These are the great supporters of the liquor traffic, and it is fair to infer that had the State of Ohio not been hindered by these two elements of the population from passing a prohibitory law there would have been no riot and no loss of life in Cincinnati last Friday and Saturday.

TEMPERANCE IN THE ARMY.—It is not many years since the facts were notorious about the bibulous propensities of the soldiers of the British army. The brave men banded together to defend the country against all enemies themselves fell victims to an uncontrolled appetite. This was especially the case in India. Many more British soldiers have been slain by drink in India than in battle. There are now in India twelve thousand soldiers who are total abstainers, and they are safer from disease and more reliable at all times than any others.

MANITOBA MOVING.—A few days ago the question of Prohibition came up in

the Provincial Legislature of Manitoba. Of course it was well enough understood that the Legislature has no right to enact a prohibitory law, that being the sole prerogative of the Dominion Parliament. The following resolution, moved by Mr. Davidson, M. P. P., and there was not a member of the House who cared to record his vote against it.—"That in the opinion of this House it is desirable, and it would be to the best interests of this Province, that an Act should be passed prohibiting the importation, sale or traffic in intoxicating liquors. Verily, the signs of the times are becoming more and more clear every day.

ANOTHER ADVANCE.—The Irish League Journal says:—The United States Senate has done itself honor by passing an order that the sale of intoxicating liquors be strictly prohibited in the restaurants of that house, and the House of Representatives. Such liquors have heretofore been freely served in these establishments to both members and strangers, under the merely nominal disguise of calling for "tea" and drinking from tea-cups, instead of calling them by their proper names, and drinking from tumblers. The scandal was pressed home upon the attention of the Senate recently, which body very promptly and properly "sat upon" it. We are pleased that such a course as this has been adopted. The use of intoxicants in any house of legislation is inimicable to the best interests of the country. Hon. members who take liquor at dinner and have to make speeches and vote on questions affecting the happiness of millions of people, are not likely to be so careful as if they were perfectly sober.

HIGH LICENSES.—The Canada Presbyterian says:—"There is a raging war just now on the other side of the lines between the advocates of Prohibition and the friends of High License. Quite a number of western cities in which Prohibition is in the meantime an impossibility have fixed saloon licenses at \$1,000, and it is claimed that the high tax has materially lessened the number of drinking places. It does seem strange that any man who has the temperance cause at heart should oppose this attempt to curtail a traffic that it is impossible just now to prohibit, but such is the fact. A most furious assault has been made against High License. The most ingenious arguments are used to show that the granting of a license to regulate the traffic endorses the traffic and makes the commonwealth a partner in the business. As prohibition is an utter impossibility in New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Milwaukee and other places, the actual alternative is High License or free trade. It does seem as if those who oppose High Licenses are so wedded to their theory that they would say—Free Trade!"

LAW AND LIQUOR.—Demorest's Monthly a leading New York magazine says:—In New York State it is now proposed to charge a license of \$250 a year for every seller of beer, and \$500 a year for the privilege of dispensing spirituous liquors. In this the New York legislators are imitating what has been done in Missouri, Illinois, and Ohio. Public opinion is not yet ripe in all the States for prohibiting the sale of liquor, but there is a determination everywhere to make the liquor-selling interest pay for some of the damage they inflict upon the community. Meanwhile the production and consumption of spirits is enormous. The distilleries turn out 1,500,000 gallons every month, while the consumption is over a million gallons a month. Last October the total amount of distilled spirits in the United States was 115,949,235 gallons; of which the government kept in its own storehouses a bond nearly 75,000,000 gallons, until the owners could find it convenient to pay the taxes upon it. The distillers who have liquor in bond have been trying to bully Congress into extending the time upon which they might take their liquor out of bond, but so far the representatives have been able to resist their blandishments and insist upon the payments of the dues upon whiskey.