

SONG OF THE RYE.

I was made to be eaten,
And not to be drank;
To be thrashed in a barn,
Not soaked in a tank,
I come as a blessing
When put through a mill;
As a blight and a curse
When run through a still.

Make me up into leaves,
And your children are fed;
But if into drink,
I'll starve them instead,
In bread I'm a servant,
The eater shall rule;
In drink I am master,
The drinker a fool.

PROHIBITION IN ONTARIO.

The Ontario Provincial Union Prohibition Convention met in the Horticultural Pavilion on Tuesday, and Wednesday October 3rd and 4th.

Amongst those present were Rev. W. A. McKay, D.D., of Woodstock; the Rev. Principal Austin, of St. Thomas; the Rev. Dr. Brethour, the Rev. Dr. Sutherland, Mr. J. J. MacLaren, Q.C., Mr. W. W. Buchanan, Mr. F. S. Spence, Mr. James Thompson, and many other equally aggressive and influential temperance leaders.

Rev. J. S. Ross, M. A., and twelve others represented the Niagara Conference of the Methodist Church.

THE FIRST DAY.

At the morning meeting on the first day Mayor Fleming was unanimously chosen chairman.

The special report of the executive committee of the Dominion Alliance was read by Mr. Elgin Schoff, of Toronto. While the report was being read the union committee, which had called the convention on behalf of the temperance organizations, on motion withdrew to act as a committee on business and nominations.

Senator Vidal, on being introduced, was received with hearty applause. The veteran president of the Dominion Alliance spoke of the pleasure which it had been to him for 52 years to advocate the cause which was greater than any party question, that of prohibition. He declared that it was a disgrace to our country that a liquor license law is on the statute-books.

Rev. John Potts, D.D., said that as he glanced over the vast and representative assemblage he felt that the brightest day for temperance that Canada had ever seen had dawned.

Bishop Campbell, of the Reformed Episcopal Church, said that he trusted that the ultimate triumph of the cause would be reached within the lifetime of Senator Vidal. (Applaud.)

The Hon. A. G. Wolfenbarger, of Nebraska, considered the greetings of his fellow-workers in the United States in a short, brilliant speech.

Ex-Mayor Gibson, of Ingersoll, spoke warmly in approval of the principles of a plebiscite.

Mrs. Thornby, of London, and Mrs. McDonell, of Toronto, assured the convention that the W. C. T. U. would zealously unite with the temperance orders in canvassing the electorate and securing a great majority for prohibition.

Rev. W. A. McKay, D.D., of Woodstock, congratulated the convention on the enthusiasm with which the temperance forces were entering into the campaign.

The chairman read a telegram from the Prohibition League of Manitoba conveying hearty greetings.

Mr. Edward Carswell, the veteran of prominent platform temperance workers in Canada, made a pointed and humorous five-minute address.

Encouraging words were also spoken by Rev. Dr. Dewart and Senator Aikens.

Mr. F. S. Spence presented the report of the committee on business and nominations, which fixed the rules of order: speeches to be limited to five minutes, etc. The convention secretaries appointed were Messrs. F. S. Spence, W. H. Cahill and Elgin Schoff; official stenographer, Mr. A. C. Campbell. The nominations for committees were provisionally approved of, with power to add the following, being appointed conveners:—Credentials, Mr. H. O'Hara; campaign work, Principal Austin; finance, Mr. W. H. Orr; central and permanent organization, Mr. E. J. Davis, M.P.P.

IN THE AFTERNOON.

Mayor Fleming again presided. Great applause was manifested when the chair-

man called Mr. G. F. Marter, M.P.P., to the platform. Others on the platform were Rev. Dr. Carman, president of the Methodist General Conference, Mr. Joseph Tait, M. P.P., and Mr. J. S. Robertson, president of the Canadian Temperance League, F. W. Watkins, chairman of the Advanced Prohibition Organization.

The report on campaign work, stated that the committee had organized with Principal Austin, chairman; Mr. F. W. Watkins, vice-chairman; Mr. N. W. Rowell, secretary. The report dealt in detail with organization for the plebiscite campaign. After it was read the report was referred to the committee on central and permanent organization, the campaign committee being requested to hold a joint meeting with the former.

During the time the joint committee were meeting, rousing speeches were made by Rev. D. V. Sutherland, Rev. J. S. Ross, Mr. John Cameron, "the Black Knight," Mr. S. Carswell, and others.

The Rev. C. E. Heustis, of Halifax, tendered good wishes of the temperance workers of Nova Scotia.

Mrs. Forster, president of Toronto District W.C.T.U., said when the time comes all will be found ready.

The Rev. Mr. Leason, of British Columbia, brother of the late Premier of the province, said that it was his privilege to bring the greetings of the prohibitionists of British Columbia, who held a most successful convention there.

The campaign committee report which was adopted, was to the effect that an executive committee be formed for the plebiscite campaign, the members of which to be residents of Toronto. That a secretary be secured to devote his whole time to the work of the campaign. That the Finance Committee be requested to provide for the payment of the expenses.

THE SECOND DAY.

Mayor Fleming presided, and at convenient intervals short speeches on the auspicious opening of the plebiscite campaign and the prohibition outlook were made by the Rev. Dr. Carman, Mr. W. H. Cahill (of the League of the Cross), Mr. G. F. Marter, M.P.P., Mr. J. R. Daigall, Mr. J. H. Carson, Mr. J. P. Smith and Mr. J. H. Flagg.

The business committee's report was presented by Mr. F. S. Spence nominating the following executive committee:—Mr. J. J. MacLaren, Q.C.; Mr. W. W. Buchanan, the Rev. J. Potts, D.D.; Mr. W. H. Howland, the Rev. W. Kettlewell, the Rev. J. C. Madill, Grand Chief Templar I.O.G.T., Mr. J. B. Brooks, Grand Worthy Patriarch Sons of Temperance, Mrs. Cavers, president of the Ontario W.C.T.U., Mr. F. W. Daley, president of the Epworth League of Christian Endeavor, Mrs. McDowell, Mr. Thomas Urquhart, president of the Baptist Young People's Society of Ontario, Mr. Thomas Morris, president of the Christian Endeavor Union of Ontario; the Rev. W. A. McKay, D.D.; Mr. Duffy, League of the Cross; the Rev. Alex. Sutherland, D.D.; the Hon. S. H. Blake, the Rev. A. M. Phillips, Mr. George A. Cox, the Rev. W. Frizzell, the Rev. J. C. Parker, Mr. Chester D. Massey, Mr. D. J. Fergusson, Mr. John Cameron, the Hon. A. Vidal, Mr. R. J. Fleming, Mr. W. H. Orr, Mr. F. S. Spence, Mr. G. F. Marter, M.P.P.; Mr. Jos. Tait, M.P.P.; Mr. Elgin Schoff, Mr. R. W. Dillon, and Mrs. Fawcett.

The committee on permanent organization reported that it was not desirable to proceed with the question of permanent organization at present, and recommended that the union committee calling the present convention be authorized to call the convention together again after the plebiscite if considered necessary. The report was adopted.

The finance committee reported that the collection at the mass meeting amounted to \$104, which would defray the expenses of the convention.

The committee further recommended that a campaign fund for the use of the central committee of \$1,500 be raised. The report was adopted.

Mr. F. S. Spence called upon the delegates for subscriptions, when the sum of \$150 was speedily subscribed. By consent of the Convention, an adjournment of the Union Convention business was made to allow of the annual meeting of the Ontario Alliance being held.

After passing several votes of thanks amongst which was one to the Ontario Government for insisting on scientific temperance instruction in the public schools, the convention adjourned.

NO MORE ALLOWANCE.

A movement is on foot to abolish the old time honored custom of giving the sailors of the British Navy allowances of grog, and substituting beer. As might be expected, this suggestion is meeting with strong opposition from gentlemen of the type who, when any reform, however moderate and good is suggested, discover that the country is going to the dogs. The question is "does the reform go far enough?"

Amongst other nations of the earth the United States sets a bright example by not allowing spirits of any sort to be brought on board any vessel of the fleet, not even for the officers mess. This example England might with benefit copy, rather than consorting with Russia, the only other nation which serves out strong spirits, that nation using the vile vodka for its allowance beverage.

England has already proved that her soldiers and sailors can do more work, with better health, with merely an allowance of tea and libitum than they can with rum. In the olden days when a gentleman was not considered fit to claim the rank unless he could "polish off his three bottles" of wine, the prevailing opinion in favour of allowances of ardent spirits might be expected, but in these, when temperance is becoming fashionable, and total abstinence is finding its proper level amongst the men of "light and leading," it is incredible that even beer should be retained. If the plea made that the heat, "between decks" makes the effects of the spirits bad, be true, then beer, which if good, is more lastingly heating in its action, would be worse.

Taking away all mere sentimental surroundings, the step is one in the right direction. The men of the service are of a better stamp than in the old days of the "triangle and eat," and as the tone of the service both as regards officers and men has been raised by the abolition of the latter, so it will be by the abolition of strong drink. If the words of the patriot poet

"Lord from Thee what grace and glory,
Hath Thy people England won!
Wonders make divine her story,
Wonders that Thine arm hath done."

be true, and "who will avert they are not?" then the nation should cease to incur the curse pronounced against him "who giveth his neighbor drink, who putteth his bottle to his lips, and the flag that's braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze," need not fear disgrace whilst entrusted to sober and noble heroic blue jackets.

INTEMPERANCE.

BY W. H. DEVERAUX.—IN "ONWARD."

We all of us know what this word intemperance means, and, sad to say, many of us know to our cost. The only way to wipe out this great evil is to prohibit the sale or manufacture of the liquor.

But how is this to be done? By presenting petitions to our legislature. That may be one way, but we firstly need to vote for and elect good Christian and temperance men, and make them promise to vote for prohibition.

I wonder how many votes would be cast for, and how many against, this awful traffic, in our fair Dominion. I fear the liquor would get voted in. But what we want is to get to work at once, men, women, and children, and talk, work and fight against this awful evil.

How many sad faces do we see from the effects of this traffic. I know a little girl only six years old, good looking, smart and intelligent, but her face never wears a smile. Why? Her father is a drunkard. But some might say a child of that age knows nothing of such things. But her mother is always sad. This is the cause—and all from drink. Let us pray to our God for deliverance.

THE ONTARIO PLEBESCITE.

Great work is being done throughout Ontario in view of the Prohibition Plebiscite, to be taken in January next. Speaking on this subject the Toronto correspondent of the Montreal *Witness* says:

"Barely twelve clear weeks remain for the work and little else will be spoken or thought of in any locality. The fight will be as strenuous as it will be ubiquitous. We have never had anything like it in extent, probably the same may be hereafter truly said of it as to virulence. The liquor interest will struggle skilfully and

earnestly, if quietly, to keep down the prohibition vote, and there will be some effective speaking done on that side. Anyone who knows how easy it is for an applicant for a license to secure the names of residents of a locality to a petition in support of his application will understand that the liquor interest cannot be very easily killed out and that it is sure to have always a strong and effective advocacy. The advanced prohibitionists, who desire to run candidates for Parliament independently of

EXISTING POLITICAL PARTIES

will probably soon find that the people are so intent on securing an overwhelming majority in favor of prohibition that they have little regard for the building up of an independent political party. When asked what will follow the plebiscite vote their common reply is:—We are not troubling ourselves about that just now. We have a chance to declare our preference at the polls without embarrassing party complications, and we propose to declare it as emphatically as possible, and let those whose duty it is to carry out the people's mandate, take the responsibility of ignoring our demand for more stringent prohibitory legislation.

WORK IN THE TOWNSHIPS.

In Cornwall the temperance people are hard at work, and have arranged to place the temperance cause in general, and the Plebiscite in particular before the various congregations on Sunday, October 15th, for which day a general exchange of pulpits has been arranged.

Winchester also has held a large prohibition convention, which would have an important bearing on the temperance question in that district. They discussed the plebiscite at length, and it is expected that the temperance people of the district will record their votes solidly against the liquor traffic, when the day for polling arrives.

AN UNFORTUNATE EPISODE

occurred at Stratford, Ont., during the recent tour of the premier.

Sir John Thompson, after speaking in general terms of the difficulties of the temperance question, said of the Royal Commission on the liquor traffic, "We fully expect that the report of that commission will be laid before Parliament at its next session. * * * Mr. Laurier has stated that he is in favor of submitting the question to a plebiscite. We think that method of avoiding responsibility for any measure is repugnant to the constitution of this country. It is a subterfuge to which we will not resort. When the time for that question has come we will put before the country our policy upon that question and stand or fall by it."

WHEN DOCTORS DIVERGE.

This statement coming from the Premier, is the more extraordinary, from the fact that Hon. George Eulas Foster, minister, of Finance, was occupying a seat on the platform, when it was made. Mr. Foster is not merely a practical temperance man and able advocate of total abstinence principles on the platform, but is a pledged supporter of the principle of the plebiscite.

In 1884, when it is true he was not a minister of the crown, but was prominently advocating total abstinence, he published an able article in the "*Canadian Methodist Magazine*," in which he made a powerful appeal for the direct submission of the question to the people by a plebiscite. Mr. Foster has always been consistent in his adherence to the principles of temperance, and would therefore be naturally expected to be still in favor of a plebiscite, which the premier says is "repugnant to the constitution of this country." It would seem from this that there is little hope of any decided action being proposed by the Federal Government, at the present time at all events. One point of congratulation remains in Sir John Thompson's speech, and that is that the long looked for report of the Royal Commission may be expected next session.

If we see a man going to the dogs, we let him go. If he tries to do better, we let him try. If he gets the better of the devil, fighting manfully alone, humanity tightens the thumb-screws; and if he falls again the verdict is, 'I told you so.' Sweet humanity!

J. STAPLES WHITE.

The Toronto *World* editorially espouses the cause of the liquor interest in the coming Plebiscite contest in Ontario.