

The triumphs of the Scott Act in Ontario, during the past year, are unique in the history of temperance agitation. Prohibition is coming in like an irresistible flood, and it is destined at an early day to cover this whole Dominion. Only one thing can possibly keep it back, and that is the non-enforcement of the Scott Act in the counties that have adopted it. This is the one danger we have to guard against, so far as the legal aspect of the temperance question is concerned. This secured, the triumph of prohibition in Canada is inevitable. Matters should not be allowed to stand as they are now, in a number of Counties of Nova Scotia. Otherwise prohibition will be discredited by many of its friends, and ridiculed by its enemies; while those who, on both sides of the Atlantic, are anxiously watching the experiment of "local option," will be greatly disheartened.

In Canada and the United States the annihilation of the liquor traffic is looming up as the great political issue of the coming years. Professor Foster, (and no man is in a better position to gauge public opinion on this question, or forecast the future) has stated publicly his belief that "National Prohibition" would be a realized fact in Canada within three years.

In the United States a "third party" has been organized for the express purpose of enacting and enforcing national prohibition. A third party may not be absolutely necessary, in this country, but it is necessary that temperance men use the ballot box in the interests of Prohibition more, and for mere party purposes less.

A word on the CLARION, the new Organ of our Order, and I have done. I think we are to be congratulated, as a Grand Division, on the appearance and prospects of our Official Organ. It does us credit, and I am confident that it will continue to do so under the able management of Brother Nicolson, the publisher.

The price, one dollar, will, no doubt, be against it at the outset, but ultimately in its favor. It is utterly out of the question to publish such a paper as we need, as a weekly, for a smaller sum. A very great obstacle in the way of the CLARION's financial success is the limited constituency upon which it has to depend, as the Organ of the Grand Division of Nova Scotia. True that constituency has greatly multiplied within the past few years; but still, it may be found too small to sustain a paper in the highest state of efficiency. It has come to my ears that an interest in our Official Organ has been sought by the Order in New Brunswick. I should hail such a proposal with delight. It is just what we need to put our paper on a broad, stable, permanent basis. Why should the CLARION not become the Organ of the Sons of Temperance in the Maritime Provinces? The more that rally around it the better. It can serve the purposes of Sons of Temperance in P. E. Island and New Brunswick as well as ours in Nova Scotia.

Hoping that your Quarterly Session in the far-famed and beautiful valley of Musquodoboit will be both pleasant and profitable, I have the honor to be,

Yours, in the Bonds of our Order,

JOHN MURRAY, G. W. P.

Referred to Committee on State of the Order.

The Grand Scribe submitted his report, which he read, and is as follows, viz:—

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