

Temperance Department.

TRUTH desires to give, each week, information from every part of the Temperance work. Any information gladly received. Address T. W. CANN, G. W. S., Editor, Nanaimo, Ont.

Scott Act Amendments.

The liquor interests of the country are evidently ill at ease in regard to the present position of the Scott Act movement throughout the country. As things now are going it seems evident enough that the Act will be adopted in a majority of all the counties of all of the provinces of the Dominion in a short time. To attempt to persuade the people to any other course now appears to be a hopeless task for the liquor interests. The people are evidently tired of the existence of the legalized drink traffic in Canada, and are willing to adopt any efficient law calculated to put an end to it.

It now seems evident that if there be any successful work done at all, it must be done in mutilating the Act itself of its efficiency, and not in trying to persuade the people not to adopt it. The bare hope remains that Parliament can be managed when the people cannot be.

Petitions have been in circulation for some weeks past asking for an amendment to the Act, requiring a majority of three-fifths of all of the electors voting before it can be declared adopted. The reason assigned for such an important change in our elective system is that the Act will not be as efficient as it ought to be, unless sustained by a great majority. The sudden desire the liquor men manifest to make the Act as efficient as it possibly can be made, looks suspicious on the very face of it. No men have as much reason to dread its efficiency. The *Times* states that these petitions are now being presented in every bar-room. Of course they are in the interests of the bar-room, and not in the interests of temperance. They will soon be presented to the House, and the people should study with care the division lists on this matter.

A wholesale liquor dealer in this city is reported to have taken into his confidence a representative of one of the daily papers here, and assured him that arrangements are now being made for the largest possible number of the liquor dealers of the country to go to Ottawa soon, and in a body make a formal demand of the Premier for immediate action for their special benefit and relief, either by a repeal of the obnoxious Scott Act, or by such amendments as will virtually amount to the same thing. No equivocation or delay will be tolerated. In case Sir John makes any suggestion about "Tomorrow," Mr. Blake will be at once approached, and overtures made to him! The business must be settled and one hour of the dilemma must be grappled at once. A considerable lig talk like that has been heard before. In fact business men on both sides have indulged in it. It is an easy thing to make plans for the electors' future conduct, but it is not so easy to get the electors to follow them out.

We sincerely hope that just such action may be taken. Every effort now made to precipitate such a crisis is sure to hasten the triumph of the right, as right in the end must prevail. It is not at all probable, however, that any such foolish step will be taken, even though the promoter of it should urge it on with all his power.

Another Advance.

A vote was taken in Carleton county, Ont., on Thursday of last week on the Scott Act; and it was adopted by a majority of about nine hundred. Carleton adjoins Ottawa city, and is therefore called the Metropolitan County of Canada. Many were not sanguine of victory there, but so strong has public opinion grown that majorities much larger than even the friends of the Act had reason to expect have been rolled up in county after county.

On Thursday, 20th inst., a vote will be taken in the United Counties of Northumberland and Durham, and we shall be disappointed if another handsome majority is not given.

Personal Liberty.

The *Evangelical Churchman*, of this city, is very outspoken and very favorable to total abstinence and prohibition, and its influence for good is great among those members of the Church of England who are its constant readers. In a recent well written editorial article in regard to the question of prohibition, the following remarks are made, which are certainly well to the point:—

Is the interference with personal liberty, involved in prohibition, justifiable? Unquestionably. If the object of good government be the highest good of the greatest number, it would be easy to show that this can only be secured by means of the restrictions placed upon individual will and action. There is no law which does not restrain some one's own sweet will. Things which might be allowable for an isolated individual, become intolerable in society. A stone can be thrown in an open field, but not in a crowded city. Men may even plead conscience on behalf of what the law is bound to restrain. Mormonism claims to rest its violation of the fundamental basis of the state in the family, upon the religious convictions of its votaries. No one for a moment allows that this fallacious plea can be admitted. In every case in which law interferes with individual action, the matter must be determined by two practical considerations:—the extent of the evil sought to be removed, and the amount of the benefit conferred. Judged by either of these standards the expediency and the right of prohibition cannot be questioned. In no case is legislation called upon to deal with more appalling and wide-reaching evil. In no case are the benefits to the individual, morally as well as physically, and hence to the family and to the state itself, more manifest and extensive.

A Mexican Drink.

A Mexican correspondent of the *St. Louis Democrat* thus writes:—The native drinks are chiefly tequila and native wines. The tequila is the ordinary mesal of the interior, refined. It is made from the mesal plant, of American aloes. The outside leaves of the plant are stripped, and the bulb-like centre, which strongly resembles a cabbage, is subjected to a fermenting process in pits, very much after the manner of making malt. It is then subjected to a distillation, producing a liquor containing a much higher percentage of alcohol than the ordinary whisky of commerce. The common product is of a slight straw-like color, and is what is known as mesal. Tequila is principally produced in the State of Sonora, where its manufacture is carried on as a regular industry, and with the greatest care. The plants are specially selected, and the liquors distilled at a low temperature are rectified. Thus produced, tequila is colorless, agreeable to the taste, and void of the burning sensation commonly felt after partaking of American whiskies sold over the bar. This is due to the absence of the deadly fusil oil to which medical men attribute the fearful effects following immoderate indulgence in our native tipples. The night's indulgence in tequila leaves no ill-effects the following morning, and in the words of an Irishman whom I overheard summing up its virtues: "There's not a headache in a hog's head of it."

NEWS AND NOTES.

THE STUDENTS AND THE SCOTT ACT.—It has been quite the fashion in a number of Toronto institutions to take a vote of those associate in regard to the Scott Act. In most instances the majorities have been in its favor. Last week the students of Trinity Medical College, of this city, indulged in a lively debate on the merits of the Act, and afterward took a vote in regard to the desirability of its adoption. It turned out that there were 82 in its favor to 10 against it. Well done, for the coming doctors.

A PRACTICAL HINT.—At the annual meeting of the Toronto Temperance Electoral Union, held in this city last week, Mr. Jas. Thompson, the Secretary urged that it is now the duty of the temperance people to see that before the next municipal election the female voters are organized into temperance societies. He said, as a rule the women would vote on the temperance side, and with the aid of the female voters control ought to be obtained of the city council next year, as far as temperance matters are concerned.

Rev. Hugh Johnston, B.D., the well-known pastor of the Metropolitan Methodist Church, of this city, has found it necessary to take a few weeks' relaxation from duty because of ill health. He is now in Florida, and will remain south for a few weeks. The first of a series of easy letters to the readers of TRUTH regarding the sunny South, from his facile pen, appears on another page. These letters will appear from week to week for some time, and are sure to be read with great interest.

A TENDER REGARD.—A Little Rock lawyer of prominence went home the other morning at an unseemly hour. "Why are you so late?" asked his wife. "I am not late. I am early." "Why didn't you come home last night?" "Drunk." "Couldn't you walk?" "Not without staggering." "Why didn't you stagger home, then?" "Well, I'll tell you. My house has the name of being an orderly place, and I don't want people to be seen staggering into the yard. Every man must protect his family, you know."

STILL MORE VICTIMS.—Scarcely a week passes but sickening records are published of some terrible tragedy or accident the direct result of the licensed drink traffic. Here are two of that class that were recently published in one day:—

At Kendal, near Port Hope, says the *Guide*, M. B. Olan, sawyer for G. W. Soper, had his feet frozen while under the influence of liquor. Amputation of both feet took place. The poor fellow lost about one-half of each foot, and stood the operation well.

Rev. Manly Benson, the eloquent pastor of Central Methodist Church, of this city, has promised TRUTH a valuable descriptive paper regarding the famous Tower of London and London Bridge, both so recently injured by the dynamite fiends. The article will probably be published next week, and will be of special interest just now. The author visited London not long ago, and made its famous sights and scenes a subject of special study. His recent lecture on London and its wonders was the most interesting on that subject we have ever had the pleasure of hearing.

NOT VERY SUCCESSFUL.—The efforts of the Toronto Electoral Union, so far as the municipal elections in January were concerned were not of a very satisfactory character. In three wards out of the four where work was attempted there was failure. Mr. W. Carlyle, a defeated temperance candidate, said he found that the temperance men did not work so hard for the cause as they would for politics. Several good members have left the association because of the interference with the municipal elections, and they could not be induced to connect themselves with it again.

THE PROHIBITION PARTY.—In a personal letter of the Hon. S. D. Hastings, of Wisconsin, to the editor of TRUTH, he says:—"As soon as I can get time to do so I intend to write you an article in regard to the Independent Prohibition Party, now organized in this country. I regard this as the great and most important advance step that has yet been made in the temperance movement in the United States. To my mind it is the beginning of the end. It involves a tremendous fight, to a great extent, even with friends, but I feel sure it is right, and that it is the way and the only way to final and speedy victory."

STRANGE BUT TRUE.—Rev. Father Elliott, a zealous Catholic priest, of Chicago, recently gave utterance to the following sad truths:—"Yet all the time drunkenness is a most hateful and loathsome vice. No heart so hard as the man's who rolls his child to enrich his enemy. No man so frightfully cruel as the one who turns him self from a loving husband into a wolfish brute. No murders so cruel as those done upon friends, and sometimes upon kindred, by half-drunken men. No music so sad as the heart-rending merriment of the saloon. No irony so devilish as that which calls the death-lance of immortal souls about the liquor dealer's counter."

THE PLAINSCITE.—Writing of the late Alliance Convention in this city, the *Canada Presbyterian* closes a good article by saying:—"The general opinion seemed to be that in the interest of temperance legislation it was wise for the present to concentrate effort on the adoption and defence of the Scott Act. A resolution introduced favoring prohibition to this extent that the question be submitted to the people at the

next general election met with little favor. The leaders of the temperance agitation very wisely do not seek for legislation in advance of public opinion. Neither do they care to lag behind. The Scott Act has been a powerful factor in the education of the public mind. The discussion it has occasioned has led thousands to consider the question who otherwise would have scarcely given it a thought. Popular discussion helped forward the cause immensely. Its opponents have discovered the weakness of their position, and show no eagerness to enter the arena of public debate. Their trust is now in more occult agencies. The week in which the Dominion Alliance is engaged is a great and blessed one. It will grow in magnitude until it ends in the removal of what has everywhere proved itself a personal, social and national curse."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. S., Quiney, Dakota, U. S.—Thanks for your verses, but they are hardly up to the standard. Try again.

W. A. S., Damariscotta, Maine—Will be glad to see the particulars of the first death warrant Queen Victoria ever signed, if you will kindly send them.

Mrs. J. T. B., Concord, N. I.—I will be glad for the story you send and those I kindly offer. As it is, we have all we can make use of for some time to come.

ARE SUBSCRIBERS supposed to send a dollar with a story, tid bit or poetry, or do you give premiums for poetry? Yes, and their term will be extended a half year.

J. B. H., Castalia, Iowa.—There is more real truth than real poetry in what you send, and it will not be published on that account. It would not appear as well in print as you imagine.

DR. H., London, Ont.—It is positively against our rules to submit any story to the committee unless the subscription fee accompanies it. We cannot make an exception in any case.

N. W. Douglas, Kansas.—Thanks for your offer of articles and other select reading matter. We cannot avail ourselves of it, as we have more now arranged about than can be made use of in TRUTH for months to come.

M.—There are twenty civil Knights Grand Cross of the Bath, all in high positions. It is justly regarded as a great honor, and it is not, therefore, wonderful that Sir John Macdonald and his friends should be proud of the honors he has received.

GEO. R. DUNDAS. Printed matter, unless in a sealed envelope, should be allowed to pass the mails at one cent per four ounces. The same is the case with manuscript "printers copy" not containing any other private correspondence. If enclosed in an envelope it should not be sealed, or if in any other wrapper both ends must be open and exposed. A good many contributors sending matter to TRUTH office would save stamps by remembering these facts.

WHITE VIOLETS.—Printed stories set for competition may be printed on both sides. They are all judged on their merits whether written or printed—whether on one side or both. If yours failed it was simply because some other was considered preferable, and not because it may not have been worthy in itself. As a matter of fact quite a number of capital stories have to be rejected each week because but one only can be accepted and used. We would often like to award to more than one really deserving, if possible. If you try again you have an equal chance with others.

P.—It is very well for you to wish to acquire good manners, but you must bear in mind that they are not to be learned from books, but to be prompted by the heart. A really well-mannered man may know little or nothing of the rules of etiquette. But if he knows and practices "whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you do ye even so to them," he could not well be really a bad-mannered man. The nervous man, the vain one, the selfish man imagines that manners can be learned from books, as the boy learns the multiplication table by saying them over and over to himself. Not so. The finest qualities of manners, like noble music, address the soul directly, and are not describable in words. Somewhat of their art may be learned by observing certain elect men and women; but the source of all gentle behavior and lovely manners is a secret of the heart, and there alone a man can find it.