

TEMPERANCE COLUMN.

HOW TO CONDUCT A TEMPERANCE MEETING.

We take the following extract from an admirable letter signed J.H.T. published in The Record, on the debateable question, How to conduct a Temperance meeting, with the greatest prospect of success:—

"As an abstainer for more than forty years (life), and the son of one of the early workers in the cause, I beg leave to give a little of my experience as to the right sort of 'Temperance meeting.' Temperance work, if it is to last, must be a religious work, and long before the C.E.T.S. was founded, or Gospel Temperance thought of, I was accustomed as a boy to attend Temperance meetings founded by my father, who, though squire of the parish, and not a clergyman, opened them with prayer and reading of the Bible, and thus gave the right tone to all that followed. Subsequent experience has shown me that this is the only kind that really takes hold, and does permanent good. Temperance 'entertainments' with comic songs, &c., are in about as bad taste as anything that it is possible to imagine. Open and close the meeting with part of the admirable little service supplied by the C.E.T.S.; read a few verses of Scripture, almost always the Epistle and Gospel of last or next Sunday will supply something that bears upon the many-sided Temperance question; this, with five minutes exposition, gives a 'note' to the meeting. In a large town where I had a share in beginning C.E.T.S. work some ten or eleven years ago, the chairman and I were the regular speakers every month for about three years, and, judging by the crowded room, holding over 300, the people did not tire of it. We had a Temperance song or hymn out of the C.E.T.S. book between the speeches to make a variety. Nor need anyone think that the meetings were dull. Stories only a week old and points out of the daily papers were largely used. Pathos and humour are very near together in life and in the heart, and there can be plenty of the latter in a good speech without weakening the religious tone of the whole. After three years, when a good number of workmen had joined us, I instituted 'five minute' speeches from working men—'Temperance Pills' we called them—and they were a vast success. The Scripture-reader stationed near the door sent up to me a list of Temperance men in the room, and from these a few were called up to speak and pulled by the coat tails when time was up. I recollect after one of these meetings a lady coming up to the platform and saying to me, 'I come from another parish where our meetings are a failure; we have tried amusing the people, but they don't come: what is the secret of your success?' I replied, 'The secret lies in this:—Make Temperance work a religious

thing; let the Gospel be heard in the speeches; have recitations, &c., in a small way if you like, but let everyone remember that the meeting is of a religious character.' I am certain that this is the right view to take of the question. Do not let us clergy go in for amusing the people; they can do that for themselves without our aid. Our work is higher; it is to show them at all times the attracting, healing, and elevating power of the Cross of Christ. There is, however, an important adjunct to the Temperance meeting which should not be passed over without notice. Remembering the loneliness of the working men who leaves his old boon companions, and the power of temptation in such a case, we instituted a 'Barnabas Society' of men, whose business it was to seek out their brothers, as Barnabas sought Saul, and to be 'sons of consolation' to them.

We divided the parish under different letters of the alphabet, each man taking a section, and after each Temperance meeting the working man who was A, or B, &c., received the name of any new member living in the district which he had undertaken. His business was to look after such a one immediately, be a friend to him, and bring him to the next meeting; this plan also succeeded well, and largely helped our meetings."

To this Canon Ellison desires to add his own experience, one of fifteen years at Windsor. The meetings there were "arranged on a precisely similar plan to those which J. H. T. describes, and with similar results. He is confident that any gentleman who will make trial of real Temperance rescue work of this character, will never afterwards place his reliance on 'entertainments,' however desirable it may be to devote an evening to them occasionally. 'The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty, through God, to the pulling down of strongholds.'"—The Temperance Chronicle, London, Eng.

BE REVERENT.

In many of our churches as soon as the last word of the benediction has been uttered by the officiating minister there is on the part of the congregation an unbecomingly rush for the doors, as if the place were on fire and the people thought their very lives depended upon being first to escape from the building. To the onlooker it has the appearance of great irreverence, or at the least, of thoughtlessness. As a slight corrective of this bad habit, and to afford to those who desire it a moment of undisturbed devotion, the custom has been introduced in some of our churches of singing after the benediction, while all are still on their knees.

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SAULT STE. MARIE CANAL.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tenders for the Sault Ste. Marie Canal," will be received at this office until the arrival of the eastern and western mails, on TUESDAY, the 23rd day of October next, for the formation and construction of a Canal on the Canadian side of the river, through the Island of St. Mary.

The works will be let in two sections, one of which will embrace the formation of the canal through the island; the construction of locks, &c. The other, the deepening and widening of the channel-way at both ends of the canal; construction of piers, &c. A map of the locality, together with plans and specifications of the works, can be seen at this office on and after TUESDAY, the 9th day of October, next, where printed forms of tender can also be obtained. A like class of information, relative to the works, can be seen at the office of the Local Officer in the Town of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

Intending contractors are requested to bear in mind that tenders will not be considered unless made strictly in accordance with the printed forms and be accompanied by a letter stating that the person or persons tendering have carefully examined the locality and the nature of the material found in the trial pits.

In the case of firms, there must be attached the actual signatures of the full name, the nature of the occupation and residence of each member of the same; and further, a bank deposit receipt for the sum of \$20,000 must accompany the tender for the canal and locks; and a bank deposit receipt for the sum of \$7,500 must accompany the tender for the deepening and widening of the channel-way at both ends, piers, &c.

The respective deposit receipts—cheques will not be accepted—must be endorsed over to the Minister of Railways and Canals, and will be forfeited if the party tendering declines entering into contract for the works, at the rates and on the terms stated in the offer submitted.

The deposit receipt thus sent will be returned to the respective parties whose tenders are not accepted.

This Department does not, however, bind itself to accept the lowest or any tenders.

A. P. BRADLEY, Secretary. Department of Railways and Canals, Ottawa, 8th August, 1887.

ST. LAWRENCE CANALS.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for the St. Lawrence Canals," will be received at this office until the arrival of the eastern and western mails on TUESDAY, the 25th day of September next, for the construction of two locks and the deepening and enlargement of the upper entrance of the Galops Canal. And for the deepening and enlargement of the summit level of the Cornwall Canal. The construction of a new lock at each of the three interior lock stations on the Cornwall Canal between the Town of Cornwall and Maple Grove; the deepening and widening of the channel way of the Canal; construction of bridges, &c.

A map of each of the localities together with plans and specifications of the respective works, can be seen on and after Tuesday the 11th day of September next, at this office for all the works, and for the respective works at the following mentioned places:

For the works at Galops, at the Lock-keeper's House, Galops. For deepening the summit level of the Cornwall Canal, at Dickinson's Landing; and for the new locks, &c., at lock-stations Nos. 18, 19 and 20 at the Town of Cornwall. Printed forms of tender can be obtained for the respective works at the places mentioned.

In the case of firms there must be attached the actual signatures of the full name, the nature of the occupation and residence of each member of the same, and further, a bank deposit receipt for the sum of \$6,000 must accompany the tender for the Galops Canal Works, and a bank deposit receipt for the sum of \$2,000 for each section of the works on the summit level of the Cornwall Canal; and for each of the lock sections on the Cornwall Canal a bank deposit receipt for the sum of \$4,000.

The respective deposit receipts—cheques will not be accepted—must be endorsed over to the Minister of Railways and Canals, and will be forfeited if the party tendering declines entering into contract for the works at the rates and on the terms stated in the offer submitted. The deposit receipts thus sent in will be returned to the respective parties whose tenders are not accepted.

This Department does not, however, bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order, A. P. BRADLEY, Secretary, Department of Railways and Canals, Ottawa, 8th August, 1888.

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