

Temperance Items.

Paris, Ont., has a Blue Ribbon Society, with a membership, as reported a week ago, of over a hundred, and rapidly growing.

Over two hundred have signed the pledge through the instrumentality of the Temperance Association of Mitchell, Ontario.

More than thirty of the mining companies of Colorado make total abstinence a condition of employment.

About three hundred employees of the New York Post Office are members of the temperance societies of that city.

A convention of Scott Act Supporters was held on Wednesday and Thursday of the present week at Milton, in Halton County, where the law is in operation. The meeting was very enthusiastic and interesting. We hope to give a full report of it next week.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF INTEMPERANCE.—The annual meeting of the Society for the Prevention of Intemperance was held last week at Shaftesbury Hall, Toronto, Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, President, in the chair. The gathering was not large, but fairly representative. In opening the meeting the chairman expressed regret that he felt compelled to ask them to elect another President, as he found himself unable to devote all the time that was necessary to the proper performing of the duties connected with that position. Rev. Mr. Burton, Secretary, presented the Society's report for the year, which showed a satisfactory condition of affairs, but contained nothing of special interest. Mr. Matthews, Treasurer, reported that the receipts during the year had been \$126.04, and the expenditure \$72.41, leaving a balance in hand of \$53.63. A discussion then arose on the question of lengthening the hours for liquor traffic, which it was alleged is being agitated in some quarters. A general and emphatic condemnation of the agitation was expressed, and a resolution was moved by Mr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Burton, embodying this condemnation and instructing the Secretary to take steps in conjunction with other societies to endeavor to prevent the lengthening of the hours for the sale of liquor.

Mr. Matthews brought forward the subject of establishing an asylum for inebriates in Canada. He said there are in Toronto alone between three and four hundred men and women who are such slaves to the vice of intemperance that nothing can cure them save their removal out of reach of the temptations at present surrounding them. There were several asylums of the kind he suggested which work successfully in the United States. Mr. Rose said an asylum of the nature proposed had been established in Ontario, but had failed in attaining its object. Rev. Mr. McLeod remarked that the great difficulty that had been found always to exist in connection with this kind of asylums was that they could not compel the victims of intemperance, no matter how hopeless their condition, to become inmates of them. A resolution was at length formulated and passed, calling upon the Executive Committee to consider the question of the advisability of the establishment of some inebriate asylum, as the society believed such an institution to be highly desirable. A short discussion next took place with reference to the literature issued by the Society, and Mr. Rose suggested that the sermon recently delivered by Canon Farrar, and which has excited much interest in temperance circles, should be printed and circulated through the country. The suggestion was not unfavorably received, but it was deemed better to leave the matter in the hands of the Publication Committee. Grocers' licenses was the next subject considered, and a unanimous opinion was expressed by the representatives present of both the abstaining and the non-abstaining members of the Society in favor of the separation of the sale of liquor from that of groceries. Rev. Mr. McLeod told of the evil done by grocers with liquor licenses giving spirits as Christmas boxes to some of their customers who had only just been rescued from intemperance. He gave several instances. Rev. Mr. Milligan remarked that a great deal of tippling is done in those grocers' shops where liquor is sold. The following resolution was at length passed with the expressed approval of all present. "That this Society believes that the separation of the selling of liquor from that of groceries is expedient, and therefore instructs its executive to take the matter into consideration."

In consequence of Rev. Mr. Macdonnell's retirement from the presidency, Rev. Mr. Milligan was appointed to that position, general regret, however, being expressed that any change was necessary. The Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Council were re-elected, with the exception of two or three members of the Council, who

are leaving the city or cannot attend the meetings, for whom substitutes were provided.

The meeting then terminated.—*Globe*.

A HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE.—On Friday evening of last week an open meeting of the Weston High School Literary Society was held, at which the attendance was fair and the programme full. The event of the evening was a debate on the subject, "Resolved, that Moral Suasion is preferable to Prohibition," Messrs. Glassford and Wilson sustaining the affirmative, while Messrs. Dunton and Glassford took up the negative. The affirmatives sustained that the state has no right to interfere with a man's sumptuary liberty; that the reformation effected by prohibition is not genuine, and that moral suasion must finally triumph since it is inseparably connected with education, which is steadily advancing. On the other side it was contended that intemperance is an offence against the state, hence the state has a right to restrict the evil, and that moral suasion is less effective than prohibition which reaches the masses. After a careful review of the arguments advanced, Mr. Wallace, Principal of the school, gave his decision in favor of the affirmative.

The Hon. J. B. Grinnell, the founder of Grinnell, Iowa, said to a *Chicago Tribune* reporter recently, "In Grinnell there has not one been sent to jail, to the poor-house, or to the penitentiary for twenty-five years, and it is needless to say there are no saloons. We can stand a cyclone occasionally, if you keep whisky away from us."

A number of Maine girls have formed themselves into a protective union and adopted a series of resolutions for their government. The following extract from the Constitution and By-Laws gives a very fair idea of the nature, aims and objects of the society: "That we will promise marriage to no young man who is in the habit of tippling, for we are assured that his wife will come to want and his children go barefooted."—*Rescue*.

At a temperance meeting at Milwaukee lately, at which Mayor Stowell, a Democrat, but of strong temperance views, spoke, there were several addresses, in which it was loudly hinted that the Prohibition party of the country was preparing to nominate a Presidential ticket in 1884. It is said that the movement has acquired considerable headway in Iowa, Indiana, Alabama, Maine and other States, and that an organization for that purpose is going rapidly forward. Ex-Senator Windom is spoken of to head the ticket.—*American Temperance Union*.

KANSAS.—Kansas offenders against the prohibitory law are getting largely disappointed over some Democratic judicial decisions. The man appointed by Gov. Glick, as they supposed to lock up the law instead of its violators, has recently given them wholesome reprimands and good sized fines. To one of them he said:

"Mr. Zimmerman, you were fairly tried, you had able counsel, and you were tried by a fair and impartial jury. Your offense is that of open, deliberate, wilful, and persistent violation of the prohibitory liquor law. It is true that when a person as you have done deliberately and knowingly persists in violating that law, the penalty ought to be more severe in such a case than where the offense is committed through ignorance, or, as it were, by accident. The business in which you are engaged, Mr. Zimmerman, is of that character as to meet with the disapproval of all good people in the civilized world, and as a business wherever conducted, is productive of evil and is a source of crime. However much we may be pleased with a law, Mr. Zimmerman, it is not in our place to hold it in defiance, but it is the duty of every citizen to obey it until such time as the legislature removes it from the statute books. You are not ignorant of the law, Mr. Zimmerman, but rather than obey it you prefer to carry on an illegal business and wilfully and deliberately set the law at defiance. Have you any legal objection to offer why sentence should not be pronounced against you?"

The guilty individual was unable to offer the necessary plea, and was fined seven hundred dollars. The court proceeded to try his partners in the crime, inflicting on all together not less than twenty-five thousand dollars in fines.—*Union Signal*.

Resolutions adopted by the Continental Congress in 1774: That it be recommended to the several Legislatures of the colonies immediately to pass laws the most effectual for putting an immediate stop to the pernicious practice of distilling, by which the most extensive evils are likely to be derived if not quickly prevented.—*Ex.*