

# Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

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## THE TEMPERANCE CAMPAIGN.

The readers of the *Weekly Messenger and Temperance Worker* are the temperance workers of Canada. On them depends the success of the great Scott Act movement proposed by the Dominion Alliance. They should at once organize by calling a meeting in every county without waiting for anybody to take the initiative and send for copies of Campaign tract No. 3, which is a synopsis of the Scott law. We are prepared to furnish them at twenty-five cents a hundred copies. We ask our readers to write to the *Messenger* what they think of the prospects of the campaign in their counties.

## CAMPAIGN LITERATURE.

The following tracts will be ready very soon at twenty-five cents a hundred:—Campaign tract No. 2, being Sir Alexander Galt's great speech at Sherbrooke on prohibition viewed from the standpoint of a political economist.

Campaign tract No. 3, a synopsis of the Scott law, showing the steps necessary in inaugurating a contest.

Campaign tract No. 4, the Rev. Mr. Brethour's striking speech at Ottawa on the remarkable success of the Scott law in the county of Halton.

Campaign tract No. 5, a sermon by the Rev. Mr. McFarland, of St. John, N. B., on the duty of Christian citizens.

No parcels will be sold of less than a hundred tracts.

## THE QUESTION OF THE HOUR.

When we look abroad over this country and see it plentifully dotted with liquor shops—dealing out disease, misery, poverty, insanity, disturbances, crime and almost every mentionable evil—the question arises,—Who is responsible for keeping up these iniquitous establishments? Spontaneously the answer comes,—The rulers of the country. Who are the rulers of the country? They are the people of the country, who govern themselves in this land of freedom through their chosen representatives in municipal, and provincial and federal legislative bodies. In the first place, the people are responsible for allowing strong drink to be made in the country or imported into it, so long as the federal rulers of their choice continue to have it so. Not only that, but the people are partners in every brewery, every distillery, every wholesale liquor store, every saloon, every bar-room, every one of the vilest dens where liquor is sold, so long as they continue to use the revenue derived from excise and customs taxes in carrying on the public services of the country. Last year the people's share in the profits of imported strong drink was \$1,914,989, and in those of home-made drink \$4,314,040, making altogether the enormous sum of six million two hundred and twenty-nine thousand and twenty-nine dollars obtained from the liquor interests of Canada to be applied to the public services of the country. One-

fifth part of the net revenue of the Dominion of Canada is therefore drawn from a source that is acknowledged on all hands to be the greatest curse of the country. Indeed, the vast interest the people of Canada have in the liquor business is urged as one of the gravest objections to having the curse wiped out. In the face of these facts, the people of Canada cannot hide themselves from the awful responsibility of being partners in the entire liquor traffic of the country. Moreover, the people are not satisfied with the share they receive through federal channels, but they must needs cherish the pernicious traffic for what they can get out of it for provincial and municipal revenues. Here the public conscience displays the marked inconsistency of gratefully accepting a share in the profits of a business that it at the same moment condemns by onerous exactions and limitations, the imposition of which upon any decent business it would not tolerate. Notwithstanding all that we have said above, however, a large portion of the people of Canada have earned absolution from the condemnation implied in the facts cited. One Province during its independent position before Confederation, once passed a prohibitory liquor law, which, although it was worked poorly and repealed after a brief existence, showed a powerful desire on the part of a large proportion of the people to be rid of any responsibility for the curse. Another province kept drawing the ligatures of legal restriction closer and closer from year to year, until at length in every county save one not a drop of liquor could be legally sold as a beverage. Other provinces gave their counties the power, which in many cases was availed of, to outlaw the business within their borders. In the year 1878 the temperance sentiment of the Dominion was brought to bear upon a not unfavorable Parliament, with the result that the law called the "Canada Temperance Act of 1878"—commonly called the "Scott Act," from having been introduced by Senator Scott—was passed, giving counties and cities the power to prohibit the traffic by popular vote. This Act having been fought upon every possible ground right up to the highest tribunal in the Empire and there confirmed as good and constitutional law, the people of this country have therein the means of depriving the traffic of legal sanction and placing it beyond the power of municipal councils to legalize. It is the nearest step to total prohibition that the Dominion can make short of that consummation so devoutly desired by right-thinking men. Indeed, until the people show that they are in favor of the total suppression of the traffic by the use they make of this Act, it will be hard to elect a Parliament that will give absolute prohibition to the whole country. Therefore, it becomes the opponents of the traffic through the length and breadth of the land to rouse up to their duties with reference to this Act. A movement has been set on foot by the Dominion Alliance to procure the adoption of the Act in every constituency where it is possible, and several counties are already stirring with the work of the campaign. Let the friends of prohibition in every constituency join promptly

in the struggle, for no time is to be lost if the object is to be gained of having simultaneous polling upon the Act. Only by earnest, active work in behalf of prohibition can each citizen of our country acquit himself of responsibility for the existence of the legalized curse of the liquor traffic.

## THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

Mr. Braclough, the infidel member for Northampton, who was turned out of the House of Commons by the vote of a large majority after he had illegally administered the oath to himself, was granted the stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds, and a writ for a new election having been issued by the House he was elected by a larger majority than ever. This office was a sort of military police commandship in the days when robbers infested the Chiltern Hills, and now is only retained for the convenience of members who wish to give up their seats in Parliament, as according to law a member cannot resign his seat nor can one hold his seat after he accepts office under the Government. It is customary for members to resign the office whenever it has served the above purpose for them. If necessary, the offices of stewards of the Manors of Eastend, of Northhead and of Hempholme are at the disposal of members for the same purpose as the Chiltern Hundreds. A vote of censure upon the Government for its Egyptian policy, which was moved by the Marquis of Salisbury, was carried in the House of Lords by 181 to 81. He said, in supporting his motion, that the news would now run through the whole Mohammedan world that England had been defeated again and again and was now being hunted out of Egypt. In reply Earl Granville said England and India had no interest in the Soudan, nor indeed had Egypt any permanent interest in that country. The Government had no intention of doing more in Egypt than to secure a stable government there. Sir Stafford Northcote, making a similar motion in the House of Commons, declared that the conduct of the Government would greatly complicate the present issue and would probably close the great trade route from the equatorial lakes to the Red Sea, give an impetus to the slave trade and greatly diminish England's prestige. Replying, Mr. Gladstone denied that there had been inconsistency or vacillation in the Government's policy. It had not created, but found, the situation in Egypt. He mentioned measures that had been taken to restore peace in the country, and said General Gordon's plan was designed to restore the former rulers of the Soudan to their ancestral power usurped by Egypt. He strongly opposed the reconquest of the Soudan and asked the House for the acquittal of the Government to which it was entitled. Sir Wilfrid Lawson, the temperance Radical, moved an amendment that the House decline to express an opinion on the Government's policy in Egypt. This was seconded by Mr. Labouchere, another leading Radical, who censured both Whigs and Tories. The Hon. Mr. Forster, formerly

Irish Secretary in Mr. Gladstone's Government, blamed the Government for want of promptness, saying the battle of Tel-el-Kebir having left England mistress of Egypt, she should have prevented that country attempting to re-conquer the Soudan with unwilling soldiers. He would, however, support the Government because it had sent General Gordon to the Soudan and for present vigor in military operations. Sir Charles Dilke said the reason General Sir Evelyn Wood's army had not been sent into the Soudan after the defeat of Hicks was that it had been enlisted on condition that it would not have to go to that region. He read a very encouraging telegram just received from General Gordon, and said a large English force would be at Suakin within a week. Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice said the Government was taking most extensive measures on the east coast of Africa to suppress the slave trade. The vote was taken on Sir Stafford Northcote's motion on Tuesday night, and the Government was sustained by 311 to 263.

## THE SOUDAN.

Strong reinforcements have been sent from Cairo into the Soudan. The Egyptian army has become somewhat disorganized by the departure of English officers. A mutinous protest presented to the Khedive by several Egyptian soldiers, objecting to Egyptian soldiers being sent on a Christian expedition, resulted in the arrest of the men presenting it. The protest is numerous, signed, at the signatures are believed to be for the most part forgeries. At all events, General Wood's faith in the fidelity of his command is not shaken by the incident. General Gordon arrived at Khartoum, the chief city, on Saturday last. By means of his remarkable personal influence and ample funds he effected the pacification of all the chiefs on his route. When he reached the capital, he was surrounded by chiefs and hailed as "Sultan of the Soudan." A feeling of confidence in the success of his mission has followed his arrival, it being stated that his proclamations offered liberal concessions and independence to the chiefs and people. He has even recognized El Mahdi, the False Prophet, as Sultan of Kordofan, and allowed domestic slave-holding while declaring against slave trading. Peace and settled government of the region can be restored none too soon, for the rebel chieftain's followers show no mercy to those falling into their power. Two hundred women and children were massacred at the fall of Sinkat, and the war from the beginning has been a series of bloody massacres. Meetings have been held in many parts of England, under the auspices of the Opposition, and the halls made to ring with denunciations of the Government as being responsible, as the virtual ruler of Egypt, for the events in the Soudan. The House of Commons has, however, voted confidence in the Government, notwithstanding the Conservatives had the assistance, in both the debate and the division, of not only the Irish party but members belonging to different subdivisions of the Liberal party.