

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

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TO OUR READERS.

It will perhaps give you as much pleasure as ourselves to be told that the *Weekly Messenger* is growing in favor the better it is known throughout the country. Notwithstanding the large number of subscriptions expiring with the year, the circulation has not only held its own but increased during the first month of the year. In view of the national temperance campaign just inaugurated in Canada, to which this paper will lend a helping hand, we would press its claims as one of the best and cheapest periodicals for distribution by temperance workers. Lecturers and local workers everywhere are invited to send for parcels of specimen copies to give away as they have opportunity. Subscription prices fifty cents a single copy and two dollars for five copies. Address, JOHN DODGALL & SON, Montreal, Canada.

THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

The Queen's speech, in opening Parliament, said the Government's relations with Egypt were unchanged, and the best counsel possible had been given the Egyptian Government. It anticipated that the revenue of the United Kingdom would be up to expectations this year. Irish affairs showed improvement. Measures for the extension of the franchise and to provide local government for counties were promised. A plan for extending municipal government to the whole of London would be presented. Security of life and property at sea would be sought in a law for that purpose. The promotion of electoral purity, of education and morality were to receive attention. On the first day of the session an Irish Liberal gave notice of an amendment to the Land Act. A Conservative member will move that the colonies be represented in Parliament. Another member, agreeable to promise made to the Farmers' Alliance, introduced a resolution to provide for excluding foreign cattle, but it was lost by 251 to 200. The Marquis of Salisbury, criticising the speech in the House of Lords, expressed surprise at the favorable view taken of affairs in Egypt in presence of the bad news from that country. He also found fault with the absence of any reference to the wrongs suffered in Madagascar. Mr. Parnell moved an amendment to the address, condemning the Government's administration of Irish affairs, and bitterly attacked the Orangemen, saying their motive in fighting the Nationalists was not loyalty but their leaders were in the pay of landlords. Mr. Trevelyan, Secretary for Ireland, in reply represented that country to be in a comparatively prosperous condition. On Monday when the clerk of the House of Commons called new members Mr. Bradlaugh—the member for Northampton, who has been elected annually for about four years but not allowed to be sworn so as to take his seat because he said the oath was a meaningless form to him—advanced to the table and administered the oath to himself amid much excitement. Then placing a signed paper on the table, he bowed to the Speaker, who informed him he had not conformed to the rules of the House and ordered him to withdraw. Mr.

Bradlaugh went to a seat under the peers' gallery, which is legally out of the House though actually in the chamber. A motion was made by Sir Stafford Northcote and carried by 280 to 167 that Mr. Bradlaugh be not permitted to take the oath, and a second motion by the same gentleman, who is Leader of the Opposition, that Mr. Bradlaugh be excluded from the precincts of the House, was carried by 228 to 120. Mr. Gladstone, speaking to the first motion, said his opinion had not changed, but it was not the duty of the Executive again and again to dispute the decision of the House. Mr. Bradlaugh was hailed with mingled cheers and hisses as he left the House. The law officers of the Government have been ordered to prosecute him for unlawfully voting three times in the House, the aggregate penalty recoverable being from seven to eight thousand dollars. The offender anticipated and courted prosecution, believing that the courts will not uphold the House in rejecting, on account of his religious views, a duly elected member.

THE IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT.

At this moment the people of Canada are called upon to divide upon one of the most important questions of the age. Men who endeavor to govern themselves by right principles must come to the front and declare whether they believe legal sanction should be given the liquor traffic any longer or not. There is a law on the statute books of the Dominion, called the Canada Temperance Act of 1878, under the provisions of which the people of any county or city have the option of declaring whether they shall have a legalized liquor traffic in the midst of them. A campaign has been ordered all over the country by the Dominion Alliance, for the purpose of securing the adoption of the prohibitory provisions of that Act wherever they have not been already voted into effect. This campaign, whatever its net results, must without the least doubt place the temperance cause upon a higher plane in Canada than it ever occupied before. It will be a crisis, a testing time, in which only known moral cowards who have no reputation to lose can afford to hold doubtful positions upon the question at issue. Persons there are who have been in the habit of excusing themselves from work in the way of trying to reduce the drink evil by means of restrictive clauses in license laws by saying they would assist in securing prohibition but did not believe in half measures. All such persons must now enter the lists on the side of the adoption of the Canada Temperance Act or be liable to be classed among those upon whose professions no dependence can be placed. In this campaign those who have been willing to work hitherto, but failed to find their opportunity perhaps through the too common disposition to wait for others to move, must each and all assume the responsibility that belongs to every citizen. Every man is called upon to decide whether he shall give his consent, by his vote or by his silence, to the liquor traffic in the community in which he lives.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

Mr. Morrison has introduced a tariff reform bill into the House of Representatives, which places on the free list a large number of articles, chiefly such as might be classed as the raw material of the principal manufactures of the country. The bill proposes that after the first of July next no duty shall be levied on cotton and cotton goods above an equivalent of forty percent ad valorem, on iron above 50 percent, or on wool and woollen goods above 60 percent. Mr. Dorsheimer introduced a bill for the free importation of coal, iron ore and coke produced in Canada. Mr. Robinson, the British lion tail-twister, as he has been called, has intimated an intention to move for an export tax of a cent a pound on cotton, which he estimated would give the Government a revenue of thirteen million dollars. That would be protection to the cotton producers with a vengeance, as the tax would make all the difference between profitable trade and ruin. The appropriation for agriculture presented to Congress is \$405,000, and to the navy \$14,329,000, which looks as if the millennial dawn was yet a long distance off. A bill is up to compel Chinamen coming into the country to have certificates that they are not laborers signed not only by the Government of the country of which they are citizens but by the United States representative to such country or consul at their port of departure.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

Since the beginning of the session very much time has been occupied by members moving for information upon a great many subjects of both national and local importance. An Act to allow defendants in criminal cases to testify in their own behalf passed its second reading by 100 to 53 and was referred to a select committee. A deputation 150 strong has waited upon the Government for further aid to the Trent Valley Canal, Ontario. It is said the Government will grant 12,000 acres of land for every mile of railway to the Hudson's Bay Railway project. The overshadowing question in the House of Commons is the proposal of the Government to advance twenty-two and a half millions to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to enable it to complete its contract. Nothing is proposed to be conceded to the country for this enormous concession to contractors who spent outside of their contract the ample means granted them three years ago for the work then undertaken. The Government is bringing forward its best ability in favor of the proposition, and the opposition is doing likewise against it, so that the debate will be a memorable as it is an important one in all save the fact that the result is a foregone conclusion, the Government having a partisan following at its back that will vote through any scheme demanded by it.

A BILL BEFORE THE FRENCH LEGISLATURE proposes to suppress political manifestations on the streets.

Mr. GEORGE B. LORING, of Texas, has sold in England ranch property in that State to the amount of two and a half million dollars. This is said to be the largest live stock property transaction ever made. By the consolidation of two cattle companies in Dallas the Continental Land and Cattle Company has been organized, with a cash capital of \$3,000,000 and a property interest of \$5,000,000. This, again, is said to be the largest corporation of its kind in the world. These figures give color to the foreign opinion sometimes expressed that in America largeness is viewed as the chief merit of everything. Another side of the picture is being shown, however, the representative of an English company that proposed to buy five million dollars' worth of land in Texas says he will report against the investment, as he puts no faith in the future security of the property. He has probably discovered that a powerful public sentiment is being developed in America against the land being allowed to become owned by a few wealthy individuals and corporations who would in time use their wealth and power to lord over the people.

KING CETEWAYO, the somewhat remarkable South African monarch, who was a while ago mourned as dead when he was not, is dead for sure now. Heart disease is the given cause, and it is probably a case of heart breaking from adversity. Some years ago the British thrashed his nation for making a disturbance over its claimed rights, and took the sturdy monarch captive and brought him to England to overawe him with the Empire's power as seen in its wealth and means of defence and offence. At length he was restored to his own country, but in his absence his kingdom had been divided among a number of petty chiefs, including his former right-hand man, the Scotch John Dunn. These would not give up their authority for his sake, and a great deal of fighting has occurred between Cetewayo's followers and those of other chiefs, Great Britain being morally helpless to put them down because she gave them their power at first.

ONE OF THE ANOMALIES of the protection policy is that Governments that adopt it do not abide by its motive principle of encouraging home manufactures when they have to buy anything for their respective countries. They then go where they can get the work best done as well as at the best rates, regardless of the claims of native industry. Working people are not altogether blind to this, and occasionally protest against being ignored by their protectors; but they will not apply the true remedy, which is to sweep away by their votes the whole system of protection that only protects their masters at the expense both of themselves and the whole body of taxpayers. The Trades Assembly of New Orleans, composed of black and white workers, has passed a resolution protesting against the National Government giving the contract for steel plates for an American man-of-war to a British firm.

SHIPBUILDING ON THE CLYDE, Scotland is improving.