

criticise school management, and vote at trustee elections there would be more interest taken in these matters by the other sex, very much to the advantage of all concerned. If women would now and then become candidates for the office of trustee themselves, so much the better.

Women, whether married or unmarried, can vote at school meetings. Only widows and spinsters have been entrusted with the right to vote for members of Municipal Councils. This is the first year in which even these could vote. At some future time the Legislature will no doubt have placed married women in the same position as their husbandless sisters, but meanwhile, those who have the municipal franchise, and their numbers are great, should make a point of exercising it. Every woman who is taxed for property should have some voice in the choice of those who collect the taxes and spend the money. And those who are allowed to have such a voice should make it a matter of conscientious duty to give it effective utterance through the medium of the ballot. The best way to secure the municipal franchise for unmarried women, and the political franchise for all, is for women who have the limited franchise to use it generally and carefully in the public interest.

There is a special reason why those women, who are for the first time entrusted with the municipal franchise, should go to the polls every year to vote for reeves, councillors, mayors and aldermen. The regulation of the liquor traffic is intimately bound up with our municipal system. Municipal councils can do much to restrict the traffic if they choose to exercise their legal powers for that purpose. They can keep down the number of licenses, they can abolish saloon licenses, they can compel the separation of the liquor trade from the grocery business, and they can raise the license fee. If those women who can vote would use their influence for men known to be favorable to the utmost possible restriction of the traffic, they might work a social revolution of no inconsiderable extent, and do much to educate public opinion in favor of general prohibition.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND THE SCOTT ACT.

The extensive powers vested in our City and County Councils, in reference to the restriction of the liquor traffic in various ways have been strongly urged in the columns of THE CANADA CITIZEN as urgent reasons why the friends of temperance should see that for all offices of municipal authority candidates are nominated and elected who are in full active sympathy with our cause.

There is a still stronger reason why constituencies which have adopted the Scott Act should elect as mayors, reeves, etc., men who can be depended upon to support the Act in its practical working. To the honor of the County Council of Halton, it has set an excellent example to Councils that may in future have to deal with this matter. A week ago, a deputation of the License Board for the County of Halton waited upon the Council to explain that up to the present time the sums paid as fines for offences against the Scott Act had been sufficient to cover the expenses of prosecution, but that most of the offenders were now being prosecuted for third offences, the penalty for which is imprisonment instead of fine, so that there was no further revenue coming from this source. The Council, having heard the deputation, decided that those supporting the law should not lack funds, and placed a sufficient sum at their disposal.

Our friends who have succeeded so well in carrying the Scott Act by large majorities, must now see to it that their municipal councils consist of men who will go and do likewise. It would be disastrous to the Act if it should fail to have a fair trial just at the point where its most drastic provisions require enforcement, simply because an unfriendly Council refuses to find the means to prosecute the law-breakers. There need be no fear of this, if temperance electors will take action in time. Let tried and true men be nomi-

inated and elected. Every place that carries the Scott Act can also elect men to provide funds for its enforcement. The majorities which decide the adoption of the Act can elect Councils.

The facts referred to in regard to Halton are very instructive from another point of view. They prove that the Scott Act is prohibiting liquor-selling in that county. There are few new offenders. The same "hard cases" who have already been convicted are coming up for the third time, and unless they leave their country for their country's good, they will be imprisoned. In either case their depredations will be at an end, and Halton will gradually prove that prohibition prohibits when directed against liquor-selling as well as when directed against murder, theft, or arson.

THE GRAND DIVISION.

We publish in other columns a summarized report of the proceedings of the Grand Division at its recent Annual Session. The attendance was not large, but the earnestness of those who were present, and the satisfactory character of the reports received, compensated for the absence of many worthy members, who could not—at the present crisis and press of Scott Act work—be expected to leave the field of battle for the council-hall, when they knew that enough reliable men would be on hand to ensure the efficient trans- action of all necessary business.

The report of the G. W. P. is a very interesting document. It speaks strongly and hopefully of the present bright outlook of the temperance reform, and urges to renewed zeal and vigor. There is in it no tinge whatever of boastfulness. In fact, it almost falls short of giving the Order full credit for its share in the great work that has been accomplished. We rejoice in the co-operation of every society and individual to-day enlisted in the ranks of our mighty army, but we must not forget to specially honor the pioneers of our glorious enterprise. The temperance sentiment of Canada to-day is the rich harvest of seed that through long years of patient and persistent toil has been sown by the Sons of Temperance, Good Templars, and kindred organizations, whose divisions and lodges, in every hamlet of our land, have trained in sterling truth and manly principle those who to-day are our Scott Act leaders, workers, and voters. Let us give "honor to whom honor is due," even though they be too modest to claim it themselves.

A kindly and timely hint is given to divisions about aggressive work. There is often too much internality and clannishness about our organizations. It is right that there should be strong fraternal regard and continual effort after mutual edification and entertainment, but our divisions ought to be pre-eminently missionary organizations. Every temperance hall should be a centre of influence, felt by, and benefitting, the whole surrounding community. We want a great deal more outside work.

The increase of divisions and membership is very encouraging. There is sometimes a good deal said about the present temperance enthusiasm in Canada being a mere wave of feeling in the minds of the electorate; but this is effectually disproved by the fact that not only are Scott Act victories being won, but the ranks of pledged and organized workers are being steadily and rapidly increased.

The glorious Halton victory is referred to again, and every Son of Temperance must feel proud to learn of the generous and effective assistance that the Grand Division gave in that important campaign.

The tribute so gracefully paid to the grand work of the W. C. T. U. is richly merited. Woman has done great and noble things for the temperance cause, and true temperance reformers must long for the day when she shall be permitted to share with man the privilege of expressing her strong convictions in the form that will be most effective.