

## LIQUOR TRAFFIC DESPERATE.

Everywhere in the United States is noticed a strong tide against the evils of the liquor traffic; so much so that special organs of the traffic are talking with alarm of the danger to "the trade." To offset this, an immense fund is being used to make an educative campaign as against the temperance propaganda. A special effort is being made to get possession of the opportunities which newspapers afford, and a great many innocent-looking paid advertisements are being inserted in United States newspapers in the form of ordinary reading matter. Such matter is usually to the effect that the celebrated Doctor So-and-So has given it as his opinion it is all a mistake to say the reasonable use of intoxicating liquor is harmful to the system—that, in fact, good health needs the use of good liquor. Then there are advertisements (without the name of any particular brewer attached) extolling the tonic effects of beer, and its wonderful effect in enriching the blood, vitalizing the stomach, making kidneys and liver active, building flesh and better nerves. The object of these regular style and reading matter advertisements is twofold: First, to offset the constant propaganda of the opponents of the liquor traffic, and, second, to chloroform the press, through such financial considerations as advertisements, into quietness and carefulness not to adversely discuss the ravages of "the trade" from which they are getting advertising monies.

This pro-liquor propaganda in United States newspapers has reached extensive proportions. There is reason to think some sort of understanding has been reached between the liquor magnates of the United States and those of Canada, as the same classes of regular and reading matter advertisements and notices alluded to are now appearing in such Canadian newspapers as are amenable to the influences above referred to. Perhaps it is all a good sign. It shows the traffic considers the warfare of the temperance people has become dangerous, and that an important mass of public opinion has been created which must in some way or other be stemmed. The moral for those who regard the liquor traffic as evil, only evil, and that continually, is to stand to their guns more steadfastly than ever, hold firmly each foot of ground achieved, and turn each gain into a new starting point.

The price of flour in Glasgow rose another shilling a sack. Since the upward tendency manifested itself in August there has been a gradual rise of 5s per sack.

An Aberdeen minister has declined to accept an increase of £50 per annum to his stipend, his reason being that times are bad, and that in the meantime he had sufficient in the shape of salary.

Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman for the first time since his accession to the premiership will be the principal guest at the lord mayor's banquet, which takes place at the London Guild Hall.

## GREAT WESTERN EXPANSION.

Rev. Dr. McQueen, of the First Presbyterian church, Edmonton, has been bringing before his people, in a striking manner, the marvellous growth of church work in the West, as well as the financial requirements necessary to its being properly and efficiently carried on. Among other things Dr. McQueen said: The needs of that portion of the Presbyterian church comprising Ontario, Quebec, and the western provinces through to the coast for the year ending in February next, will be: Foreign missions, \$122,000; augmentation of stipends, \$45,000; French evangelization, \$44,000; colleges (Manitoba), \$9,000; aged and infirm ministers' fund, \$18,000; assembly fund, \$8,000; temperance and moral reform, \$5,000.

Where 25 years ago there were west of Lake Superior only four self-sustaining churches, ten augmented churches and twenty-six missions, there were now 166 self-sustaining churches, 79 augmented and 574 missions.

Twenty years ago when Dr. McQueen came to Edmonton this mission was included in the Calgary Presbytery, and attending a presbytery meeting in those days meant a rough drive of 200 miles to the south and the outlay of \$50. He had a scattered mission, having charge of the services at Edmonton, Fort Saskatchewan, Belmont, Clover Bar, Poplar Lake and the Sturgeon. He would visit Fort Saskatchewan twice a month, holding services in the morning, going to Belmont in the afternoon and returning to Edmonton for evening. The next Sunday he would visit the Fort and Clover Bar, the next the Fort and Poplar Lake, the next he would go out to the Sturgeon, and if it so happened that there was a fifth Sunday in the month he would hold service at the Stoney Plain Indian reserve, where he spoke through an interpreter.

In 1893 Edmonton became self-sustaining and has since made steady progress. Here John A. McDougall, a pioneer member of the congregation, supports one missionary by personal contribution, and has done so for the past three years. Messrs. Crafts & Lee have undertaken to support another. In Calgary there are eight individuals supporting missions, and in Medicine Hat four. In all there are over 200 of these individual contributors to Presbyterian missions in Canada, one of the most prominent being Henry Birks, of Montreal.

With an eulogistic reference to the excellent Christian work done in the West by the late Dr. Robertson, superintendent of missions, the speaker impressed upon his hearers the responsibility devolving upon the members of the church to meet their share of the work to be done in a growing country into which thousands of emigrants poured each year.

Capt. Amundsen arrived in New York and announced that four polar bears were being trained to pull sleds for his attempt to reach the North Pole in 1910.

The Carnegie Hero Commission at its annual meeting in Pittsburgh announced twenty-four awards of medals and money for bravery, the largest list in its history.

## LITERARY NOTES.

The October Blackwood's gives instalments of two serials—a continuation of "A Subaltern of Horse," which has been entertaining the readers of *Maga* for several months past, and the opening chapters of a new story by Katherine Cecil Thurston, called "The Fly on the Wheel." Mr. G. W. Forrest, C.I.E., has a most interesting article on "Plague in India." Other readable articles are: "Akhmatov, Pharaoh of Egypt"; "Fire-Fishing"; "Working Terriers Past and Present"; and "The Scottish Churches' National Religion," Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York.

Probably the most timely article in the October Contemporary is that on "The New Marriage Law"—under two headings: "Is Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Forbidden in Scripture?" by the Rev. W. E. Gaddis; and "The Church of England and the New Marriage Law," by J. E. G. de Montmorency. The Literary Supplement, a new department just inaugurated in the Contemporary, promises to be a welcome addition to book criticism. Dr. E. J. Dillon's department, that of Foreign Affairs, is always interesting; and the number also contains articles on a variety of topics. Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York.

"Caleres" opens the October Fortnightly by a discussion of "The Anglo-Russian Agreement." Sir Thomas Barclay follows with "The Second Hague Conference." Other subjects are: "Some Problems of University Reform"; "The Poetry of Crabbe"; "Limits of Scottish Patriotism"; "Racial Prejudice Against Japan," and "The National Significance of Don Quixote."

The September number of *The Studio* presents the usual interesting table of contents, the colored illustrations being extremely good. The first article is on "The Landscape Paintings of Mr. Grosvenor Thomas." Then follow: "An American Portrait Painter: Wilton Lockwood"; "The Seventh International Exhibition of Art at Venice, 1907"; "A Note on the Water-Color Sketches of Alfred Waterhouse, R.A."; "Alexandre Strup, a Belgian Painter"; and "The Norman Chapel Buildings at Broad Campden in Gloucestershire." Studio-Talk is as usual bright, suggestive and full of interest. Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York.

The Nineteenth Century and After for October contains a large number of interesting and timely articles, such as "The Authenticity of Ancient Literature, Secular and Sacred," by Right Rev. Bishop Weldon; "Some Modern Ideas About Women's Education," by Mrs. Creighton; "A Japanese Board School," by Captain P. W. North; "Gladstone's Place in Religious Thought"; and "Oxford and Nation." Perhaps the paper that will attract most attention in this country is the one entitled "The Pure Politics" campaign in Canada, by H. Hamilton Fyfe. The writer lays bare many of the weaknesses of our political system, and makes references more or less direct to "The private lives of certain politicians not remarkable for their domestic virtues." He adds: "A resolute effort is being made by the churches to induce Canadians to purify politics, and insist upon a higher public morality." Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York.