Temperance Column.

CHURCH TEMPERANCE WORK.

THE TORONTO DIOCESAN CONFER-ENCE OF THE C.E.T.S.

The first General Conference of the Church of England Temperance Society of the Diocese of Toronto, was held in St. James' Schoolhouse Toronto, last week and was not only a very interesting but exceedingly valuable series of meetings. Though the attendance was much smaller than it should have been, the papers and addresses given before the Conference, contain a vast storehouse of information on every department of temperance work which we trust will with the aid of the press be given to and studied by a very large number of Canadian churchmen.

PUBLIC DEBATE.

The opening meeting on Tuesday evening 10th inst., was a public debate on the subject, "Is legal Prohibiton of the liquor traffic desirable in this Country." The champions of prohibiton were Rev. Dr. Roy of Cobourg, Revs. S. Weston Tong of Tindage and M.S. ton Jones of Lindsay, and M. S. Caldecott of Toronto. On the other side were Prof. Goldwin Smith. Rev. J. H. McCollum, and Rev. T. W. Patterson of Toronto. It is needless to say the subject was and exhaustively thoroughly handled. Dr. Roy delivered an eloquent and scholarly address, showing the great benefits which would accrue from the utter abolition of the traffic, touching some of its effects on the health, labor, and life of the people. He contended that society had a perfect right to protect itself from so great an evil. Prof. Smith took the ground that unless drinking a glass of wine was per se a sin, we had no right to prohibit it, and contended that probibition where passed, only made mattors worse. The other addresses brought out some excellent points. Mr. Caldecott especially, giving very valuable statistics on the question.

C.E.T.S. Work and Temperance Literature.—The Conference proper opened on Wednesday morning when the above subjects were introduced by Mr. Robt. Graham of New York, Genl. Secy. of the Church Temperance Society of the U.S., whose presence at the Conference added greatly to its usefulness and interest. Mr. Graham sketched the rise and progress of the Society in England, showing that after 15 years work, it had now some 9,000 parochial branches, 500,000 adult and 500,000 juvenile members, and over 5,000 total abstaining elergymen in its ranks. The double basis of the Society on which this great work had been accomplished was warmly com-mended and members urged to mended and members urged to guard it jealously. The personal and religious side of the question was the great work of the Society, and some valuable hints as to its conduct were given, legislative restriction however had not been neglected by the Society either at danger of attempted moderation.

England or America. The necessity of a plentiful supply of true reliable temperance literature was emphasised. The work among the children was strongly commended and the working of a new branch of the Society in the U.S., the Knights of Temperance, for boys from fourteen to 21 with triple pledge against intemperance, impurity, plained. and infidelity, was ex-

Mr. Geo. Merser, Diocesan Secretary, gave an interesting sketch of the work of the Society in the diocese since its introduction in 1882. Fifty-two branches had been reported with 5,600 members. besides 2,600 children in Bands of Hope, and at least 23 branches outside the diocese had been organized or assisted by the Diocesan Branch. Temperance books, badges and periodicals, had been distri-buted, and the first Sunday in Lent generally observed as Temperance Sunday. He regretted that some branches showed a falling off in interest lately, and trusted that a special effort would now be made to consolidate and extend the good

Obstacles and how to Remove them, was treated ably in a paper by Rev. R. Harrison of St. Matthias Church, Toronto. The first obstacle was he thought a want of the spirit of self-denial which could be best removed by a strict com-pliance with the Church's rules and fasting and abstinence. Children should be early taught in these rules, given the advantages of early confirmation and communion. For reformation of the intemperate the ordinary machinery of the Church should be sufficient, but counter attractions ought also to be provided. One obstacle was the tendency to ignore the double basis which must be firmly maintained. Discussion followed by Prof. Richardson, R. J. P. Lewis, Rev. H. G. Baldwin, Mr. Hoyles and others, when some good points were brought out.

Scientific aspect of Intemperance. -This subject was the theme for the afternoon session and papers were read by Drs. Geikie, Aitken, Coverton, Oliphant, McMahon, and Prof. Richardson.

Dr. Geikie said moderation is neither safe nor wise. High medical testimony showed that even moderate use of intoxicants was detrimental to health, and especially to brain workers who should be especially careful to abstain. Drs. Aitken, Coverton, and Oliphant, took similiar ground and gave some very valuable statistics. Mr. Richardson and Dr. McMahon contended that, used in proper moderation, alcohol was not injurious but sometimes beneficial though not necessary to persons in good health.

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