

## Temperance Department.

TRUTH desires to give, each week, information from every part of the Temperance work. Any information gladly received. Address T. W. CASEY, G. W. S., Editor, Napanee, Ont.

### Prohibition Workings.

BY HON. NEAL DOW.

In the States, and it appears in some parts of Canada too, a class of anti-prohibitionists are pretty industriously at work, whose stock-in-trade seems to be to hold up the State of Maine as a horrid example of all the evils sure to follow in the train of a prohibitory law. Sometime they say the people are all given over to opium eating, because they cannot obtain drink. That was an old lie, but they worked it industriously some years ago. We answer, that we never heard of it, though we live in Maine. They say that there are more divorces in Maine than elsewhere, all coming from prohibition. We answer that in the States, where license prevails there are as many as in Maine, in some of them more, but, whatever the number, they have no more connection with prohibition than have the eclipses of the sun or moon; they result only from our lax laws upon that subject. They say that the business of Maine has been greatly hampered and harmed by prohibition. We answer that there is no State in the Union that has prospered more than Maine has done under their policy. They say Maine does not increase in population like other States, solely on account of prohibition. We answer that our climate is harsh and our soil stony and thin and sterile, and for that reason our young people go off to other States, where the soil is fertile and the climate genial. Our sons, in the States of their adoption, become governors and members of legislatures, and of Congress, and of the Senate, and judges, and college presidents and professors, and leading and prosperous business men in their several localities, and our daughters become teachers and professors in female colleges. Our sons also are found throughout the country occupying the equally honorable positions of engineers and mechanics and farmers, and railway men and millers, whose enterprise and intelligence and success in business have made them marked men in their several localities. In a large part of our territory an entire generation has grown up—men and women—who have never seen a saloon and are ignorant of their effects upon the condition of the people.

These Liquor League advocates do not seem to be conscious of the fact that their objections to prohibition run on different and opposing lines. First, that prohibition does not prohibit; that in Maine there is more liquor selling than over, and consequently more drunkenness and pauperism and crime, all coming from the abundance of beer and whisky. Second, that because people are shut off from the liquor they go away from the State, and its business suffers in consequence of this emigration. In our harsh climate and on our hard soil, where we are all obliged to work, and where the liquor traffic is almost extinguished, we raise, strong, stout, brave men and women and train them in our well endowed schools and colleges, to fit them for any and every department in life, and then we send them away with God's blessing into larger broader fields of work, enterprise, and usefulness, where they make for themselves honorable positions among men, influencing for good every community where they make a home.

It cannot be possible that the people can fail to see, wherever these mummy parsons and lawyers go, that their mission is a fraud and a lie. If the Maine Law really increases the sale of liquor, as these men affirm, would the rumsellers organize liquor protective leagues to defend the trade against prohibition, and spend large sums of money to employ such people in the work of falsifying the facts in relation to the actual results of prohibition? The rum lawyers of Kansas and Iowa declare that prohibition in those States has done nothing in diminishing the volume of the liquor traffic. At the same

time the brewers and distillers are loud in their lamentations that they are ruined, because their investments, involving their all, have been rendered valueless by prohibition, and they call pitifully upon the State Government to compensate them for their now abandoned and useless distilleries and breweries.

There is a gentleman in Portland living here now for a year. A friend of his in Ohio wrote to him to know whether the Maine Law is usually a success or a failure. This was his reply—"I have been living here now a year. I see all sorts of people, and mingle with them freely, many of them gentlemen who, like myself, are not fanatics, not sentimentalists, not teetotallers. I have had no connection with the temperance movement here or elsewhere, though I am on good terms with some temperance men, as I am with many who have no sympathy with the temperance cause, and very little with those engaged in it. If a friend from abroad should come into my office, and I should wish to offer him a glass of wine, I know of no place in the city where I could find it. There are such places here, and on inquiry of persons whom I know, I could learn where I could go to obtain the wine, but it would be in such a place and of such a character and surroundings that I would not take a friend to it, and no man with self-respect would go there."

### Temperance and Politics.

At the recent great Conservative convention here the members all gave a wide field to the Temperance question, as leading party leaders usually do. We are gravely told that new planks were added to the party platform, and resolutions were adopted in regard to several political issues, but the platform makers were apparently perfectly oblivious to the fact that the most interesting and important of all the questions before the people of Canada to-day is the question of the further continuance of the licensed liquor traffic. Not one line or one point was given as to the position of a great political party in regard to the greatest question in Canadian politics to-day. Just before the convention closed, Sir John was on his feet speech making when, according to the *Daily News* report, some delegate ventured to interrupt him and ask, "What about the Scott Act?" The great chieftain paused a moment, took up a glass of cold water from the table, took a drink and smiled pleasantly at the audience and then went on with the usual speech. Of course all the audience laughed at the mysterious hint, and that was all the attention given to the Scott Act question, so far as we have learned, during the entire two days' deliberations.

Had there been a Reform convention of two days duration at this time, or indeed at any time just now, it is quite likely that there would have been a similar ignoring of this issue in any platform that might have been agreed upon. Had any one of the Reform leaders been interrupted with a similar awkward question, it is quite likely he would have evaded a direct answer as surely, if not as adroitly, as the shrewd old Premier. The leading lights of both sides systematically evade this question in all their great platform deliverances, simply because they are afraid that any straightforward utterances would "embarrass the party."

As parties are yet made up in Canada the temperance and anti-temperance men are pretty thoroughly mixed up. In Sir John's Cabinet of to-day there is one of the most respected temperance workers in the Dominion, in the person of Sir Leonard Tilley, and there is one of the largest brewers in the Dominion, in the person of the Hon. John Carling. Probably it would be a dangerous experiment to attempt to throw either man overboard. On the other side of the house sat, during last Parliament, one of the largest distillers in Canada, in the person of Mr. Wiser, and on the same side are now ranged leading temperance men and leading liquor sellers. The Reform party is not now strong enough to attempt to cast either class aside.

In Lennox County a Parliamentary election is now pending, and the candidate on the one side is the leading liquor seller of the county. There are a large number of temperance men belonging to his party and it is

quite probable that most of them will vote the party ticket all the same. Some of the leading supporters of the opposing candidate are men largely interested in the liquor trade, and they stand for their man straight through. Of course, both candidates and both parties would gladly remain silent on the temperance question if they could. Of course, both give it "a-half-an-half" treatment, as it is, so far as they can possibly do so.

It may require years of overturning yet before the temperance question will become a well defined party issue in Canadian politics, but that day must come, in our humble opinion, and the sooner it comes the better.

### The Distillers and Grain.

The same cry is raised to catch the ears of the farmers in the States as in Canada, that the legalized liquor business must go on so as to furnish a grain market for the farmers. To listen to some of these "arguments" one would be almost induced to come to the conclusion that the Canadian farmer would be all but destitute of a market at all for his corn, rye, and barley were it not for the demand of the brewers and distillers.

The facts go to show, however, that Canada does not produce enough corn each year for its own requirements outside of the distiller's demand, and that every bushel of corn, or its equivalent, distilled in Canada is imported from the United States. It is also clearly shown, by the official facts, that only about 200,000 bushels of rye are annually used for distillation—not a tenth part of our crop. It is also clearly proved that out of an annual crop of over twenty million bushels of Canadian barley but 1,200,000 bushels are consumed by the liquor makers—a quantity about equal to that used for seed by the farmers.

The *Farmer's Review*, an ably conducted American journal, writing on this subject, says that though so much is heard about the importance of the distilling interests of the country as affording the farmer a market for his grain, yet the official report of the Commissioners of Internal Revenue shows that the total amount of grain of all kinds (principally corn and rye) used in that country in that way is less than nineteen million bushels. The crop of the country last year was estimated at two thousand million bushels, and the total demand of the distillers would be equal to but one bushel out of every 105 of the corn crop, and the farmer must seek elsewhere for a market for the other 104 bushels.

The *Review* closes by saying—"So far as a market for the farmer is concerned, the distilling business cuts but an insignificant figure, and would scarcely be missed if it were to cease entirely." The same remark would hold true in regard to Canada also.

### GOOD TEMPLARS.

IN MEMORIAM.—The family of Brother D. Smellie, of St. John's Lodge, Toronto, have suffered a terrible bereavement in the loss of its brightest and loveliest ornament, Sister Jeannie Smellie, a bright and beautiful girl of twenty summers, an only daughter, died on Saturday, Dec. 20th, after a few days' illness. She was at her usual place in St. John's Lodge the week previous, and took part in the entertainment of the meeting, by assisting her mother in musical entertainment. She was seldom absent from the Lodge for years, and we have no hesitation in saying that she always cheered the members by her sunny presence. She was suddenly cut down, like a beautiful summer flower by the winter's frost. Nearly the entire family of Bro. Smellie are among the most active members of the Lodge, and the entire membership of the city deeply sympathize with them in their hour of great affliction. They mourn not as those without hope.

On Monday of last week a large number of the Toronto Templars met at the house of mourning to pay their last respects to one so lovely in life. About a hundred of the male members marched in procession to Mount Pleasant Cemetery, where the beautiful Templar burial service was read by Bro. W. C. Wilkinson, C. D., and W. H. Rodden, D. W. C. T.

There is no flock, however watched and tended,  
But one dead lamb is there!  
There is no shrill, hoarse, or defended,  
But has one vacant chair.

## NEWS AND NOTES.

RED TAP.—The action of the Dominion Government in regard to the Scott Act petitions from Perth County has been such as to give much trouble and annoyance to the workers there. It may all be the result of red tape—too common among public officials anyway—but it is little less vexatious on that account. The petitions from the County were duly advertised and deposited in the Registry office at Stratford in August last, and they were placed in the hands of the Secretary of State the first day of September with a view of securing an early vote. The Government allowed over a month to pass before any definite action was taken, and then they submitted the question to the Supreme Court for a decision whether these petitions ought not to have been filed in both registry offices in the County, and another month or so was spent in that way. The Court was of opinion that the petitions must be filed in both registry offices or in the sheriff's office. The Scott Act Committee of the County then asked to withdraw the petitions so as to refile them in accordance with the decision, and were informed by an Under-Secretary that said petitions had been filed as "a record of the Department," and would not, therefore, be given up. The only course to pursue, under the circumstances, has been to get at work again and circulate an entire new set of petitions throughout the entire County. This is now being done, and though it will involve a good deal of extra work, additional cost, and more delay, the Government will be asked in due time to fix a day again. It will then be seen if some new technicality will not be resorted to, and if the Government will consent to more delays. A year of time to the liquor interests has been gained in that way, but probably their gain in the transaction will end there.

WESLEYAN JUVENILE WORK.—The following statistics, clipped from the report of the Temperance Committee of the last Wesleyan Conference in England, shows how industriously the Methodists in the old land are working to educate the rising generation. The total number of Bands of Hope reported this year is 2821, an increase of 177. The number of members is 291,959, an increase of 20,789. As the increase in our Sunday schools is 10,508, the Bands of Hope are gradually gaining upon the Sunday-schools. At the same time, as we have now 852,459 Sunday scholars, much must still be done before we attain the high but practicable and most desirable ideal of enrolling every Sunday scholar in a Band of Hope. When the Band of Hope returns are analysed, it appears that 1738 of them, with 182,367 members, are organized according to Conference rules, while 1072, with 105,595 members, have not yet availed themselves of the admirable and carefully considered organizations sanctioned by the Conference. The great majority of the Bands of Hope—2639, with 273,677 members—are connected with Sunday schools. There are now only 161 Bands not thus connected, and it is probable that in these few cases there may be special circumstances necessitating their isolation. But with such exceptions, it is a great mutual advantage that the Band of Hope should be closely identified with the Sunday-school. This intimate union furnishes the Band of Hope with a perpetual stream of recruits, and tends to leaven the whole school with temperance principles.

DRINKING AND THE CHOLERA.—A Chicago paper publishes the following significant paragraph: "Speaking of the Cholera in France, a Paris correspondent says: 'A vast majority of those who have died of cholera during the past few weeks have been hard drinkers. The cholera had just finished what alcohol had begun.' " It is a well authenticated fact that the last year of the great cholera scourge in Canada the intemperate were among the greatest victims. It would undoubtedly be so again should the disease unfortunately visit our land. Doctors say that men addicted to drink would find it dangerous to stop just when such a disease is in their midst, and about equally as dangerous to go on. It would be better to stop at once, therefore, and "brace up" before the emergency comes.