

Sabbath observance in the County of Annapolis. His works in this sphere of effort follow him and will doubtless still result in fruit to the Divine glory.

As this is probably the last report which your Committee will present to you as a Synod, they may be allowed to say that much work yet remains to be accomplished, and is likely to arise of greater difficulty than that with which your Committee have had to contend. They express the hope that the cause will receive hereafter that attention which its importance demands, and that the day which has been made for man will be a source of increasing blessing and happiness to Presbyterians in their united capacity throughout the Dominion of Canada.

Respectfully submitted,
ROBERT LAIRD,
Convener.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee do not feel called upon to occupy the time of the Synod on the present occasion by a lengthy report. Nor can they claim credit for any unusual activity on their own part during the past year.

EVILS.

It is unnecessary to press upon this Court the magnitude of the evil of intemperance or the complication of evils to which it leads. To them we rejoice to know that the Synod is keenly alive. It is difficult to realize the multiplicity and magnitude of these evils. It is impossible to overestimate them. The traffic in intoxicating drinks is fraught with peril to the Church and State, to the individual and to society at large, to the body and to the soul of every one who comes within its reach. It has led to our jails and penitentiaries by far the larger proportion of their inmates. It has weakened the hands of the Christian Church, and laid upon the State enormous burdens. It has paralyzed and impoverished the commerce of the world. It has lifted its hand against the authority of law, and interfered with the independence of Parliament. It is one of the greatest hinderances to the spread of the gospel, and one of the most powerful means employed by Satan for the destruction of immortal souls. The many evils it produces—the kind hearts it breaks, the happy homes it blights, the innocent children it starves, and beggars, and murders, the gray hairs it brings down with sorrow to the grave, and the multitude of precious souls it is sending down annually to a drunkard's perdition,—all these considerations call loudly on this Synod as well as all the members and office-bearers of our

Church to use all lawful means to stem the tide of intemperance, yea, to eradicate entirely this gigantic evil from our land.

EFFORTS.

Your Committee rejoice to know that during the past year strenuous efforts have been made for the suppression of the evil; that advantage has been taken of the legislation of previous years, and that those engaged in this unhallowed traffic have in many instances been compelled to abandon it. Both in Nova Scotia and in P. E. Island such a powerful moral and legal influence has been brought to bear upon the rum-sellers that in some cases the traffic has been entirely banished from whole communities. Such has been the case in Antigonish, in Mount Stewart, and to a greater or lesser extent in other places. In this last named locality the Roman Catholic Priest, the Wesleyan and Presbyterian clergymen of the place met together in the Presbyterian Church, and addressed crowded audiences night after night, and by a thorough organization, and by continued and persevering efforts they succeeded in putting down this evil, so that at the present time there is not a single house in that rising town where a glass of intoxicating liquor can be purchased. If in the instances the united and well directed efforts of clergymen and other temperance workers have resulted in the suppression yea, the entire banishment of the evil, might not the same means in other places be productive of the same results?

PROHIBITION.

Your Committee note with satisfaction that the friends of temperance have during the past year made a noble, though, to be regretted, unsuccessful effort to obtain, by numerous signed petitions, a prohibitory liquor law for the whole Dominion. Though the appeal to our legislators on this occasion has failed in obtaining the end desired, your Committee would encourage temperance workers to continue the agitation of this question and next year after year the effort, bringing, if possible, each year a larger and more influential array of names to bear upon our request as the best way to succeed in securing the passage of a law for the prohibition of importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating drink in our land.

PROGRESS.

Your Committee are pleased to note that throughout the bounds of the Synod there is a growing interest manifested in the cause of temperance, not only among our ministers, but also amongst our members and adherents; and we regard this as a vital sign in the cause of temperance as