

**DRINK**

In a recent issue, the New Voice of Chicago, edited by John G. Woolley, discusses the murder of Bridget Kilroy, reported on another page of this paper, and makes an appeal based thereon, to Bishop Potter, Dr. Rainsford and other prominent clergymen and scientific men who lately have been arguing against prohibition and prohibitionists. From this forcible and personal appeal, we clip the following paragraphs, only stopping to say that the liquor traffic in Ontario does the same work that the liquor traffic does in the United States:

"We respectfully call the attention of these gentlemen to the tragic death of Bridget Kilroy, floor scrubber and woman of general work, drunkard's wife and the mother of a drunkard's children, lying dead upon the floor of a basement tenement of the city of Boston on the morning of the Sabbath day, January 26, in the year of Christ 1902.

"Gentlemen, upon various occasions in public addresses and in the public prints, on dates more or less recent, you have given utterance to views concerning the saloon and concerning the use of alcoholic drinks, to which we have felt obliged to take exceptions, and the fallacies of which it has seemed to us necessary to point out. Concerning those views we raise no discussion at the present time. We will allow, formally, of course, and merely for the sake of argument, your contention. Let it be taken for granted that the prohibitionist is a fraud and a hypocrite, as Bishop Potter has insisted; let it be accepted without dispute that the saloon is a beneficent institution and has come to stay, as Dr. Rainsford has told the public; let it be conceded that the encouragement of beer drinking, taking place in certain of our institutions of learning, notably in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, arises from the best of motives; let it be accepted as scientific truth that alcohol is a food, valuable both in sickness and in health, as Dr. Atwater and his disciples contend; let all these things be granted upon your side of the contention, and in the face of them all, and in recognition of them all, we do you to wit the lot of Bridget Kilroy.

"It was the saloon that killed Bridget Kilroy; it was the drink that choked out her life, pounded and kicked her body into a mass of wounds and bruises. The saloon, gentlemen, that you praise, conditionally, it is true, but praise none the less; the drink, gentlemen, that you defend, under limitations, of course, but defend none the less! The home of the Kilroys, bare, cheerless, poverty stricken, a place of suffering and sorrow, a place where hungry children cried for food and little ones shivered for lack of clothing, a place where a father and husband forgot his duty to his wife and children, where a despairing mother, in the last extremities of anguish fought day by day, merely continue the torture of life for herself and her little ones — that home, a fit place for the commission of such a crime, a place ready prepared, as it were, for such a scene of blood and violence — that home, gentlemen, was the product of the American saloon system, as clearly marked as such, as well recognized as such, as if the saloon's "hall mark" had been stamped upon it. It was not only a product of the saloon system, but it was merely one of the innumerable host of similar

products, such as the saloon, to the knowledge of all men, constantly and unceasingly creates.

"We call to your attention further, gentlemen, that no other agency known to men creates such places. Not poverty alone, not ignorance alone, not wickedness alone, makes a place so forsaken of God and man, so remote from heaven and the possibility of good, so circled by the devils and hell, as a drunkard's home. But the poverty, the ignorance and the wickedness of the saloon make such places by the uncounted thousands.

"When Michael Kilroy reeled home in the early hours of the holy Sabbath of Sunday, January 26, in the Christian city of Boston, his pockets empty of the money that he promised to his wife to buy the clothing for lack of which his children were freezing; when he answered her appeal for the fulfillment of his promise with a blow that knocked her to the floor; when he choked, with his fingers upon her throat, her appeal for mercy; when he kicked her with his heavy boots, and she about to become the mother of another child; when he sat for hours, unmoved, listening to her moans and watching her sufferings; when he brutally mistreated the children who would have brought her help; when he struck away the water that her little daughter was lifting to her bloody, chattering lips — it was drink, gentlemen — the drink that Professor Atwater tells us is food — the drink that you gentlemen recommend in "moderation", that made him do it; and neither in earth nor hell has any other agency been found, in the history of the whole human race that inspired men to such deeds.

"But drink, gentlemen, alcoholic drink, not only made Michael Kilroy do that brutal, devilish deed, but has transformed uncounted thousands of men into fiends of the same character and has driven them to deeds equally brutal. Drink, gentlemen, has inspired tragedies so commonly and in such multitude, that the public scarcely pauses to notice their occurrence. Drink, gentlemen, is to-day preparing more men for just such deeds as that; and you know, and we know, and the world knows, that it will take boys from your churches, boys from your schools, aye, God pity you, perhaps boys from your homes, and will make them into such brutes to work such crimes in future years on women who to-day are lovely and loving girls.

"It was only twelve days before the butchery in that Boston tenement that Vincent Vincelsk came home drunk in Pittsburg and chopped his wife and little children to death with a rail cutter. It was only thirteen days before that John Blissett, of Detroit, drunk, emptied his revolver into his wife's body and poured kerosene over her and stood with lighted match to make her a burnt offering to drink when the police broke in upon him. It was just one month and a day before that a father in Indiana came home drunk, sought to kill his wife with a hatchet and was shot dead by his son.

"But why go on with such a list? The cases are innumerable; and before Michael Kilroy came home to kill Bridget, you and we and everybody in the whole land knew that such a man, because of the drink traffic, would come home and kill his wife, and that the terrible procession of crime would keep right on. "Gentlemen, we bring no accusation against you; we question the motives of none of you; but, as if in the presence of the dead, before

the intelligent people of the land, and before God in high heaven, we submit that amid the crying of the blood of Bridget Kilroy, as its voice rolls like thunder to the judgment seat of a Just God, the naming of your names is heard."

**ORGANIZING.**

Mr. John A. Nichols, Dominion Alliance Organizer, is pushing campaign work with commendable energy and encouraging success. He has succeeded in securing organization of the prohibition forces for the following constituencies, — West York, North Wentworth, South Wentworth, Lincoln, Welland, Hammonds, Monek, North Norfolk, East Egan, West Elgin, Middlesex, North Perth, South Perth, East Wellington, South Wellington, Dufferin, Centre Simcoe, West Simcoe, South Ontario, East Durham, West Durham, West Peterboro, London and Hamilton. He has also attended conventions for the counties of Oxford and Halton, where organization had already been effected. The local workers have called and held successful conventions in Lambton, West Hastings, North Grey, West Simcoe, East Simcoe, and a few other constituencies. A good deal of preparation is going on looking towards the approaching provincial election. The services of Mr. W. W. Buchanan have been secured for a number of meetings, and other earnest and effective workers are doing well in many places in preparation for the coming fray. Friends in the localities not yet organized are earnestly urged to lose no time in getting their forces in battle array. Any desired advice or information regarding organizing plans or methods will be promptly furnished by the Alliance secretary.

**AGAINST THE BILL.**

A well-attended meeting of the executive committee of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance was held at the Alliance office on Saturday, Feb. 15th, at 3 p.m., at which the Government Liquor Law proposals were considered. Resolutions were adopted calling for effort to induce the Government and Legislature to change the Act so that a majority of votes polled by the electors on the prohibition question would prevail, and urging a change of the day of voting from October 14th next to the time of the municipal elections for 1903. A resolution was also adopted declaring that it would be the duty of prohibitionists to oppose in the coming provincial election those members of the Legislature who would support the present unfair conditions of the suggested referendum. The committee further approved of the engagement of Mr. W. W. Buchanan to address a series of meetings in the interests of the prohibition cause.

**METHODISTS ON THE FIRING LINE.**

The Christian Guardian of Toronto is doing splendid work for prohibition. It has recently contained a series of fearless, straightforward, strong articles reviewing the situation. The editor has also taken up and is sustaining in good style a controversy with Rev. Principal Grant, to whose letters against prohibition much prominence has been given by the Daily Globe. The Temperance Committee of the General Conference of the Methodist Church has been exceedingly active during the past few weeks and has succeeded in stirring up much earnestness and enthusiasm among the people.

**QUEBEC PROHIBITION CONVENTION.**

The twenty-third annual meeting of the Quebec Provincial Branch of the Dominion Alliance will be held on Thursday, February 27th, 1902, in the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, Montreal. The sessions will begin at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. All churches, temperance societies, young people's organizations and other bodies in sympathy with the work of the Alliance, in the Province of Quebec, are entitled to be represented at this convention, and are invited to send one delegate for every one hundred of their membership. It is expected that this meeting will be of much interest and importance. A mass meeting will be held in the evening, to be addressed by Rev. John H. Hector.

**LUMBAGO AND DRINK.**

Dr. W. Gordon Stables writes some amusing and also some sensible things on the treatment of lumbago. He says that this ailment affects people when, as a rule, the whole system is below par, more particularly in those cases where there is alcoholic blood-poisoning from beer or any other spirit whatever. This poisoning has a direct influence on the nerves as well as the brain. While various remedies suggested may give temporary relief, the ailment can only be banished by rest, with an entire change of diet and avoidance of alcohol in any shape or form.

**DRINK CURES.**

Dr. Gordon Stables has also some plain things to say as to alleged "cures" for the drink crave. Many of these so-called "drink cures," he says, contain poisons of the most virulent kind, and these could easily be discovered in the bodies of those who died from their effects. "Beware, then," he adds, "of trying to slip doses into your friends' or relatives' tea or coffee, if you do not wish to be accused of murder, and find yourself standing on the scaffold some frosty morning with the cold fingers of the hangman fumbling about your neck."

**TEMPERANCE IN THE NAVY.**

Temperance work in the British navy at the dawn of the twentieth century shows a bold front. Not a ship commissions but she carries a large number of temperance men, only waiting to be banded together to work enthusiastically and well for their own good and the betterment of their ship mates. So says the annual report just issued of the Royal Navy Temperance Society, and it is entirely owing to the devoted labors of Miss Agnes Weston and her indefatigable fellow workers. The meetings on board ship and at Portsmouth and Davenport "Royal Rests" have been successfully carried on during the year, and the results grouped into various branches on the home and foreign stations. 88 new branches have been added during the past year, and 14,627 pledge cards and 350 pledge books have been issued. Nearly 6,000 pledges were taken at Portsmouth and Davenport alone, where in the Rests 1,000 men can be accommodated nightly. 2,721 years of abstinence were represented in the "honor's list," and 30 cons of literature were sent out to branch secretaries and others, in 135,503 parcels, which contained the splendid circulation for the year of 584,000 copies of "Ashore and Afloat."

**NEW LICENSING BILL.**

There is at present before the British Parliament a government measure for the better regulation of the liquor traffic, the particular provisions of which may be summarized as follows: It is intended to prohibit clerks of licensing benches from having a financial interest in the granting of licenses; to prevent the issue of occasional licenses in other than open court; to require at least two magistrates at the hearing of the application; to give the licensing benches absolute control over grocers' and other liquor licenses; to give the licensing authority more power over structural alterations in licensed premises; to give the police further power to arrest drunken persons; to punish especially those who are found intoxicated while in charge of infant children; to make publicans more responsible for drunkenness on the premises; to prohibit the harboring or allowing the serving of specified habitual drunkards; to prohibit such drunkards from purchasing intoxicants or entering licensed premises; to require that all convictions against publicans be registered and considered on the application for the renewal of licenses; to require that on the fifth conviction within five years the license shall be revoked unless renewed for specified reasons, against which the police can appeal, to enable a wife to secure a separation order from an habitually drunken husband; to enable a husband to secure a separation order from an habitually drunken wife; to prohibit drink-selling clubs unless registered by the magistrates' clerk; to require registered clubs to make annual returns; and to enable the police to enter such clubs on sworn information of misconduct therein.