

## Ontario's Grand Division

A Grand Session—The Order on the Forward March—Encouraging Gains in Membership—The Finances "All Right"—Amendments Proposed to Liquor and Tobacco Laws—Speed the Temperance Press.

The session of the Grand Division of Ontario (Sons of Temperance) held in the little town of Bradford during the second week of November was, in the words of a veteran,—"a grand session, indeed; the best in many years, if not in the history of the Order." The very complete arrangements for the comfort of the visiting Sons which had been made by the Bradford temperance people tended much to make the session enjoyable; but away and beyond all this, in the life of the session, was the encouraging tone of the reports of the Grand Officers and the actual progress recorded by the figures which they were able to present.

At the first session, after the initiation or enrolment of some sixty new members (about 120 representatives present and nearly as many visitors), these reports were presented.

### G. W. P.'S REPORT.

Bro. Jas. Brooks, Grand Worthy Patriarch, pointed out that "Progress, prosperity and activity" pervaded the Order in spite of the tumultuous political events which had convulsed the country for the past year, and in spite of the fact that too many Divisions practically courted suicide, limiting their influence and usefulness, by fixing the quarterly dues at too low a rate. (He suggested as a remedy that the Grand Division should fix minimum figures to be charged by subordinate Divisions for fees and dues.) During the year, District Divisions had been instituted in Frontenac, Leeds, Elgin, Simcoe and in Lanark and Renfrew; making, in all, thirteen District Divisions now in operation. He had been present at thirty-three regular sessions of these District Divisions, and the Grand Scribe at seventeen. A well conducted District Division had been found a most valuable medium for pushing on the work. He (the G. W. P.) had attended about 250 meetings in the interest of the Order during the year. He urged more attention to the pushing of the work of the juvenile branch of the Order—"The Loyal Crusaders"—and commended the National Mutual Relief Society as furnishing cheap and safe insurance for Sons of Temperance. He recommended—that Divisions appoint committees to keep temperance reading matter constantly before the public through the columns of the local papers; that the circulation of papers devoted to the interest of the Order should be pushed; and that the by-laws of the Grand Division should be remodelled and published in revised form.

### GRAND SCRIBE'S REPORT.

The Grand Scribe, Bro. W. H. Bewell, in his report referred to some of the proceedings of the sessions of the National Division at St. John, N.B.; and then went on to quote the figures presented at that meeting in July, and which marked the advance of an Order in Ontario in 1890-91. In March, 1890, there were 5,871 members; in March, 1891, 7,780. (In September, 1891, this number had been further swelled to 9,003.) Some 480 temperance meetings had been held, and 8,000 temperance tracts distributed. In many sections much interest and enthusiasm are manifested in the work and extension of the Order. Harmony seems to prevail within our borders. During the year, forty-five new Divisions have been organized, four resuscitated, and eight companies of Loyal Crusaders instituted.

### GRAND TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Grand Treasurer, Bro. Peter H. Ellis, reported the year's income as \$3,823.94 (including the balance of \$148.12 from last year); and the year's expenditure as \$3,247.34; leaving a balance on hand of \$576.60.

In the evening, the officers and members were tendered a public reception and entertainment in the Town Hall, which was packed to the doors; while many who came were not able to gain entrance. Rev. Bro. H. S. Matthews welcomed the visitors on behalf of Bradford Division and Bradford town. The reply was made in happy vein by Grand Worthy Patriarch Brooks. Then followed a stirring address from Bro. B. R. Jewell, of Boston, M. W. Scribe of the National Division; and briefer oratorical contributions from Reeve Graham; Bro. G. M. Rose, of Toronto; Bro. E. J. Davis, M. P. P.; Bro. F. M. Bradley, P. M. W. P., and general superintendent of the Loyal Crusaders; Bro. Edward Carswell and Bro. Rev. T. W. At-

wood. Variety was afforded during the evening by excellent music from Bradford vocalists: Miss Broughton presiding as accompanist.

We condense into paragraphs the actual work of the sessions of the next two days.

A resolution, presented by Bros. Daniel Rose and Dr. Christoe, was concurred in by the committee on legislation, and carried by the Grand Division. It asks the Ontario Government to provide an amendment to the License Act which will make the penalty for selling in prohibited hours the cancellation of the license instead of the infliction of fines. The money penalty has not been found a deterrent. It is thought the fear of losing his license altogether will keep the dealer within the limits of time prescribed by law.

Bro. Shaver presented the report of the Committee on Publications; which was adopted. It recommended that Divisions be requested to appoint correspondents for the local papers, and the following clause: "that we wish to record our appreciation of the enterprise of Bro. Smallfield in preparing to issue a paper to be called 'THE SON OF TEMPERANCE,' and urging all Sons to subscribe for it."

In accordance with the report of a special committee, Bro. Wriuch, Bogart, Colter, Henderson and Shaver were appointed to thoroughly revise all District Division work and report at next session.

A motion presented by Bro. Thos. Caswell and Rev. Bro. H. S. Matthews, was carried. It instructs the G. W. P. and G. S. to petition the Dominion Government to amend the criminal law so that "any child actually or apparently under sixteen years shall be prohibited from smoking or in any way using any cigar, cigarette or tobacco of any form whatsoever in any public street, place or resort"; and also prohibiting any person from selling, paying for or furnishing such cigar, cigarette or tobacco to anyone under sixteen years of age.

A motion by Bros. W. H. Orr and (Rev.) D. L. Brethour, urging the importance of using the local option law as a lever to drive the retail liquor traffic from the municipalities, was also carried.

The Finance Committee recommended that the salaries of the G. W. P. and G. S. should be increased by \$10 a month each—the increase in the expenditure for propagation work having increased only 14 per cent., while the increase in membership had been 65 per cent.) The increase was voted. The sum of \$150 was voted to defray the expenses of such of the eligible representatives of the Ontario Grand Division as attend the sessions of the National Division in New York, Sept., 1892.

The Committee on Bible Selections for Chaplain reported progress and announced that their list would be completed in a few days.

The charter of Bytown Division, Ottawa, was annulled, and the G. W. P. and the G. S. authorized to grant clearance cards to all members of the late Bytown Division who become entitled thereto and apply therefor.

The Committee on Sick and Funeral Benefits presented a report, which was referred back to Committee with instructions to prepare by-laws, etc., and present the same at next G. D. session.

On motion, a donation of \$10 was made to Dominion Alliance funds.

The Grand Division Trustees were instructed to present a full detailed report at next session.

For G. D. Trustee—the term of Bro. Hon. G. W. Ross having expired—Bro. W. H. Orr was elected to fill the vacancy.

On motion, the sum of \$7.50 was voted to Bro. Luck, of Holland Landing, as remuneration for loss sustained in defending the property of the Grand Division.

Bros. Jewell, Bradley and Attwood acted as scrutineers while the election of officers for the current year was in progress. The vote resulted as follows:—Grand Worthy Patriarch, Bro. Jas. B. Brooks, Toronto; Grand Worthy Associate, Bro. Rev. H. S. Matthews, Bradford; Grand Scribe, Bro. W. H. Bewell, Whitby; Grand Treasurer, Bro. Peter Ellis, West Toronto Junction; Grand Chaplain, Bro. Rev. W. T. Hicks, Streetsville; Grand Conductor, Sis. Grace Hallett, Palermo; Grand Sentinel, Bro. Jas. Brethour, Sunderland.

On the following day these officers were installed by Bro. Bradley, Bro. Jewell acting as P. G. W. P., and Bro. E. Carswell as Grand Conductor.

Port Perry, Ottawa and Milton each asked for the next session of the Grand Division. Milton won the vote.

A vote of thanks was tendered Bros. Matthews, Driffil, Campbell and the other members of Bradford Division for their kindness during the session. This was replied to by Bros. Driffil, Campbell and Broughton, of Bradford; and the 42nd annual session closed with the singing of "God Be With You Till We Meet Again," and prayer by the Grand Chaplain.

## From the Field.

[Has your Division been doing anything to help on the cause? Has it found any particular line of work useful? Has it originated any plans that would be beneficial to others? Let us know about it. Be short and crisp in the telling of it. We will not have room for the publication of lists of officers.]

ADMASTON.—Admaston, No. 157, is not only the strongest in Renfrew county, but is one of the banner Divisions of Ontario. It stands seventh on the list, with a membership of 144. It owns its own large hall. Recently the interior was plastered and finished; and now it presents a very neat and attractive appearance. On the evening of the 18th, the annual winter public entertainment was given, and the Hall was packed with an audience abounding in good nature. The programme, largely provided by members of the Division, though assistance was given by some young friends from Renfrew, was of a most enjoyable character—lively throughout, with a good deal that was amusing in it, but still with enough temperance sentiment running through it to let outsiders know what the organization exists for, and to set them thinking of the reasonableness of the temperance movement. The receipts were between \$30 and \$35. There is a heartiness about the young people of Admaston that makes it a pleasure to mingle with them, and explains to a considerable degree the continued growth of the Order in the locality.

ARNPRICK, No. 158.—MR EDITOR: I have very great pleasure in wishing you and your paper, THE SON OF TEMPERANCE, all possible success. And in the hope that it may prove of interest to the order, I trust you may find a place for a few facts in connection with the Arnprior Division. As our Division is comparatively young, it is an easy matter to give a very condensed account of its work. Our numerical growth has been on the whole satisfactory; and it is also a pleasing fact that we rank amongst us several to whom we have been helpful in their noble effort to free themselves from the fetters of intemperance; and that our members are largely made up of young people, just passing through that period in life most susceptible to influence. And we trust with God's help to exert a good influence until they reach an age, when good habits and a mature judgment sustained by divine grace, will carry them safely beyond the reach of intemperance—the most potent agent of evil. With a view to make our meetings more interesting, our young members usually entertain the Division with a debate on some popular question: and as a result, while adding to the interest of our meetings, they are training themselves for future usefulness. Another feature that has lately added to the interest taken in our work, is holding open Division meetings every four weeks, at which readings, recitations, songs, music and short addresses make up a popular programme. And still another innovation which promises to be a complete success, is the holding of "Gospel Temperance Meetings" in our hall every Sunday afternoon. So far, the meetings have been good in every way.

HORTON.—No. 97 gave a concert in the Division Hall on the 15th. When a contingent of Renfrew Sons arrived on the scene, the programme was under way, under the chairmanship of Bro. Duncan Stewart, reeve of the township. His connection with the Order is the story of how the "single man planting himself on his instincts" finds the "huge world will come around to him," as Emerson has put it. In Mr Stewart's boyhood days, drinking was the fashion at every township gathering—barn raising, marriage, burial, party or dance. He was convinced by some of the then novel total abstinence literature, and refused to drink. He was sneered at, jeered at, and coerced in every possible way; but he planted himself on his instincts of what was right: stuck to his pledge and helped organize the Sons and has practically found his township come round to him: for to-day it is one of the banner temperance districts—not a license granted in it, a large proportion of its inhabitants total abstainers;—and he is honored Reeve. But to get back to the concert, the young folks of Horton and Renfrew furnished song and dialogue, and brief addresses were delivered by Bro. John Johnston, another pioneer temperance man, and by Bro. Smallfield, Co. D. G. W. P. Altogether it was a pleasant assembly.—The interior of No. 97's Hall has been nicely fitted up during the present season.

RENFREW.—This Division will celebrate its fortieth anniversary on January 20th. The members are talking of marking the event by a social celebration. The programme which is being discussed is that the District Division of Lanark and Renfrew shall meet in Renfrew on that day, and in the evening hold a public meeting, at which

some of the Grand Division officers will be present—as well as some of the most prominent temperance men of the district.—In its palmy days No. 151 rolled up some 200 members; now, it does not muster half that. With one or two notable exceptions, the old members (that is, those old in years) now neglect to attend; but a growing number of young folks are extracting much enjoyment from the regular meetings, earning the reward of those who are faithful in such "small" things as prompt attendance and an attempt to properly perform the duties of office.—The Division is this winter holding a series of fortnightly "Popular Readings," which have so far attracted good audiences. Each night there is "Something Solid" from some speaker (not always on temperance topics; but still instructive) and songs and recitations for amusement. People who would not attend the ordinary temperance lecture come out to these Readings.

### Dates of District Divisions.

Peel District Division, at Burnhamthorpe, Dec. 23, 1891.  
Northumberland, at Eddystone, Jan. 8, 1892.  
Simcoe, at Barrie, Jan. 12.  
Frontenac, at Cobden, Jan. 13.  
Leeds, at Morton, Jan. 15.  
Halton, at Campbellville, Jan. 15.  
Elgin, at Colton, Jan. 19.  
York, at Agincourt, Jan. 21.  
Ontario, at Sunderland, Jan. 22.  
Lanark and Renfrew, at Renfrew, Jan. 22.  
Durham, at Courtice, Feb. 10.  
Dates of Welland and Brant District Divisions are not yet to hand.

### Publisher's Notes.

#### To the Sons of Ontario.

In his December quarterly circular to the Deputy Grand Worthy Patriarchs of the Divisions, Bro. Bewell, the Grand Scribe, after pointing out the large gain in membership in the Order throughout Ontario during the past year, adds:

"There is no reason why the record of 1892 shall not be even better than that of 1891."

What are you going to do to make the record better?

Experienced workers all admit that few agencies help as much to spread the ideas and influence of our temperance reform as the printed word. Pamphlets and leaflets, freely distributed, are good in their way; but they can never wield the same influence as a paper reaching the same people regularly, and for which they have paid something. To spread temperance truths and to aid in the upbuilding of our Order is the design with which THE SON OF TEMPERANCE is published. We want to send it regularly to the home of every Son of Temperance. But that is by no means the extent of our ambition. We want to get beyond the charmed circle. Too much of our temperance effort—lectures, etc.—is to a large extent wasted: it reaches only those who are already of our own way of thinking. We want to get away beyond this. We want to get into a great proportion of the homes of every community. To do this, we ask the assistance of every Son and of every Division. The price of THE SON has been fixed low, to make it easy to get subscribers; and we will allow a commission on every subscription sent in by any individual Son or by any Division. We want our friends to make a house-to-house canvass for us in every section where there is a Division. Will it not doubly pay the Division to do this? There will be a cash commission, which can be applied to the general purposes of the Division, and there will also be the decided advantage of having a paper friendly to the Order and full of temperance truths going regularly into all the homes of the neighborhood. Is it too much to expect from this extra sympathy and extra membership for the Order? Cannot much be done in this way to make the record of 1892 better than that of 1891? We ask the Divisions to take this up as a matter of "business" or "good of the Order." If they refuse or neglect to do this as organizations, will not some active member in each take up the work individually? The commission we allow (the D.G.W.P.'s will be informed of the amount) will help to pay for the time spent in the work; and there will be the satisfaction of doing something for the spread of our principles.

Many Divisions now "pick up sides," and have contests for the "good of the Order"; allowing a stated number of marks for readings, recitations, songs, speeches, and new members. Why not add a certain number of marks to the side reporting having gathered the largest number of subscribers for THE SON, and presenting the most cash to the Division funds from the commission on subscriptions?

Is neighbor A a temperance man? If so, ask him if he takes into his family any paper especially devoted to temperance. Ten chances in one, he doesn't. Ask him then to give you 25c. to get such a paper for a year. Ten chances in one, he does it. Is neighbor B rather inclined to be against the temperance "fad"? Ask him if he is not willing to read your side of the question. The likelihood is that he will agree to do so; and will think a good deal more of what he reads if he has paid something for it.

If our friends in the Divisions will loyally support us in getting THE SON well circulated in their neighborhoods, we will undertake to push it in localities where the Order does not now flourish, and thus open the way for new Divisions.

Forward march for 1892!