

peculiar Indian fire-making stuff. White men never beat their wives when prompted by whiskey. White men never chew bits out of each other's ears or noses when whiskey rules. White men never turn their naked children out on the streets on a cold winter night, under the whip of their master, whiskey. Oh, no; whiskey never acts like that on white men. All those cases of the above nature that we read about in the daily papers are done by Indians. Isn't there an abnormal quantity of these kind of Indians in this country? The boast of our neighbors across the line is that all men are born free and equal. Well, then, let us place white men on an equality with Indians as far as prohibition is concerned.—*South Simcoe Battle Axe.*

### BEER AND WORK.

"Beer, even in ordinary quantities, blunts the senses, diminishes the muscular power, and overtaxes the heart and other vital organs. So far from nourishing, it weakens. It takes strength from, and does not add strength to, the brawny arm of the reaper. Over and over again, with wearisome reiteration, have the men assured me, 'It is the beer that keeps us up to work;' and have the masters declared to me, 'Were it not for the beer the men could not get through their work.' This blind confidence in beer is, however, only an English superstition. There can not well be a greater mistake than to suppose that beer or any other form of intoxicating liquor is a valuable beverage in the harvest field. Strong drink provokes excitement and does not supply strength of limb or precision of aim. The laborer who relies on beer for working power is sadly deceived. He may splutter and make a great fuss, though this is not always the case, after each glass of the intoxicant; and even if he actually work a little faster, this vigor is short-lived. Though he repeatedly reverts to his 'reviver,' his day's task is to be found neither so great nor so well done as that of his neighbor of equal powers who has taken no intoxicant. In the locality where I practiced it had been the universal custom to provide an abundant store of beer for the harvest hands, and the belief in the necessity of this custom was so deep-rooted that an abstaining farmer, a new-comer, had all but abandoned the attempt to do without beer in despair, when almost at the last moment he summoned the men into his house to a royal meal of juicy beefsteak and mealy potatoes. The hungry men capitulated with the result that the gloomy prediction of his neighbors that the men could never get the harvest in in time without beer, were unfulfilled, and that, in fact, his harvest was all gathered in before that of the false prophets.—*Dr. Norman Kerr.*

### THE HEAVIEST CLOG ON PROGRESS.

Many people who pride themselves on their practicality are wont to sneer at the opponents of the liquor traffic as mere "sentimentalists." No doubt there is much sentiment in that opposition, but it is sentiment based on the hardest of facts. The truth is that if all the other evils that afflict society are put together they will not equal in weight and sincere effects the one enormous and universal mischief of intemperance. Mr. Matthew Arnold holds that Philistinism, as he calls it, is rampant in England and the United States; but the truly humiliating fact in regard to these English-speaking people is their profuse expenditures upon intoxicants, and the place which the business of selling and making intoxicants, occupies in their national life. Americans spend \$300,000,000 a year in this way, and Englishmen even more in proportion. Yet all legislative bodies in both countries, and all journals, and hundreds of societies and associations, are constantly engaged in discussing remedies for evils not only of minor importance, but many if not most of them the direct or indirect results of this frightful waste of capital upon degrading and demoralizing agents.

Here in New York, as the speakers at Cooper Institute the other evening one and all admitted, we have actually arrived at a local government based upon the worst and most pernicious emanations of the liquor interest. We have come to be ruled in accordance with the views of men who derive all their power from their success in rum-selling, and whose following largely consists of those whose intelligence is habitually clouded by the same poison. And because the passion for rum is so strong among a large proportion of the masses, every effort to shake off this corrupt and shameful despotism has hitherto failed, and drunkenness and dishonesty go hand in hand, and laugh to scorn every reform movement.

Of what use is it to talk about poverty, destitution, squalor, misery, here and there, when it is notorious that tens of thousands are so enslaved by a vicious appetite as to be incapable of helping themselves, indifferent to the nature of their surroundings, dead to every progressive aspiration. How can we reasonably complain of any minor evils while this gigantic one continues to hamper the nation's advance at every step; while this vast drain continues to carry off a capital, one year's application of which would solve every social problem that perplexes us? If this is not a practical question, then there is no such thing as practicality. It is the one overshadowing evil whose existence of necessity prevents the success of reform efforts in all other directions. It is said the condition of the working classes is unsatisfactory, that they do not prosper as they might; the answer must be that they can never utilize their opportunities until they are freed from the use of rum. If it is said that our politics are corrupt, trivial, mean, it must be assumed that our politics are too deeply entangled with the liquor traffic to be other than what they are. If sanitary questions are concerned, rum still stands in the way of improvement. If religious progress is discussed the fact remains that the saloons empty the churches. If education is considered, it is notorious that the same degrading agency seduces thousands of our youth.

Wherever we turn, in short, we encounter this subtle and sinister agency. It is a blight which lies heavy upon our civilization, and which will have to be cleared away before that civilization can become an object of just pride and satisfaction. And the question at issue really is whether this great evil shall be dealt with summarily, or shall be approached by slow degrees. All sensible men are agreed as to the necessity of getting rid of it, but opinions differ as to the best method. Meantime, it proceeds without the least misgiving or compunction, never checking itself, giving full play to all its myriad influences, and opposing to reform a solid and brazen front. Its safety thus far has consisted in the want of harmony among its opponents. This has given it time to establish itself and grow strong. But sooner or later it will be necessary for the intelligent and progressive elements of society to drop all lesser enterprises and combine in one determined assault upon that vice which is to-day the heaviest clog upon progress, and the deepest disgrace of the nineteenth century.—*New York Tribune.*

### Campaign News.

YORK.—A meeting of the Scott Act Association was held in the C. M. Church at Aurora, on the 5th inst., with the President, Mr. J. Milne, in the chair.

The morning session was taken up in reading reports from the various branch association in the county.

Thirteen of these are organized and in working order, and report a strong feeling in favor of the Act. The meeting adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock p. m., when the President took the chair, and the proceedings were opened with prayer led by Rev. T. Garbutt, of Newmarket.

It was moved and seconded, "That the Executive Committee call meetings in the five municipalities which are not yet organized."

The motion was carried.

Mr. C. Doane, Treasurer of the old Dunkin Act association reported a balance of \$36.78 on hand.

A Finance Committee was appointed. It was decided to call in 20% of the assessments on the different branch association by the 1st July.

Mr. J. McMillan, of Toronto, G. W. P., Sons of Temperance, spoke of the advisability of getting to work with the petitions as quickly as possible, and having the county thoroughly canvassed and then calling a large mass meeting before submitting the Act.

Mr. F. S. Spence, of Toronto, followed Mr. McMillan and endorsed his remarks, that it was necessary to immediately organize the unorganized municipalities, and made some suggestions in reference to organization and work.

The President requested that new officers should be now elected, as those in office were only temporarily elected.

It was moved, seconded and carried, that the President, Mr. Milne, and the Secretary, Mr. Sanderson, retain their offices.