

The Canada Citizen

AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

A Journal devoted to the advocacy of Prohibition, and the promotion of social progress and moral Reform.

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F. S. SPENCE, - - - MANAGER.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1883.

A TEMPERANCE PAPER.

The Temperance Reform is now a movement of such magnitude, that an organ devoted to its interests is a necessity. It must have the means of presenting its specific aims to the public; of discussing the principles that underlie it; of faithfully recording its progress, and of stimulating into greater activity the public sentiment upon which its success depends. This position cannot be filled by a journal that has some other object as its primary aim. A party newspaper will naturally make temperance a matter subordinate to the interests and views of the politicians upon whom it depends for support. Religious periodicals may be powerful auxiliaries but, because of prior claims, they cannot devote their space and energies to the temperance cause to the extent that is required. Moreover a denominational paper is circumscribed in its sphere of operation, and does not reach and enlist the sympathies of all our workers and supporters. What is wanted is a journal making the Temperance question its main and prominent feature—a paper that will be acceptable and useful to every friend of our cause—that will be broad enough in every sense to take in all phases and departments of our work, and that will be perfectly untrammelled by any other claims or considerations.

This position THE CANADA CITIZEN endeavors to fill. It is not the organ of any society or section. It is the advocate of Temperance and Prohibition—mainly and primarily. This is the reason of its existence, and it will be true to its plan. Every Tem-

perance society will be welcome to the use of its pages for their official announcements and reports; it will be the best medium of public communication for all, but it will not be controlled by any one. We seek to work for and with every individual and organization that works for what is good and true, believing that full success can only be attained by earnest and united efforts.

At the same time THE CANADA CITIZEN will not ignore anything that affects progress and morality. It will be made one of the purest and most attractive papers that careful parents can fearlessly bring into the sanctity of their homes. It will contain weekly a summary of news carefully compiled from the daily press reports, giving in brief all important public facts and incidents. We are doing a work in the interests of truth and morality, for the advancement of all the best and highest interests of our country and our race, and we earnestly appeal for practical support, to all who are in sympathy with our enterprise.

THE METHODIST CONFERENCE.

We call attention to part of the report of the Temperance Committee of the Methodist Church, which we publish in another page. It is, perhaps, the strongest church pronouncement that has yet been made in Canada upon this important matter. Its unhesitating denunciation of the horrible and outrageous liquor system, and its manly endorsement of the policy of total prohibition are grandly encouraging. With the assistance of the support of the Christian Church, the success of the Temperance Reform would be assured; and our hearts are gladdened as one by one the various detachments of this mighty army are wheeling into the line of national attack upon the greatest and most firmly entrenched foe to man's temporal and eternal well-being. The Methodist Churches have been hitherto in the vanguard of the advance, and the new organization has seized the first opportunity to emphasize its declaration of consistency with its spirit and principles in the past, and its appreciation of the true position and requirements of society to-day.

We look for glorious results from the advocacy—to which the new church is so unmistakably pledged—of the utter extermination of the unholy drink traffic.

THE EXHIBITION LICENSE.

On another page will be found an article by *Fides* upon this vexed and vexing question. The liquor-sellers have had their way. Our city has been disgraced by the exhibition of its drunkard-making capabilities. The intent of the law has been evaded in the issue of a license, trickery has multiplied that license by sixteen, the terms of even this dishonorably-enlarged license have been disregarded, and whisky has been openly sold and drunk. It is painful and humiliating in the extreme to be compelled to confess to the fact of the truckling of our Board of Industrial Exhibition Directors to the greed for dollars, that resulted in this deplorable spectacle.

Our contributor speaks strongly, and there is need for strong speaking. No doubt there are upon the Board of Directors honorable men. There are men who are known to be tried friends of temperance and morality, but they are out numbered by those who are willing to let every other consideration be outweighed by that of making their exhibition a great financial success.

The License Commissioners, we believe, did not violate the letter of the law, and no doubt, as they plead, they did not allow as much wrong-doing as they might have allowed had they been determined to do so, but they allowed too much. What has been