

THE CANADA CITIZEN

AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

Freedom for the Right means Suppression of the Wrong.

VOL. 4.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, APRIL 25th, 1884.

NO. 43

The Canada Citizen

AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

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

Published Every Friday by the

CITIZEN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Office, 8 King Street East, Toronto.

Subscription, ONE DOLLAR A YEAR, strictly in advance.

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The Canada Citizen is published at an exceedingly low figure, but as some of our friends have asked for Special Club Rates, we make the following offer:—We will supply

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F. S. SPENCE. - - - MANAGER.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, APRIL 25th, 1884.

W. C. T. U. WORK IN CANADA.

MRS. ADDIE CHISHOLM.

Many years ago a woman in Israel, a judge and prophetess having heard the voice of the Lord in relation to a great work to be done in that land, gave the divine command to Barak, who then went forth to battle in behalf of an oppressed people. The most noted leaders were in that company, ten thousand men were under arms and victory was promised, for had not the Lord said, "I will deliver the enemy into thine hand?" Still the army hesitated. Why did they not move?

Barak said to Deborah, "If though wilt go with me, I will go." So Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh, where the battle was fought, the victory won and the land had rest.

From that time till the present many battles have been fought between truth and error, freedom and oppression, where the the leaders have recognized and invited the presence of women.

The Deborah of the anti-slavery army, Mrs. Stowe, uttered this same prophecy as she, with those grand leaders went forth to the aid of a down-trodden race. "The Lord will deliver the oppressed people." That, like the sound of Prohibition at the present day was not a popular cry, neither was the work praised of men, but a work which was done largely in secret by many, because of the varied interests involved. Ridicule, denial and abuse were used against the truth, but in vain. The work went steadily on, until a few years later, the tide of right feeling rose, came nearer and nearer, and finally it swept over the whole country, washing away the whole stains of slavery, that curse of a nation which delights to call itself free.

The women of Canada having heard the voice of the Lord in secret, are hearing the Barak-call from the leaders in this great army of temperance workers. Not only that, but they hear more loudly and frequently the cry of the enslaved people, the wail of little ones who suffer and die under the reign of the tyrant, and the bitter moaning of those who wish for death, but no death comes. They have gone in and out of homes saddened by a great sorrow and have sat silent before the hopelessness of broken-hearted wives and mothers whose very effort to conceal the cause of their grief only made it more apparent.

Our women see too that their homes are in danger. While some happy homes have been entered and their peace destroyed, what guarantee is there that other happy homes may not be touched with the same blight? So, in self-protection and in the interests of humanity, they have united to help in freeing this people from a tyranny greater than that exercised over the people of Israel, and from a slavery of both soul and body into which so many thousands of our people have sold themselves. While they work they continue to look forward with the sure gaze of prophecy to the time when this land—now grown to be a country among the countries of the world, and this people a nation—shall have rest.

The W. C. T. Unions of Canada, are classed as follows:—

Dominion Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Ontario Provincial " " "

Quebec Provincial " " "

Maritime Provincial " " "

British Columbia Province Women's Christian Temperance Union.

The Dominion Union was organized in Montreal in Oct. 1883, and will hold its first meeting—which meetings are to be held once in two years—in the early part of 1885. Its aim will be to unite more closely in their work the Christian temperance women of the different provinces, and to devise plans for the general good; these to be largely carried out in detail throughout the Provincial Unions.

The officers are:

Mrs. L. Youmans, President.

" Addie Chisholm, Ontario,

" Middleton, Quebec,

" Todd, New Brunswick,

" Pollard, British Columbia.

" Tilton, Corresponding Secretary.

Miss Renard, Recording Secretary.

Mrs. Steadman, Treasurer.

The Ontario Provincial Union, organized in 1877, now comprises 49 local Unions, with a membership, according to latest quarterly report, of 1100. The attention of this Union has been largely directed to the great importance of introducing scientific instruction in temperance into our public schools. Dr. Richardson's Temperance Lesson Book, and other books, have been widely circulated in teachers' conventions and elsewhere. Petitions have been presented to School Boards, etc., and recently a députation of ladies from this Union waited upon the Minister of Education, asking that temperance text books be introduced into our public schools, to which request a very favorable reply was received. Medical Conventions and Associations have been approached, and correspondence had with Synods, Conferences and Assemblies, on the medical use of alcohol and the use of unfermented wine at the Lord's Table. 20,000 tracts have been sent out during the year from the Literary Department of the Union, and more than fifty newspapers supplied regularly with temperance items. 2,174 meetings have been held by local Unions, and 1,864 signatures to the pledge have been obtained by individual effort, exclusive of signatures given at public meetings. Three Y. W. C. T. Unions are in connection with this Union, under whose control and supervision Boys' Schools, Girls' Sewing Schools and Bands of Hope are successfully carried on. There are eleven different departments of work in connection with this Provincial Union, each Committee being actively at work.

LIST OF DEPARTMENTS.

1. Plan of Work.
2. Literature.
3. Prison and Jail Work.
4. Legislative.