

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

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The Temperance Worker

PUBLISHERS' NOTES.

This is one of the very cheapest weekly newspapers published, and besides has points of merit all its own which we leave the readers to discover by a careful examination of the contents and mechanical execution. Lately a department has been added to represent the temperance workers of the Dominion, whose co-operation is requested in providing information for their columns, so as to make the paper an acceptable organ of temperance news and sentiment for the whole country. Readers would greatly oblige the publishers and promote a useful enterprise by endeavoring to get others to take the paper. Almost any of our young friends can surely obtain enough new subscriptions to pay for his own copy according to our club rates without extreme trouble. *The Weekly Messenger and Temperance Worker* is only fifty cents a year—less than a cent a week—and ten copies will be sent to as many addresses or in a parcel for four dollars. This reduction makes the paper but forty cents a year to clubs of ten, or gives a premium of a dollar to any one who procures ten subscribers at the full price and sends their names in a single order. Address JOHN DOUGALL & SOX, Montreal, Q.

THE NEW LIQUOR LAW.

In last issue we gave some of the leading points, then ascertained in advance, contained in the report of the special parliamentary committee upon the liquor traffic. Having since perused the text of the bill submitted to the House of Commons, we are able to supply some omissions made in the former summary. As the bill has been advanced somewhat in Parliament, at the time this is being written, it is feasible, also, to give some idea of the temper of Parliament upon the liquor licensing question. In the exemptions from the operation of the Act extraordinary latitude, it seems to us, is given to druggists, who are allowed to sell up to six ounces at any one time without the medical certificate required for greater quantities. This will simply open the door to any amount of "respectable" tipping at all hours behind the dispensing panels of drugstores. Why not require the medical certificate in all cases, except perhaps in rare instances of life and death, such as when an alcoholic draught may be the proper antidote for some other poison taken when no doctor is near. License Districts are to be established by the Governor-in-Council, and conform, as near as possible, to existing and future counties, or electoral districts, or cities. As previously stated the Board to manage license matters in each district is to consist of a judge, a city mayor, or county warden, and a person to be appointed by the Governor-in-Council. An inspector, to be called the Chief Inspector of Licenses, and as many sub-inspectors as may be deemed necessary are to be appointed by each Board, whose duties are, briefly, as follows:—To give full information, in the nearest newspaper to the locality, regarding

applications for license fourteen days before the Board meets to consider them, and to affix a notice of the same kind to the outer door of the building in which the Board is to meet; to furnish the Board with a written report concerning the applicant for license, his house and premises, former conduct if previously licensed, distance of his place from other licensed houses, his character, and whether the house sought to be licensed is necessary for the public convenience; to visit and inspect every three months every licensed place of whatever kind, reporting their management to the Board; to prosecute persons whom he has reason to believe can be convicted of offences against the law, or in whose case costs at least may be recovered, with power to exact, from the person asking him to prosecute in any case, the deposit of a reasonable amount to cover the costs of prosecution. Instead of one-fourth, the applicant is required to have a petition in his favor signed by one-third of the electors in the district. The error occurred in printing the bill, and it has been corrected, much for the better, in committee of the whole House. This advantage on the side of temperance is, however, to some extent balanced by the concession made to the liquor interest, in an amendment made in committee of the House on Monday night, on motion of the Premier, which makes it necessary to procure the signatures of two thirds instead of a majority of the electors as at first proposed, to a petition against a license to compel its refusal. Add to this condition that requiring every elector's signature to be sworn to by a personal acquaintance and, except in the very most advanced temperance communities, the difficulty of opposing licenses will be so great as to be seldom attempted. A very grave weakness in the bill, which we hope to see removed, is found in the clause relating to the sale to minors, the only restriction to such being that the liquor shall not be drunk on the premises. Children may buy as much as they can pay for and carry away, and debauch themselves in the neighborhood of skating rinks or other places of resort, innocent or otherwise. They may also be the carriers for grown persons, parents or others, who may find it inconvenient or be ashamed to go to the liquor shop themselves. Thus the children so employed will be hardened to the true nature of the traffic and trained as future customers of the publicans. In cities, towns and incorporated villages the number of licenses that may be issued is limited to one in every two hundred and fifty in the first thousand, and one for every five hundred above a thousand of the population. No saloon licenses are to be granted in incorporated villages, townships, parishes and municipalities, this very desirable provision having been added to the bill in committee of the whole House. It was also agreed in committee that the council of every municipal organization not embracing more than one municipality might further reduce the above limit of licenses in proportion to population, the Board, however, not being bound by the council's action. Licenses to sell on

board vessels only give permission to do so at the tables at meal times. A motion made in the House to destroy this excellent provision was voted down by an overwhelming majority, so that under the new law these pernicious and dangerous adjuncts of passenger steamers—the liquor bars—will be a thing of the past. So far the bill lacks a stipulation to secure a full meeting of the Board, or to provide for a tie occurring between two members of the Board in the absence of the third. An amendment was added to the effect that nothing in the Act should interfere with the power of the Provincial Legislatures to collect license fees for the purposes of provincial, local or municipal revenue. It was decided that persons holding licenses under any provincial enactment should not be obliged to obtain the signatures of one-third of the electors in their respective districts. This seems inconsistent with the main ground for proceeding with the legislation in question, which was, in effect, that no licenses were constitutionally in existence. An amendment to the bill was made on Monday night, on motion of Mr. Gigault, which introduces the principle of local option and which, we think it will be admitted, compensates for many defects that there may be in other parts of the law. This amendment is to the effect that, at the request of one-fifth of the electors, a poll may be taken in any town, incorporated village, parish, township or other municipality, except counties and cities, and if a majority of the qualified electors in the district vote against licenses being granted, no licenses shall be granted and the traffic shall be prohibited in the district. The sale of liquor on Sundays, in hotels, to guests at meal times, was sustained upon a vote to prohibit it, and a motion to make the hour of closing on Saturday night nine instead of seven o'clock was lost. Since the above was in type the House has prohibited the sale of liquor to minors, and made several other changes in the bill which we shall notice in a future issue.

FRUITS OF THE TRAFFIC.

"Death from the excessive use of intoxicating liquors," was the verdict of the coroner's jury in the case of a man found dead in Quebec on Saturday.

James Kennedy, a liquor-seller of Halifax, Nova Scotia, sixty-seven years of age and one of the most respectable men of his class, was beaten to death a few days ago in the street in front of his shop, by two men named Charles Hughes and William McDonald, to whom he had refused liquor while they were intoxicated.

A rough character named Perry entered J. White's tavern at Rogersville Station on the Intercolonial Railway, in New Brunswick, when the proprietor was absent, and was ordered out of the bar by Mrs. White. He refused and was helping himself to the fiery beverages, when the lady drew a pistol and shot him in the arm. She was arrested for the shooting the following day.

John Venables, of Halifax, N. S., was startled one morning lately by finding his wife lying stiff and cold on what had once

been a mattress, but now so worn out and filthy as to be scarcely recognizable. The utter wretchedness of the apartment, the reporter said, was beyond power of description. After an autopsy had been held the coroner's jury found that the woman had come to her death through excessive indulgence in alcoholic beverages.

At North Hatley, Quebec, a few days ago two drunken young men, Timothe Paradis and Samuel Little assaulted a party engaged at raising a barn, by throwing stones at them. The party rushed after the assailants, when the latter ran for their waggons, saying they would get their pistols. They had only gone a few steps when Paradis fell by a blow from a stone and died almost instantaneously. The coroner's jury could not discover from the evidence who threw the fatal stone.

CAMPAIGN NOTES.

Pictou County gaol, N. S., is tenanted chiefly by violators of the Scott Act, one of whom, of an aesthetic turn of mind, has decorated his cell in a gorgeous manner with paint brush and tissue paper.

Public opinion in Woodstock, Carleton county, N.B., is strongly in favor of enforcing the Scott Act, and several warrants have just been issued against convicted offenders, one who refused to pay being imprisoned.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

"True Blue" Division, of Georgeville, County of Stanstead, Quebec, has been re-organized with seventeen members and with fair prospects of success. The officers elected and installed are as follows:—Beckford West, W. P.; Eva S. Tuck, W. A.; Andrew McGowan, R. S.; Susie Wright, A. R. S.; J. Park Williamson, T.; J. E. Wright, F. S.; Rev. Jas. Hepburn, Chap.; J. E. Ives, Con.; Minnie Tuck, A. Con.; Nellie Tuck, I. Sen.; W. S. Bartlet, O. Sen.

ROBERT COOPER, a colored British subject from Jamaica, makes complaint in New York that he and several others were induced to go to Mexico to work on the railway. Being ill-treated and not receiving their promised wages, they refused to work, whereupon they were sold as slaves for three years to pay the cost of their passage, which the railway company had agreed to pay. Having threatened to appeal to the British Government, Cooper was released and he managed to get to New Orleans, from whence the British consul sent him to New York. From there he is to be forwarded to Jamaica and the colonial authorities will investigate the matter.

THE FIFTH LEGISLATURE of Manitoba is in session. In his opening speech the Governor suggests a conference of delegates from all the Provinces of the Dominion for the purposes of considering the limits of Provincial legislative jurisdiction, and of suggesting such amendments to the British North America Act—the charter of the Dominion—as may be found desirable by the convention. Nothing is likely to come of the suggestion.