



The Templar Quarterly

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Salvation for Society.

Applied Christianity will purify politics, destroy monopolies, wipe out class privileges, and establish the Brotherhood of Man. Friends of Social Reform are invited to co-operate in extending the usefulness of this magazine.

Subscription, 40 Cents Per Annum.

Single Copies, 10 Cents.

THE TEMPLAR PUBLISHING HOUSE,
HAMILTON, CANADA.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.—Eph. 6:12.

AUGUST, 1896.

SINCE LAST ISSUE.

The Dominion election campaign was in full swing when the last issue of this magazine reached its readers. As a result of the elections the Conservative Administration, for eighteen years in power, was overthrown. Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, the Liberal leader, was called to form a Government, and is now firmly seated in the saddle as political ruler of Canada. The advent of the Liberal party to power should mean much for the cause of social reform, in view of the fact that the great mass of social reformers are, by strong or slight ties, attached to that party. The Liberal party is already pledged to take a plebiscite of the Dominion on Prohibition, and to accept responsibility for Prohibitory legislation if the plebiscite show a majority for such a measure. In a very general way, the party is also opposed to monopoly and class privileges, and there is a possibility of genuine reform in that direction, but no probability of anything very radical or effective.

The new Cabinet contains a larger number of friends of Temperance and Prohibition than any of its predecessors. The premier, Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, attended a Prohibition convention in Montreal twenty years ago, but he is not a total abstainer and defines temperance as moderation. Sir Richard Cartwright, perhaps the



HON. WILFRID LAURIER,
Premier of Canada.

strongest mind in the Cabinet, pledged himself to Prohibition in the last election in his own constituency; he was opposed by a Prohibitionist. Hon. R. W. Scott, the veteran representative of the Irish Roman Catholics, was the father of the Scott Act, and is a total abstainer and Prohibitionist. Sir Oliver Mowat is not a total abstainer, but as premier of Ontario, he promised to give the province all the Prohibition the courts would sustain. Hon. Sidney Fisher, the Minister of Agriculture, is a total abstainer, a Prohibitionist and a member of the Alliance. Hon. Wm. Patterson is also reckoned a friend of Prohibition. If Hon. Clifford Sifton get the portfolio of the Interior, another total abstainer and Prohibitionist will be added.

In the ranks of the Government party in the House are a number of strong Prohibitionists. Thomas B. Flint, who was recognized as the Prohibition leader in the last Parliament, was re-elected by an increased majority for Yarmouth, N.S., and is the party whip for his province. Frank Oliver, the new member for Alberta, N. W., promises to be a stalwart, and he will be ably seconded from the Territories by Douglas, of East Assiniboia. Logan, the new member for Cumberland, N. S., is a strong Prohibitionist, and a young man of great ability. Bourassa, of Labelle, Que., is said to take advanced ground for the cause. Dr. Christie and Mr. Scriver are both back from Quebec, and may be counted on to use their influence in the councils of their party. Fraser, the new representative for East Lambton, and Calvert, the new member for West Middlesex, should make a pair of invincibles for Western Ontario. The change in British Columbia representatives is also for the better, and all four of the Liberals are slated as favorable,

with Morrison an out-and-outer. It is a very safe statement to say that the present Parliament is very much stronger on Prohibition than its predecessor.

The Conservative party has always been more devoted to Prohibition in opposition than in power. The leader, Sir Charles Tupper, has openly avowed his preference for Prohibition and so far as it's considered good politics, he will not scruple to go. Hon. George E. Foster, the best debater and ablest man in the opposition ranks, is a total abstainer and a Prohibitionist; now that he is free from Cabinet responsibilities his friends expect that he will be heard from on the question, and it will not be surprising if he meet the Government plebiscite bill with a straight Prohibition amendment.

The general elections landed two great distillers in the Commons—Corby, of West Hastings, and Seagram, of North Waterloo, both from Ontario and both in the Conservative camp.

The Independent Prohibition candidates were defeated, but they put up gallant battles, which did grand service for the reform. Mr. Mayberry, in South Oxford, polled the largest vote ever given an opponent of a Liberal in the riding, and Mr. Jameson, in South Renfrew, came within about two hundred votes of capturing his riding. Buchanan and Watkins, the Prohibition team in the city of Hamilton, made a magnificent campaign, addressing immense audiences almost nightly for three weeks. More than a thousand ballots were marked for Buchanan and about nine hundred for Watkins, but the official count gave them 935 and 812 respectively. Their support came mainly from workmen, and although both were Liberals, it is estimated that they polled more Conservative than