

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

Vol. II.

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BUSINESS TALK.

A good word for this paper by those who can give it heartily, as we believe most of our regular readers can, would undoubtedly have excellent results upon its prosperity. Those who have time to follow up the good word by direct canvassing for new subscribers can make the effort pay them, according to the liberal club terms, in more than the thankful regard of the publishers. Those who see the paper for the first time we invite to examine its varied contents and features, and then say whether it is not remarkably cheap at fifty cents a year, or forty cents when ten are ordered at once. Address JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Montreal. Temperance intelligence regarding both inside and outside work will be gratefully received by the editor.

KEEP UP THE MEETINGS.

This is usually a very trying season for temperance societies, it being difficult to secure sufficient attendance to open the meetings. Now is the time for the pillars of the organization to prove their staying powers, for they will be severely tried. It will be generally admitted, we believe, that, however it may do for other societies, it is a bad plan for temperance ones to close during the warm weather, or to make the meetings any less frequent than one evening in the week. That is little enough to keep fresh the interest of members in the cause, and even when a member is absent from a meeting, there is a likelihood that his thoughts may be upon it and his interest in the society thereby retained; while, in the case of meetings suspended, members are apt to find social substitutes for the temperance organizations and be harder to get into the meetings when resumed than it was to get them to join in the first place. Another good reason why the weekly links of intercourse should not be separated is that they afford an excellent opportunity for members to exercise mutual watch-care over each other. Often when a weak brother lapses from the right way, a friendly greeting by one whose friendship he knows and esteems, given in time, leads him back to renewed resolves and effort. In many cases, the absence of a member from a meeting is the first indication that anything is wrong with him, but with meetings suspended four or five months such an one might, unobservedly but steadily, be growing worse and worse and farther from hope of reclamation. With the meetings retained, however, it is very important that the members should attend well—even if outside circumstances prevent going for the whole evening, they should try, at least, to call in for a moment and show their faces. It is unfair to join an institution and assume all its privileges while trying to evade its responsibilities, and there is no excuse for young Templars or Sons without family cares absenting themselves and leaving the willing horses of the association to be driven to death, for all the careless ones regard either the rights of their pledged associates or the interests of the common cause. There are a number of things to be attended to by the workers

in a society, as distinguished from the drones, in order to encourage attendance. First of all, especially at this season, the room must be well-aired and made as comfortable as possible in every way. Some societies buy a stock of fans, which are had at a trifle, for the use of their members and visitors, and it is a very good thing in a room apt to be close. Pure, cold water should be supplied both at the opening and at the usual recess, with attractive-looking vessels for its use. Again, there is no reason why temperance meeting rooms should be comparable to either a barn or a prison in the absence of decoration. Pictures, flowers, mottoes, etc., ought to abound, to delight the eye, cheer the heart, refresh the moral sense and educate the mind in good principles. Let there be a bouquet provided for each of the officers' stands, especially for that of the presiding officer. Then there is the entertainment to be provided for the meetings, but this is a new subject, upon which all that need be said at present is to have the best that the collective and individual talent of the society will afford. What we desire now to urge upon the members of temperance societies is to not allow their devotion to the work to melt away in the summer heat.

GOOD TEMPLARS.

LOYAL GRAND LODGE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

The Loyal Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia met at Bridgewater, Lunenburg county, on the third of July. A good representation was in attendance at the opening, including most of the principal officers.

In the reports of officers a gratifying exhibit of progress was made. The present membership numbers two thousand six hundred and one, an increase during the year of six hundred and twenty-one. Sixteen new lodges had been organized and two dormant ones resuscitated. All the old debts had been paid off, and there was a respectable excess of assets over liabilities of one hundred and twenty dollars. Juvenile Templarism was in a promising condition in the jurisdiction.

Officers for the ensuing year were elected, as follows:—G.W.C.T.—P. J. Chisholm, Truro, Colchester County. G.W.C.—J. N. Mack, Mill Village, Queen's Co. G.W.V.T.—Mrs. Dr. Calder. G.W.S.—I. J. Hingley, Oxford, Cumberland Co. G.W. Treas.—Dr. C. A. Black, Amherst, Cumberland Co. G. W. Chap.—Rev. M. W. Brown, New Germany, Lunenburg Co. G. W. Marshal.—Auley Morrison, Maitland, Hants Co. G. W. Guard.—Mrs. A. Spear, Truro. G. W. Asst. Sec'y.—T. T. Davis. G. W. Deputy Marshal.—Anna Reinhardt. G. W. Messenger.—J. Logan Barnhill, Gen. Supt. Juvenile Templars.—M. C. Smith, Conquerall Bank, Lunenburg Co.

A report from the committee on political action, which condemned in strong terms the new license law of the Dominion was adopted.

An evening public meeting was held in one of the churches, which was well-attended and conducted with ability and spirit.

Annapolis was selected as the next place of meeting.

The County Lodge of Cumberland N. S., has passed a resolution, recommending temperance people to patronize the new temperance hotel started by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in Amherst.

DOMINION ALLIANCE.

At a meeting held at Shawville on the 28th of June, the Pontiac County Alliance, auxiliary to the Quebec Branch of the Dominion Alliance, was formed, with the following officers:—President, the Rev. W. H. Naylor, Shawville; Secretary, the Rev. M. H. Scott, Bristol. The Rev. J. A. Newham officiated at the organization, acting in place of the Secretary, the Rev. Mr. Gales, unfortunately laid aside by poor health. The Rev. Mr. Naylor presided, and Mr. Williamson acted as Secretary. A deputation from the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew, consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Robertson and Scott, conveyed an expression of approval by that body of the formation of a County Alliance and bade the new organization God-speed. It was decided to purchase a parcel of temperance literature for distribution.

NEWS AND NOTES.

Mrs. Youmans, who lately did excellent service in Canada, is making a tour in England in connection with the British Women's Temperance Association.

Rev. James Scott, of Owen Sound, Ontario, has gone to Ocean Grove, New Jersey, to attend the meeting of the National Division, Sons of Temperance.

The Prohibition Reform Club is the name of a new society lately started in Chatham, Ontario, in connection with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

A wine merchant in Driffield, England, capitulated at the close of a temperance campaign, putting on the blue ribbon and declaring his intention to spill his whole intoxicating stock-in-trade in the gutter.

There is every likelihood that the temperance ticket for the United States presidential election will make a more powerful showing the next time than ever before, as the movement has gained much headway already in Iowa, Ohio, Indiana, Alabama, Maine, Wisconsin and other States.

According to a statement made by Bishop Beckwith, of Georgia, the greatest drawback to the progress of the Southern negroes is whiskey. That gentleman believes high taxation will be more effective in suppressing the liquor traffic than prohibitory laws. We cannot agree with him there, however.

As impudent a thing as has been heard of for a long time is the attempt of the liquor sellers of Port Huron, Detroit, to bribe the fourth of July amusement committee, by offering five hundred dollars if it would prevent arrests being made at places where liquor was sold on Independence Day, but it is needless to say the offer was rejected.

Noble County, Ohio, has a record befitting its name. With twenty thousand people it has no saloon and no case on the criminal docket. For a year no one has been arrested on a criminal charge, and even civil law suits are so scarce as to make poor pickings to lawyers.

The high license method of combating intemperance is in some cases proving a delusion. Des Moines, Iowa, tried it, advancing the license fee from \$250 to \$1,000, the immediate consequence of which was that eleven more saloons took out the high license than took out the low.

Several of the directors of the Temperance Colonization Company were in Ottawa a few days ago, holding an interview with the Premier. It is said the company is in a very flourishing condition, and promises to be a great success as an immigration factor. We hope this is all true, having felt much concern at the fierce attacks made upon the enterprise in certain quarters.

Judge Rigby, sitting in the Supreme Court at Annapolis, N. S., had an Indian brought before him charged with theft, and the evidence showed that the place where the money had been taken from was a bar-room. Whereupon the learned judge said that he could not understand this, as he had been informed that the Scott Act was in force in Annapolis county, but he said he supposed he must have been misinformed on that point, as the bar-room referred to seemed to be in full operation, and if that law was in force in this county the person who kept the bar was equally guilty of breaking the laws of the land with the person who took money from his till.

For a long time it has been notorious that very little of the wines and liquors sold in America as French ever were in France. Worse than that, however, is the state of affairs indicated by a report of the American Consul at Rochelle. According to this authority French brandy is counterfeited in France as well as outside of it, and has in the last three years undergone a complete transformation, and is no longer brandy, the greater portion being prepared from alcohol of grain, potatoes, or beet. The most unsatisfactory circumstance is that even the merchants who desire to purchase a pure Cognac cannot be certain that they do so, for the proprietors of the vineyards, all of whom are distillers, have become so clever in the manipulation of the alcohols and the accompanying drugs that they deliberately make a brandy of any required year or quality. The mention of the years 1849 or 1876, for instance, in an invoice, or on a label, means simply that the article is presumed to have the taste or color of the brandies of those years. The increasing importation of German potato and beet alcohols into the Charente ports is an additional proof that the less brandy that is consumed the better for the health and intellect of the consumer. It is, moreover, becoming a custom to sell the brandy in twelve-bottle cases, marked with one, two, or three stars, according to the presumed quality, thus avoiding mention of year or place of production.