

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.

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THE WORK FOR THE COMING WINTER.

Temperance societies that would be of real practical value in the community, must remember the whole of the comprehensive work that it is their duty to perform. While making earnest efforts to reclaim the fallen, they must not ignore the even more important duty of seeking to prevent those who are still safe from ever going astray. Provision must be made for keeping both classes within the pale of good influences and beneficial associations. The whole battle is not fought in the simple enlistment of the soldiers. Recruiting agents are valuable auxiliaries sometimes but it is a great mistake, though not an uncommon one, to imagine that our duty is done when we have secured or patronized their temporary services.

It not unfrequently happens that the magnetism of a powerful speaker, the excitement of an unusual enthusiasm, or the influence of some uncommon event, adds to our ranks those who have really given little thought to the great principles that underlie our movement, or have not at all recognized and felt the terrible necessity for it that exists. We must endeavor continually to enlighten these, as well as to stimulate and strengthen those who from long and hard work are apt to grow weary and inactive. Even when all this has been accomplished we are only "ready to begin." The temperance reform to-day aims at nothing short of the abolition of intemperance and the suppression of its grand auxiliary, the

licensed liquor traffic. This result will not be accomplished until active and earnest efforts have developed that mighty public sentiment that alone is irresistible in the cause of moral reform. All our organizations then, should do all that they possibly can, not merely "to enlarge their borders," but also to build up, in their own membership, and in the surrounding community, an intelligent, enlightened and enthusiastic "public opinion," in reference to every principle and detail of our great enterprise.

We desire to call special attention to two of the most potent agencies for the prosecution of this work:—

PUBLIC LECTURES.—Every temperance organization in the land should hold a regular course of lectures during the winter season. When there are several societies, not individually strong, this might be managed by a joint committee. There is no need for much expense in connection with it. Nearly every place can furnish some one who is posted on some one line of argument or work, and who could use his knowledge in a number of surrounding places. There are numbers of competent men and women who would do such work for little more than their bare expenses. If formal lectures will not "take," let there be attractive entertainments gotten up, with short pointed temperance addresses as part of the programme. This country is full of ministers, and the vast majority of Canadian clergymen are sound to the core upon this question, and well able to present its claims to the public. Let us give them the opportunity to do so more particularly and to a fuller extent than can be done in their regular church services.

Then there are lecturers who devote their whole time and talents to this matter. A little effort on the part of a society can almost invariably secure visits from some of these without any of the financial annoyance that sometimes results from such arrangements. Competent parties who wish to take part in this department of work, either by delivering or arranging for lectures will be aided in their efforts by the Editor of THE CANADA CITIZEN if they will correspond with him for that purpose.

THE OTHER IMPORTANT AGENCY referred to is the dissemination of carefully prepared literature. We live in a reading age, and Canadians are a reading people. The "power of the press" is no mere rhetorical figure; it is expressive of one of the most potent of the social forces that are moulding the lives and opinions of the nation. We ought to cover the country with the best productions of the ablest pens that are consecrated to this holy work. The circulation of tracts, leaflets, books, papers, etc., all judiciously selected, cannot fail to do a vast amount of good. Here too, THE CANADA CITIZEN will aid, not merely by its own columns, but in supplying, at the very lowest possible prices, the very best material for a work in which every society can take some part. It was for the carrying out of this project that our company was first organized; for that purpose it still exists, and our advertising columns show what we are endeavoring to do towards the fulfilment of our plan.

Again we would urge upon our readers the duty of proving themselves cognizant of, and faithful to, the personal responsibility that rests upon all of us, in relation to the advancement of our cause

Selected Articles.

"TO BE OR NOT TO BE?"

"That is the question." Disguise it as we may, it is a constant factor in our every day existence. It comes to us in every possible phase, and is applicable to every recognized circumstance in life. To-day the civilized world, standing between the HOME, with all its sunshine and gladness on the one hand, and the SALOON, with its blackening shadows and terrible consequences, on the other, is repeating the question to the right and to the left. It is a fact as thoroughly grounded in the minds of men as the most