

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

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The Temperance Worker

PUBLISHERS' NOTES.

The week's news with note and comment, articles on current topics, market reports and all the elements of a family newspaper, together with a department devoted to temperance workers in Canada, Sunday-school and puzzle departments, and fine pictures are given in this paper for the sum of fifty cents a year, less than a cent a week, and for forty cents when ten copies are ordered at once. Those intimate with the qualities of the paper would confer a favor, and, we believe, do good, by endeavoring to extend its circulation. All orders should be addressed to JOHN DODGALL & SONS, Montreal.

Temperance news is respectfully solicited from all our friends in a position to give such in fresh order. Intelligence regarding Scott Act campaigning and operating would be especially welcome at any time.

A POWER TO BE USED.

It is universally accepted a fact as indisputable as the rotundity of the globe, that the press in this age is one of the very foremost means for moulding the minds of men and effecting results for either good or evil in human character. This fact is one that temperance workers ought to practically recognize by making use of that powerful engine to the fullest extent possible in their assaults upon one of the most gigantic evils that beset our race. There are various ways by which the press may be availed of in the cause of temperance, each one suited to particular classes. For those who have the capacity of writing effectively the periodical temperance press always affords a medium through which to reach temperance workers in particular, and the free general newspaper a channel of influence upon the public at large. Those who have money to devote to temperance propagandism can make a little go a long way in disseminating temperance principles contained in papers, tracts and books, all of which are cheap and abundant. This is a matter in which, we believe, systematically philanthropic persons have as a rule been rather forgetful in dividing up the amounts devoted by them to high and unselfish purposes. Every temperance organization ought to have a standing literature committee, both to devise means for procuring temperance literature and for distributing it where and how it will do most good. Give young members of divisions, lodges, temples, clubs, and so on, good, solid, manly work such as that herein advocated, and we are confident they would at once become more firmly established in the cause and be given an influence for good of incalculable efficacy.

THE OHIO SCOTT ACT.

For many years the liquor sellers in the State of Ohio, have not been obliged to pay any special tax on their business, but at the last session of the State Legislature an act called "The Scott Act" was passed levying a tax of \$200 per annum on every place

where strong liquors are retailed and \$100 on places where only malt or vinous liquors are dealt in. The liquor dealers contested the constitutionality of the new act, but the Supreme Court has just given its decision in favor of it, and the liquor sellers are in the dumps. Section 2nd, of the act enacts that the tax shall be a lien upon the real property on and in which the business is conducted; and that whoever shall engage or continue in the business aforesaid of selling intoxicating liquors in or upon land or premises, not owned by him and without the written consent of the owner thereof, shall be held guilty of a misdemeanor and liable to be indicted and punished by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars nor less than twenty-five dollars, or by imprisonment in the county gaol not exceeding ten days, or both, at the discretion of the court; and each day's continuance upon such premises shall be an additional offence.

Section 7, directs that the revenues and fines resulting under the provisions of this act shall be divided between the general fund, the police fund and the poor fund of the county in which the liquor is sold.

Section 9, prohibits the sale of all intoxicating liquors on Sunday, except by druggists on the prescription of a physician, and orders the closing up during that day of all places where it is sold. It also gives any municipal corporation full power to regulate, restrain, and prohibit ale, beer, and porter houses, and places of habitual resort for tipping and intemperance.

Section 10 says:—Whoever sells intoxicating liquors to a minor, except on the written order of his parents, guardian, or family physician, or to a person intoxicated or in the habit of getting intoxicated, shall be fined not more than one hundred nor less than twenty-five dollars, and imprisonment not more than thirty nor less than five days.

The act is said to be favorably received by the general public in Ohio, especially as it will greatly lighten their tax bills.

GOOD TEMPLARS.

The Grand Lodge of Ontario met in its thirtieth annual session at Woodstock on the 26th of June, the G.W.C.T., Bro. J. H. Flagg, presiding. After preliminary business, reports of officers were presented, that of the Grand Secretary being of a more encouraging character, as regards finances and membership, than for a number of years past. During the year 22 lodges were instituted and 14 re-organized. The total membership was 10,807, of which 3,579 had been initiated during the year. The Treasurer reported the receipts of the past year \$4,544.21, and expenditures \$4,447.16, leaving a balance of \$97.05. A recommendation of the committee on constitution in favor of an amendment providing for suspension of members three months in arrears, after thirty days' notice, was not adopted. A recommendation was adopted in favor of giving subordinate lodges power to make the third degree a qualification for the offices of the W.C.T. and W.V.T. It was resolved to petition Parliament for a law prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating beverages in the Dominion of Canada.

To encourage the growth of the juvenile branch of the Order, a resolution was passed offering full outfits for juvenile lodges to subordinate lodges undertaking to start such. Toronto was selected as the place for holding the next session of Grand Lodge. Following is a list of the officers elected for the ensuing year:—G.W.C.T., Bro. Flagg; G.W.C., Bro. E. Storr; G.W.V., Sister L. A. Newman; G.W.S., T.W. Casey; G.W.T., Bro. J. B. Nixon; G.W.M., Bro. J. Mason; G. D. M., Sister Bella Henderson; G.S., Bro. H. W. Gribble; Representatives to R.W.G. Lodge, Bros. J. H. Flagg, E. S. Cummer, W. S. Williams and Daniel Rose; with Bros. Rev. M. L. Pearson and W. H. Rodden as alternates. Installation was performed by Bro. Oronhyatekha, P.R.W.G.C., assisted by Bros. W.S. Williams and W.H. Rodden. At one of the evening sessions a very interesting discussion took place upon juvenile lodges, and subordinate lodges were recommended to institute these lodges in connection with themselves. Bro. E. Botterill, P.G.W.C.T., was condoled with in a feeling resolution upon the recent death of his wife. Bro. W. H. Rodden, of Toronto, was selected as provincial organizer of lodges. Lodge deputies were ordered to be hereafter appointed at the second meeting of the new quarter prior to the Grand Lodge meeting. A motion was passed instructing the Executive to invite the R.W.G. Lodge to hold its 31st annual session in Toronto. After the usual acknowledgments of favors shown it, the Grand Lodge adjourned to meet in Toronto on the fourth Tuesday in June, 1884.

NEWS AND NOTES.

The Acton *Free Press* contradicts a report ardently circulated at a recent municipal election, to the effect that the County Council of Halton last year voted \$2,200 to assist in the carrying out of the provisions of the Scott Act. It shows that, instead of that being the case, the fines collected under the Act were sufficient to pay expenses of its operation and leave a balance of \$231 in the treasury to its credit.

As illustrative of the recent rapid growth of temperance principles among the working classes of England, an incident is related in connection with the International Fisheries Exhibition. Four hundred of the fishermen in attendance on the Exhibition were entertained at luncheon by the Prince of Wales on the lawn at Marlborough House. On serving out drinks to the gathering it was ascertained that one-half of the company were abstainers. The stock of temperance drinks in the royal cellar soon gave out, and the butler had to procure a fresh supply. Fishermen, from the prevalence among them, as among many other classes, of the notion that strong drink is necessary to enable men to endure severe weather, might be expected to be late in changing their habits in this respect, but it seems from the above that the hardy fisher folk are abreast with the times.

Belgium is one of the hardest drinking countries in the world and rapidly growing

worse, and if she keeps on that course the results of the celebrated thirteenth and domestic economy of her people will be drowned in drink. Since 1830 she has multiplied her consumption of spirituous liquors five-fold, and the annual average used by the adult male population is computed at forty litres per head, a litre being nearly a quart. There are 102,000 drinking shops for 1,250,000 of male adults, or one to every twelve persons. Eighty out of a hundred of the deaths occurring in the Brussels Hospital are attributed by the physicians to the effects of liquors. Suicides in Belgium have increased from 352 in 1875 to 581 in 1880. Thrice as many lunatics in the country now as there were thirty years ago is a fact impossible to be accounted for by the increase of population.

A retired wine merchant when arraigned for drunkenness at Southport, England, protested that the police had made a terrible mistake. He was not under the influence of liquor in the slightest degree when taken into custody, but "for thirty six years he had been in one of the most excitable businesses, and all the doctors on earth could not cure his excitability." An English paper, commenting upon this original plea, says it is a very serious thing that the mere selling of stimulants should produce such shocking effects in after life on their vendor, and, as apparently showing that the malady was infectious, tells of a man in court at the trial who laughed so obstreperously that he was ordered to withdraw. "Being still under the evil influence of alcoholic infection, he positively refused to do anything of the sort, and he finally retired in a somewhat undignified manner in the arms of four or five policemen, shouting and kicking like a maniac." Really, if this sort of thing goes on, retired wine merchants will have to be kept apart from the rest of mankind.

Commenting upon the remarks of a doctor of divinity in the Presbyterian General Assembly at London, Ontario, which contained some disparagement of the Scott Act on the ground that a druggist had told him that "when the Scott Act was in operation he could sell any amount from a pint to ten gallons on a doctor's certificate, and that he had sold ten gallons," the *Hamilton Tribune* (a new daily which we welcome to the advocacy of prohibition, the second in Canada to take that stand) says the clergyman in question "has a brother-in-law a druggist in Halton, who was licensed under the Scott Act, during its first year of operation, to sell liquor according to the law's restrictions; but the License Commissioners, no doubt for good and sufficient cause, refused him a second lease of the privilege. If the doctor obtained his information from this source, and is so grieved at the violation of the law, he will be glad to know that for so grave an abuse of the privilege as selling 'ten gallons,' one druggist at least has been relieved of his license." The *Tribune* concludes that, instead of the doctor making a point against the efficiency of the law's administration, he only succeeds in showing that an effort to enforce it is being made.