

Notes from Bobbili.

DEAR BRO. BLACK:—Possibly you and some of your readers, may have noticed, that for a long time, nothing has appeared in your paper from Bobbili and if so a few lines now may not be out of place. And first as regards the season and crop prospects. On all sides of Bobbili, at a distance of a few miles, there has been abundance of rain, while here, we have had much less than an average rainfall. Still it has been so distributed during the season, as to make this year so far the best we have had for six, or seven years passed. The dry crops have been fairly good and the rice crop at present, promises well. But this is a critical time. The weather has cleared off brighter and hot and should it continue, so the crop will suffer much.

We still hope for heavy rain to fill up the tanks and wells for the dry season. In the two wells on our mission compound, we have as yet, only a small quantity of water. From an experience we have had lately, it was well the water was no deeper. Last Sunday, I noticed a man coming slowly into the compound and supposed he was a beggar, coming to the house. Then he turned aside towards the well from which we got our drinking water, I wondered what he wanted and waited a minute to see what he would do. Then he went to the well and took off his clothes, I called out to him to go away and sent one of our school boys to drive him off. Then I saw him turn round and sit on the curb a suspicion flashed into my mind that he would go into the well and I shouted and ran but before I got half way to him over he went backwards and the last I saw of him was his feet. I rushed to the well and was greatly surprised to find him on his feet leaning against the side of the well. The water was only four feet and a half deep. As soon as possible I got a man down and had him tie a rope under the fellows arms to drag him up. Meantime we had learned that he was a leper in a terribly diseased state and the smell was sickening. After a little we got him up, and though he had fallen nearly fifty feet before he struck the water, he was not bruised and only a little stunned. After lying under a tree for a few hours, he got up and hobbled away to the poor house, and I hope we shall not have another such visitor. Today some of our Christians and myself have been called by the sub-magistrate to give evidence against him. It puzzles me to know what punishment can be inflicted on such a poor wretch, almost ready to fall to pieces from disease. Leprosy seems to be much on the increase.

The next evening we had a little stir from the visit of a snake in our sitting room. Just as we got up from dinner a paper was sent in by a friend, and I sat down to read, instead of sitting, as I usually do, in a rattan chair near the door. A few minutes later the servant came to shut the door and found a large snake wound in and out in the back of the chair. On killing it we found it was five feet long, but only a rat snake and not poisonous. Still I was just as well pleased that I had taken another chair. We have killed several poisonous snakes about the compound this season. Last evening, coming from a village a mile away, I nearly trod on one lying in the road. On killing it I found it was one that the natives consider deadly. These are only occasional experiences. There has been much sickness in Bobbili this season, which has been a trying one. Our mission community has had a share of the illness. Mrs. Churchill has been having some fever lately but is better. I have been poorly for a good while but am much better. Our daughter is not with us but is at a hill station in Southern India, where she is teaching in a school for the children of missionaries. A year ago her health gave way on the plains and the opening for work on the hills seemed providential. She reports her health as good now and hopes to be with us the first of December. Of our work here there is not much to report of special interest. Three children from the schools were baptized a few weeks since, and two others, outsiders, have asked for baptism.

There is no general movement among the people towards the truth so far as we can see. They listen to our teaching with little opposition, admit it is good and there they stop. Some are interested but do not see the way clear. A young man came along with me last evening from a village and said he had listened to our teaching until he now understands it and believes, but there are hindrances in his way. Others say the same.

But I must stop. We are looking with much interest for news from our Convention. Trusting it was a good meeting and that the Master's blessing will rest on the work done and planned for.

Yours in the field,

Bobbili, Sept. 29, 1902

G. CHURCHILL.

The Ontario Situation.

A good many friends of the temperance cause in different parts of the Dominion, and in other countries, are at present watching with much interest the battle that is being waged in the Province of Ontario. Some of them are desirous of obtaining more exact information as to

the origin and nature of the present contest, and the following facts are set out for their information:

The respective powers of the Dominion Parliament and the Provincial Legislatures in the matter of liquor legislation is not clearly defined by statute. It has been generally conceded that the Dominion Parliament has power to enact prohibitory legislation. Under this power Parliament passed the Canada Temperance Act, providing for prohibition by popular vote in cities and counties. It has also been generally conceded that provinces have full power to license and regulate the liquor traffic within their own territorial limits. Regulation or limitation implies a measure of prohibition. How far a province has authority to go in this direction has been the principal point in dispute.

Because of the uncertainty of this power the Ontario Legislature, a number of years ago, declined to pass a general provincial prohibition law, but memorialized the Dominion Parliament to enact such a law for the Dominion. The Ontario Legislature, however, enacted a law empowering municipalities to pass by-laws prohibiting the retail sale of liquor within their own limits.

In 1893 many petitions were received by the Ontario Legislature asking for the taking of a vote of the electors upon the question of prohibition. At the same time Mr. G. F. Marter, M. P. P., introduced into the Legislature a Bill to prohibit the retail sale of intoxicating liquors throughout the Province. The Government opposed the bill on the ground of uncertainty as to the Legislature's power to pass such a law, and proposed that an effort should be made to ascertain the exact extent of the Legislature's jurisdiction by submitting the question to the courts of law.

The Legislature approved the Government plan, and passed an Act providing for the taking of a ballot vote of the electors on the question: "Are you in favor of the immediate prohibition by law of the importation, manufacture, and sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage. This vote was taken on January 4th, 1894, when the municipal elections were being held, and resulted as follows:

	Men.	Women.	Total.
Votes "Yes"	180,087	12,492	192,489
Votes "No"	108,494	2,226	110,720

Shortly after the taking of this vote a great convention of prohibition workers, held in the city of Toronto, appointed a deputation to wait upon the Ontario Government and "respectfully request them to declare in favor of the total prohibition of traffic in intoxicating liquor to the full extent of the power vested in the Legislature."

The deputation from the convention was received by the then Premier and Attorney-General, Sir Oliver Mowat, and four other members of the Government. The views of the convention were laid before these gentlemen, and in response the Attorney General expressed his deep sense of the importance of the prohibition movement and the strength of public sentiment behind it as evidenced in the plebiscite, the result of which was eminently satisfactory. He then read to the deputation the following statement:

"If the decision of the Privy Council should be that the Province has the jurisdiction to pass a prohibitory liquor law as respects the sale of intoxicating liquor, I will introduce such a bill in the following session, if I am then at the head of the Government.

"If the decision of the Privy Council is that the Province has jurisdiction to pass only a partial prohibitory liquor law, I will introduce such a prohibitory bill as the decision will warrant, unless the partial prohibitory power is so limited as to be ineffective from a temperance standpoint."

On different occasions since that time leaders of the Provincial Government declared their adhesion to the policy set out by Sir Oliver Mowat.

In the meantime, the Government had framed and submitted to the Ontario Court of Appeal, a series of questions intended to ascertain the extent of the power of the Province in the matter of liquor legislation. The Dominion Government submitted the same questions to the Supreme Court of Canada and obtained a decision upon them, which decision was appealed to the Judicial Committee of the Imperial Privy Council. The judgment of the Privy Council was a lengthy deliverance, but gave a direct answer to only one of the questions submitted. That question related to the Act giving municipalities power to locally prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquor. The judgment stated further that in the argument upholding this decision, would be found a sufficient answer to the question of whether or not a local legislature had power to prohibit the sale of liquor throughout the Province. The Ontario Government came to the conclusion that the judgment did not definitely settle this important question, and no further prohibitory legislation was enacted for some time.

In 1898 the Dominion Parliament took a plebiscite of the electors of the whole Dominion upon the question of

total prohibition. The total polled was as follows:

For prohibition	278,380
Against prohibition	264,693

In this voting the results obtained in the Province of Ontario were as follows:

For prohibition	154,494
Against prohibition	115,234

In the year 1900 the Legislature of the Province of Manitoba, taking a view of the Privy Council decision, different from the opinion of the Ontario Government, passed an Act prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquor throughout the Province of Manitoba, except for medicinal, mechanical, and scientific purposes.

Manitoba had also by a plebiscite declared in favor of prohibition in the year 1892, the vote taken standing:

For prohibition	19,637
Against prohibition	637

In the Dominion plebiscite of 1893 the vote in Manitoba was:

For prohibition	13,419
Against prohibition	2,973

The Act passed by the Manitoba Legislature was not brought into operation immediately. The question of its constitutionality was submitted to the Manitoba Court of King's Bench which declared it unconstitutional. An appeal against this decision was taken to the Judicial Committee of the Imperial Privy Council, which tribunal, in a judgment rendered in November, 1901, upheld the Manitoba Liquor Law, and declared it to be within the limits of the power of the Province.

Encouraged by this action, a deputation of Ontario prohibitionists waited upon the Government of their Province and urged the carrying out of the promise given in 1894 by the then Premier, Sir Oliver Mowat. The Government considered the matter, and introduced into the Legislature at the session of 1902, a bill similar to the act which had been passed by the Legislature of Manitoba, but making the coming into force of the measure dependent upon the ratification of the bill by sixty per cent. of the electors voting thereon at a special election to be held on October 14, 1902.

Prohibition workers objected strongly to the proposal that so large a majority of the votes cast should be required for ratification of the measure. They also objected to the time proposed for the voting, as being too early in the season to admit of an effective campaign. They urged the Government to make the voting simultaneous with the municipal elections in January, 1903, and to provide that the Act should come into operation if ratified by a majority of the electors voting upon the question.

The Government amended the Bill so as to provide that ratification would require a majority of the votes polled on the question providing such majority would be equal to a majority of the votes polled at the general election of 1898. Another amendment fixed the 4th of December, 1901, as the day of voting.

In the Legislature, Mr. G. F. Marter, representing the views of the prohibitionists, moved to amend the bill so as to provide that ratification should require a simple majority of the votes cast. This proposal was defeated, only four members voting in its favor. He also moved to fix the date of voting on the day of the municipal elections for 1903. Only four votes were cast in favor of this amendment. The bill providing for prohibition, conditional upon ratification as stated, was then passed by the Legislature on a party division.

Apart from the voting conditions and the time fixed for voting, the act passed by the Legislature met with the cordial approval of the great majority of friends of prohibition in the Province of Ontario. It is a thorough-going measure providing for the prohibition of the sale of liquor as far as the ascertained power of the Province will permit. Its principal provisions have already been set out in The Pioneer, and, if adopted, it will be a valuable measure of prohibitory legislation, and will go into operation on May 1st, 1904.—Ex.

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Inspiration and Information.

BY REV. A. C. DIXON, D. D.

Information is fuel; inspiration is the fire. Fuel without fire gives neither light nor heat; and information without inspiration is cold and lifeless. Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost was powerful in the conversion of three thousand souls because it had both fuel and fire. The fuel were the facts concerning Christ—his birth, death, resurrection and exaltation. The fire was the Holy Spirit filling the speaker and the Word; and Christianity is a religion of facts on fire. The facts without the fire becomes truth on ice, and the fire without the facts produces fanaticism.

We do not need inspiration for a new revelation. The Bible, I believe, contains all that man will ever need to know about God for time and eternity. We are heralds, and the herald is expected to proclaim the message which