

mote sound temperance and prohibition sentiment. They are urged to do this by conducting a vigorous pledge-signing campaign, by discussion of the evils of intemperance and their best remedy, by giving temperance recitations, with temperance hymns and songs—anything and everything that will help to crystallize opinion and lead to such action as will best meet the needs of our country in this great crisis."

It was felt in this committee, as this great question had come so strongly to the front, and a verdict of the people on the liquor traffic was inevitable in several of the Provinces, that advantage should be taken of the occasion by our Leagues and schools for promoting a great temperance revival. The reports from some hundreds of our ministers to Secretary Crews showed that the Leagues were doing very efficient work in promoting Christian life, forming Christian character, and building up the interests of Christ's kingdom on earth. Although the membership is slightly less than in the outburst of enthusiasm of its early days, yet it is believed that, like Gideon's army, the tried and true who remain are of the more earnest and strenuous type. I believe it is our own judgment that nothing will so arouse the energies and moral enthusiasm of the Leagues as their taking part in this great crusade for the deliverance of our land from its greatest curse.

There is a great advantage in having a definite object, in fighting not uncertainly as one that beathes the air, but in seeking a concrete result—an overwhelming vote for prohibition. This is not now an academic question, but one of intensely practical character. It involves either a defeat, that I believe would retard prohibition for many a long day, or a victory that will secure its immediate adoption. We believe that we are on the eve of a great temperance revival, that we may take advantage of this rising tide of public opinion to sweep away the saloon system that has been so long the chief enemy of all righteousness in our land.

Our Leagues are urged, with their youthful zeal, under the wise guidance of the leaders of our Church, to swell the tidal wave which is rising higher and higher. The Rev. Dr. Potts declared, on behalf of the deputation which waited on Sir Wilfrid Laurier with reference to the former plebiscite, that the Methodist Church, though divided in politics, was a unit in prohibition sentiment. The strong resolutions of the Committee on Temperance Reform, published in The Guardian of April 2nd, emphasized the

importance of united and earnest action in this great crisis which is upon us.

Pledge the Scholars

"I hereby solemnly pledge myself that, God helping me, I will Abstain from the use of all Intoxicating Liquors—a beverage; from the use of Profane Language and all Bad Books; and the use of Tobacco in any form."

Such is the pledge which our Book Room, under the authority of the General Conference, has printed in our Sunday School class-books—a pledge to which the teachers and officers are requested to secure the signatures of the scholars. Yet this involves a good deal of labor and is often overlooked. A method has been adopted in the Metropolitan Church, Toronto, under the inspiration of that veteran Sunday School teacher and temperance worker, J. J. MacLaren, K.C., LL.D., and other faithful men in the temperance cause. The pledge was written in handsome script with colored chalk on the blackboard, and after due explanation of its significance, the scholars were asked to repeat the words, and with uplifted hands solemnly attest their subscription thereto. This is the first general adoption—that we know—of a method of making a solemn attestation approved by the Ontario Legislature at its last session. Only two persons in the whole school, as far as known, hesitated to take this solemn temperance pledge. The clause about tobacco was left optional, and a few, a very few, hesitated to take it. Cannot this method be adopted in all our schools?

We would suggest that previous to such simultaneous action in the school, pledge-cards should be sent with the children to their homes to secure the co-operation and approval of the parents to the signature of their children to such pledges. We believe that very few parents, even if not of pronounced temperance principles themselves, would not gladly encourage their children to adopt such a pledge as would save them from the moral shipwreck which has overtaken so many of the brightest members of Canadian homes. In this forward temperance movement we covet for our Leagues and schools an active part.

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