

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

VOL. III.

MONTREAL AND NEW YORK, SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1884.

No. 31.

THE NEW PARTY.

The two established parties of United States politicians have met and nominated Messrs. Blaine and Cleveland as their candidates for the Presidency. They have also laid down "platforms" for the respective candidates to stand upon. Neither platform can be called satisfactory. The Democrats declared openly against any attempt to interfere with the liquor trade by "sumptuary legislation." The Republicans, though they did not, as inadvertently stated in our issue of last week, go so far as their opponents, simply ignored the whole question—the greatest question now agitating every part of the Continent. The friends of prohibition, therefore, believing their principles to be worth fighting for, have held a convention of their own, and have nominated as their candidate the Honorable John P. St. John, ex-Governor of Kansas. To defray the expenses of an election, it was determined to ask friends of the good cause to take shares at \$10 apiece, in the "pioneer battle fund of the prohibition party," dividends to be paid in heaven; \$4,000 were subscribed on the spot. Mr. St. John has accepted the nomination. It is claimed that he will receive from 500,000 to 1,000,000 votes, and will have a majority in Kansas and Maryland; that may make the electoral college unable to give a decided majority to any one of the candidates, and the election of President will then be made by Congress. The prohibitionists' vote has been creeping up, or rather leaping up, since a candidate was first put forward by them. They are now in a position to make their power felt, and one or other of the great political parties will either have to adopt prohibition itself or give way to a party which will.

The new party's platform, which opens by a public acknowledgment of God as the rightful sovereign of all men, declares that the permission of the sale of alcoholic liquor has always and everywhere been the cause of intemperance, crime and pauperism and must be done away with; revenue should not be raised from alcoholic liquors and tobacco, and any revenue from customs duties should only be enough to support an economical government; public lands should be kept for homes for the people; immigration should be free to all; women should be allowed to protect themselves by their votes; and no state should hereafter be admitted into the Union unless its constitution forbids polygamy and the sale or manufacture of intoxicating liquors.

John P. St. John was born at Brockville, Indiana, Feb. 25, 1833. His only education was gained in a log school-house. Before he was twenty he set out for California, his mother giving him her parting blessing with these words: "John, wherever you go, be every inch a man." He has followed the good woman's advice. After chopping wood, steamboating, mining and travelling for several years, he fought in the Indian wars of North California and Oregon in 1852 and 1853, being twice wounded. He also fought in the civil war, having the greatest hatred for slavery. Then he settled as a lawyer in Kansas, and was elected Governor in 1878.

The constitutional amendment, prohibiting the liquor trade in that State, was largely due to his exertions.

WEATHER AND CROP REVIEW.

The weather continues showery over the greater portion of the United States and Canada, and all kind of growing crops are flourishing. In the northeastern sections, especially in the province of Quebec, the frequent showers have greatly hindered haymaking, and in some localities very little progress has been made yet, and the farmers are waiting for more settled weather which is very much needed in order to save the hay crop in even moderately good condition. In the great wheat and corn-growing sections the showers have been less frequent and have not materially retarded successful harvest work. Hail and other storms have had a disastrous effect upon crops in some parts of Minnesota and Dakota, entirely ruining many fields in their track. In a dozen counties of western Minnesota and southeastern Dakota the average loss is about 20 percent., and in several townships 50 to 75 percent. Smut, rust, and the midge are injuring the growing crops in various localities, yet on the whole the prospects for an unusually abundant harvest are very good. The work of harvesting the fall wheat is about completed and the yield is better than what was anticipated both in quantity and quality. Root crops are progressing favorably, especially potatoes, which are further advanced than is usually the case so early in the season, and thus far there are no indications of rot among the tubers, although the weather has been rather unfavorable. In almost every district the pasturage is very good and the product of the herd will be large. Owing to the liberal supplies, the prices of ordinary butchers' cattle are somewhat easier, but good export cattle continue to bring pretty high figures. The prices of cheese have advanced considerably of late and the prospects for butter are improving.

THE CHOLERA.

The cholera still continues its ravages at Marseilles and Toulon, but the town of Arles is now suffering most by this plague. Isolated cases are occurring in other parts of France. Up to June 26th, there had been 593 deaths at Toulon. Several places in Italy are infected. A correspondent of the *New York Times*, going all over the cholera infected district in the south of France, writes describing the condition of Marseilles and Toulon as unutterably filthy. In fact, it would be a miracle if the people of these towns, living as they do without the least regard to sanitary precautions, were not swept off every now and then by some terrible disease. The correspondent comes to the conclusion that no intelligent community, living well-ordered lives, and with good sewer pipes, need have any fear of the cholera.

No sign of the disease has yet appeared on British soil, but people are preparing for the worst. The soldiers will be ready to leave barracks at a moment's notice and en-

camp on some healthy spot. They are ordered to filter all water before using it, to clean dust-bins daily, and inspect the sewers every week. Any offender against these rules will be tried by court martial.

A UNION of the Australasian colonies in one great Federation is growing nearer and nearer. Two of the colonies have already, through their legislatures, voted in favor of the plan of confederation drawn up at the intercolonial conference months ago. One of these is Queensland, in the North-East of the continent,—the colony most interested in preventing New Guinea from falling into the hands of any foreign country. The other is Victoria, in the south-east, which has agreed that three things are especially desirable; first, the federation of the colonies into an Australasian Dominion; second, the annexation to that Dominion of New Guinea and other Islands in the Western Pacific; and, third, protective legislation against criminals from other nations. The British government is ready to confirm the scheme of confederation and annexation as soon as the colonists themselves have agreed upon the necessary preliminaries.

A GREAT DEMONSTRATION at Manchester, in favor of the Reform Bill and against the House of Lords, was attended by 40,000, in spite of the rain. The Marquis of Hartington was the chief speaker. Another immense demonstration and procession took place in Edinburgh, the city workmen leaving their work to show their determination to grant equal rights to their brethren in the country. An attempt was made to get up a demonstration on the other side in a London park, but the few people present treated the affair as a joke. Mr. Chamberlain, one of Mr. Gladstone's ministers, says that this conflict between Lords and Commons will decide once for all that popular rights are superior to personal privileges. Mr. Davitt's party in Ireland are strongly against the Lords; Mr. Parnell apparently does not like to commit himself yet.

CAPTAIN BEDFORD PIM, of the British Navy, who originated the idea of having the British Association meet in Montreal, has arrived in Montreal. He says that he thinks the meeting of the British Association here will do a great deal toward bringing a better class of immigrants to the country, as at present too many of the immigrants are both poor and brainless. The captain mentioned two cases of young gentlemen belonging to some of the best families in England coming to work with their own hands on Canadian farms.

FINLAND, although nominally under the rule of Russia, has really governed itself, and has been the only free part of the Russian Empire. Now, the Czar of Russia is trying to suppress the local Government because he says that the Nihilists are making Finland their head-quarters.

THE DIFFICULTY between France and China is now likely to be settled peaceably, China paying to France an indemnity of \$4,000,000.

THE MONTREAL "WITNESS" publishes a very interesting interview with the Rev. N. W. Deveneau, a young French-Canadian who is now a missionary among his fellow-countrymen in Illinois. He says that the people there have adopted many American ways, and have become much more independent since they have left their own country. In spite of all the denunciations of the priests, even Roman Catholics send asking for Protestant preachers to come to them.

THERE ARE 717,517 people in the United States who were born in the British provinces of North America of these, 610,090 were born in "Canada,"—that is, Quebec and Ontario; 51,160 in Nova Scotia, 41,788 in New Brunswick, 5,737 in Prince Edward Island, 4,789 in Newfoundland, and 1,793 in parts not specified. The highest number is in Michigan, which contains 148,866 Canadian natives; Massachusetts has 118,302; New York is third, with 84,182; Maine follows, with 37,114, and Illinois, with 34,043.

MR. J. G. COLMER, secretary to the Canadian High Commissioner in London, England, passed through Montreal on his way to the North-West this week. In an interview he expressed his opinion that although Canadian immigration was not at its full tide now, yet it would very soon be in full swing once more. Newspaper items about the distress of immigrants who had not succeeded had done harm, but only a couple of hundred complained out of hundreds of thousands.

A WHISKEY DISTILLERY at Connellsville, Pennsylvania, caught fire and a lot of the deadly "fire-water" was burned. The mob of men around the spot captured several barrels, and soon were lying all over the ground, dead drunk,—a fine monument to the benevolent business of the whiskey distillers.

MR. MOODY, the evangelist, in answer to a *New York Herald* reporter states that temperance work in England has made great progress, since his last visit ten years ago. Then, even in Christian houses, ten kinds of wine would be set before the guests; now that was all changed.

A YOUNG LAD of Lyons, N. Y. killed himself by eating a quart of peanuts, and two quarts of cherries, right after, and then drinking several glasses of ice-water. This should be a warning to persons who often do the same sort of thing, though on a smaller scale.

IN THE COURSE of excavations at Zan-Tanis, on the border of Egypt, there have been disclosed several portions of a red granite colossal statue of Rameses the Second, which, when whole, must have been ninety-eight feet from foot to crown.

THE FRENCH MINISTER of Agriculture is wanting to increase the duties on cattle and other live stock imported into France. The duty is to be \$5 on oxen, \$2.50 on cows or bulls, \$1.20 on pigs, 80c on calves and 60c on sheep.

THE GREELY RELIEF EXPEDITION will have cost in all, about \$700,000.