

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.

TORONTO FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd, 1883.

GROCERS' LICENSES.

The sale of liquor in retail groceries is a branch of the liquor traffic for which no word of apology is offered. It has been vehemently denounced from pulpit, platform and press, and there seems to be a general consensus of public opinion in favor of utterly abolishing it. The Dominion Parliament has practically stamped it as a bad and dangerous thing, and has therefore passed an act providing that our country shall be entirely free from this particular phase of the drink-traffic curse, *after the first day of May, 1890*; that is, of course, if this curious piece of legislation be not amended before that time.

This put-off action of our Parliament is really also the action of those temperance men who will not endeavor to rid us of this grocery license system at once, by means of the power that is now vested in municipal councils in regard to the same. We have before urged upon electors the importance of returning councils that will pass the necessary by-laws. Let prospective candidates for municipal honors be sound in regard to this matter, and let temperance men rally to the support only of those who are distinctly pledged to do right in reference to it. This would be a progressive step that could not be opposed with any show of plausibility, and that would be an immense gain to our cause.

THE TEMPERANCE ORGANIZATIONS.

6—ROYAL TEMPLARS OF TEMPERANCE.

Upon several occasions THE CANADA CITIZEN has drawn attention to the remarkable advantage that total abstainers have over moderate drinkers in the matter of life-expectancy, and we are happy to be able to give to our readers a brief account of an organization that utilizes this advantage, 1st, for the benefit of its members personally in the matter of co-operative life insurance, and 2nd, as a means of holding many persons in a useful union, in total abstinence practice, and in active temperance work. A prominent member of the Order furnishes us the following particulars:

"Royal Templars are not anxious to obtain popular favor for their organization on any other ground than that of its intrinsic merit. It is essentially a benefit Order, based upon strict total abstinence principles, and having for its avowed object 'the promotion of temperance morality and industry, the prevention by all

just means of the growth of intemperance, and the suppression of the manufacture, sale and use of all intoxicating liquors.' The Order claims therefore to be in harmony with all other total abstinence and prohibitory organizations, and to provide a suitable agency for the co-operation of total abstainers for their mutual benefit and assistance."

In *Modus Operandi* this society resembles the "Ancient Order of United Workmen," but its supporters justly claim that it can and does furnish to its members all the benefits of such an organization at a much less outlay than what must be required by an organization, some of whose members indulge in the use of intoxicants.

Royal Templary has thus far proved a great success. It was founded in February, 1877, and in February of the present year its members numbered nearly 20,000. An important feature of its success is evidenced in the fact, that during its history less than 200 persons have been expelled from its ranks for taking drink, although strict maintenance to its total abstinence pledge is an essential condition of continued membership. From the constitution of the Society, of course its members have a strong financial interest in adhering unwaveringly to their temperance obligation.

The Order is specially strong in New York, where it had its origin; but it has extended its branches and benefits over the whole of the United States and our own Dominion.

In Ontario a Grand Council has been formed, and on February last its first annual meeting was held in Toronto, which city has the honor to claim the Pioneer Council of the Order in this country. The total membership of Ontario reported at that meeting was 1,212 in 60 Councils or Lodges, and since that date it has been rapidly growing until there are at this date 102 Councils in operation.

There is a strong feeling in this Province in favor of a beneficency jurisdiction for Canada apart from and independent of the Supreme Council, which has its seat in Buffalo. It is believed that this measure is essential to the general acceptance of the Order in Canada, and there is every prospect that it will be carried into effect at the next meeting of the Grand Council of Ontario, which is to take place in Hamilton, in February, 1884.

The Grand Councillor reports that a Union has been formed with the "United Temperance Association" by adopting the constitution of that body for a "Primary Lodge Degree," and it is expected that the united organizations thus formed will do good work on behalf of temperance, especially in places where no other temperance societies in operation exists.

Since the introduction of the Order into Ontario benefits to the amount of \$25,000 have been paid to friends of deceased members. Upon another page we publish details of the Society's working, and a complete directory of the Order in this Province.

TOTAL ABSTINENCE AND INSURANCE.

"At the sitting of the Economic Science and Statistics Section, of the British Science Association, on Saturday, the 22nd ult., in St. Andrews Hall, Mr. J. B. Martin presiding, a Paper was read by Mr. H. B. Robinson (Chief Constructor of the Navy), on 'The Effect of Alcoholic Drinks on the Length of Human Life.' Mr. Robinson said that since the Roman Prætorian præfect Ulpianus wrote on the value of life, facts have been accumulating which admit of the expectation of human life being more correctly estimated than in his day, though much has yet to be learned. Before the art of printing was discovered it was of importance, with the view of discoveries in art and science being followed up, that men should live long; and now the true value of long and healthy lives cannot be overrated, even from an economist's point of view. In this day some insurance societies show that longevity can be increased by simply not drinking, as beverages, intoxicating drinks. There are several mutual life