

Correspondence.

WARD TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATIONS AND THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

(To the Editor of the "Canada Citizen.")

SIR,—A case which has just occurred in Toronto may be interesting to your readers as illustrating a mode of preventive therefor, which has hitherto almost escaped the attention of Temperance men; and a mode also which is peculiarly adapted for such organizations as the newly formed Ward Temperance Associations of Toronto, or similar societies which may be organized elsewhere.

St. John's Ward already abundantly supplied with taverns, was threatened with a further increase of three, that number having made application for new tavern licenses to both the Provincial and Dominion Boards of License Commissioners. On behalf of St. John's Ward Temperance Association, I had the honor to appear before the Provincial License Commissioners to oppose these licenses being granted, and with the very best results, the whole three being refused.

Unfortunately, no protest or counter petition had been sent to the Dominion License Commissioners, and because of this remissness all three had licenses granted them by that Board. However, it was thought that certain irregularities which were believed to exist in the case of one of these applicants might be sufficient to prevent the license being issued, and accordingly a letter was addressed to the County Judge, as chairman of the Dominion Board, calling his attention to the fact that on Mr. Patterson's (the name of the applicant) petition a name appeared of a man who had left the city about 18 months previously. On Monday and Tuesday the 5th and 6th of the present month, the Commissioners met to receive evidence and try the case, the matter resolving itself naturally into a charge of forgery against Patterson. At the trial Patterson swore that he met Mr. Garston (the name of the party who had left the city) about the middle of February, he (Mr. Garston) being then on a two weeks visit to the city; that having his petition and pen and ink with him he asked him to sign, which Mr. Garston did, using Mr. Patterson's back as a desk to write on; this being done in the open street. Mr. Patterson also produced a witness who swore that he knew Mr. Garston, and that he was present when he signed the petition. This was the defence. On referring to the petition itself it was found that Mr. Garston's name was the best, in fact the only scholarly written name to be found on the paper. The prosecution brought two witnesses, one of whom had kept Mr. Garston's books, (who kept a small butcher shop) who swore that Mr. Garston was altogether incapable of writing such a signature. They also produced an attested signature of Garston's which amply confirmed their testimony. They did not believe that he had been in the city, but, of course, could not swear positively that he had not. The prosecution further brought up another name from Mr. Patterson's petition of a man who had died, as our witness thought, in January, but not being able to swear to the exact date that went for nothing. Still another name was brought up, being that of a man who had left the city last fall and gone to Kingston, and whose wife said had never returned since, but the wife not being present to be sworn, that testimony was also set aside. Amongst 31 names hastily copied from the petition, 8 were found to be objectionable, the three instances just given being samples. The County Judge, as Chairman of the Commissioners, referred repeatedly to the charge of forgery as a very grave one, which may, perhaps, partly account for the strictly legal eye with which everything as evidence was considered, and whilst freely admitting that grave suspicion had been cast on the petition, they could not declare that forgery had been proved, and therefore the license must stand. Had action in this case been taken earlier, before the license had been granted, I believe that the presentation of such facts would have effectually prevented its being granted. Put the same effort forth in every ward in the city, at the proper time, backed up by argument and proof, and the number of liquor traffickers would be materially reduced; the power of temperance sentiment would be consolidated and made effective, and a great step in advance would be taken towards our final goal—Prohibition.

Yours,

JAMES THOMPSON,

Secretary, Toronto Temperance Electoral Union.

General News.

CANADIAN.

Wm. McDonald, M. P. for Cape Breton, has been elevated to the Senate.

Mr. J. J. Tilley, Inspector of Schools, of Port Hope, has been appointed Inspector Model Schools of Ontario, vice G. W. Ross.

The Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health has been notified of one or two mild cases of small pox in the County of Lambton.

James McInerny, machinist, working at Wanzer's factory at Hamilton, burst a blood vessel Saturday morning and died in a few minutes.

The Captain of a Norwegian barque just arrived at Montreal reports the loss of a schooner with twelve of her crew on the coast of Newfoundland.

The charge of forgery against Mr. Robt. McKim, M. P., came up Friday at Arthur. The evidence was heard and the case dismissed.

The election of officers of the Midland Railway of Canada resulted as follows:—Mr. Joseph Hickson, President; Mr. George A. Cox, 1st Vice-President, and Mr. Wm. Gooderham, 2nd Vice-President.

At Port Colborne, May 12.—About a hundred and fifty pounds of glycerine in Mr. Dunbar's magazine exploded. The men had quit work about an hour before it occurred. It was caused by the building taking fire. The shock was felt for miles; no one was injured.

Henceforth Montreal will have a second through route to Toronto. The Ontario & Quebec Railway freight trains will commence running between Montreal and Toronto shortly, but passenger traffic will not commence till July.

36,920 immigrants arrived in the Dominion from January 1st to the 30th of April inclusive, against 38,132 last year. Of these 16,379 went to the United States, leaving 20,550 as settled in the Dominion, against 22,255 last year.

Farmers have nearly finished seeding along the line of the Canada Pacific in Manitoba. A very much larger acreage than last year has been sown.

A large body of Italian laborers on the Canadian Pacific are on strike, and serious trouble is feared.

The three C. P. R. new iron steamships Algoma, Alberta and Athabaska have arrived at Owen Sound to take their places on the line at once to Port Arthur.

At Hamilton, on May 14th, a young man named George Smith was found drowned in a creek near Waterdown village, north of this city. He had gone out fishing, and not returning last night, search was made this morning with the above result. He lived with his mother, who is an aged widow.

John McGill, a farmer living about two miles out of Picton, on the road to Smith's Bay, hung himself whilst laboring under a fit of temporary insanity, caused by his being very severely crippled, the result of having his feet and hands frozen last winter while under the influence of liquor.

Arthur Watson, aged 61, a tailor who resided in London East, was arrested about half past four p.m. on Wednesday, on a charge of drunkenness, and placed in the cells. At 8:45 it was discovered that he had strangled himself to death with a long neckerchief, which he had tied in a loop and attached to the bars of the cell door.

A sad drowning accident occurred at Three Rivers, Que., on Monday. Three children were playing in a pond close to the station with some boards which they had made into a raft. They fell off it into the water, which, in the centre, is about seven feet in depth, and two of them were drowned—Corrine Lettellier, aged 9, and Henry St. Hilaire, aged 8 years.

UNITED STATES.

A thorough reorganization of Union Pacific Railway affairs have been determined upon.

Some loss of life and great damage to railroads have been caused by floods in Utah.

A swarm of locusts nine miles wide has settled in Texmalca, Texas, destroying all herbage.

At Cleveland, O., fire communicated from a lime kiln destroyed the greater part of Sherwin, Williams & Co.'s paint works. Loss, \$80,000.

The Northern Pacific Railway refuses to ship any ardent spirits to points in or near Indian reservations.

The Marine Bank, New York, is hopelessly insolvent, capital, earnings, surplus and all being swallowed up. Liabilities about \$4,500,000.

Gen. Grant and the whole family are said to be totally ruined financially by the Grant & Ward failure. The deficit will be £5,000,000.