

The number of children in Bands of Hope under the auspices of W. C. T. Unions are two thousand four hundred and twenty-five.

There are "Boys night schools" and "Girls sewing schools," which are being successfully carried out by the Young Ladies Union and which will be reported by themselves.

In closing we must refer gratefully to the hopeful and encouraging outlook, and rejoice in the signal victories gained in the carrying of the Scott Act in so many counties of our beautiful Dominion. And it is now an acknowledged fact that the W. C. T. U. is a recognized power in the land, and the principles advocated by its members are taking deep hold upon the people.

Surely this work is of God. And if God be for us, who can be against us?

Respectfully submitted,
M. S. FAWCETT.

The report was adopted.

Mrs. Andrews presented the following

REPORT OF S. S. TEMPERANCE AND BANDS OF HOPE WORK.

In accordance with the resolution of the Ottawa Pro. Union your committee presented a memorial to the Provincial S. S. Association of Ontario at Cobourg. The memorial was courteously received, and the delegate appointed to present it was invited to address the convention; after her address several spoke earnestly on the duty of S. S. teachers to instruct the children in the principles of total abstinence, and a resolution accepting the memorial and complying with its request was passed by the convention. A few county conventions were also approached on the subject. A number of our unions are conducting Bands of Hope, some of them being in a very flourishing condition. The duty of laboring with and for the children, that they may be saved from forming the habit of taking intoxicating liquors, is felt by your committee to be the most important branch of our work. When we see the great and often ineffectual struggles of men who have formed the appetite for intoxicants in early youth to overcome the craving for them, we feel that we ought to do all that lies in our power to do to save the rising generation. Dear sisters, let us redouble our efforts, and seize every opportunity to labor for this object, and never relax our efforts and watchfulness, as every year some are passing beyond our reach, and others taking their places, so that the same work has to be done again and again; but let us never slacken our pace, but ever pressing on in our work, and in due time we shall reap, by the blessing of God. Yours in behalf of the Committee,

HARRISON, Ont.

MRS. A. ANDREWS.

The report was adopted.

(Continued next week.)

The following is the

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

There are times in the experience of individuals when events long prayed for, earnestly hoped for, seem to come near, almost startling our faith which we deemed so strong. After many dull dispiriting days, days of toil and care, some morning we wake suddenly to the consciousness that the sun is dimly shining through the cloud and we know that ere long, ours shall be the noontide glory. There are times, too, when watching beside the sick bed of a friend, our finger on the pulse counting the fevered strokes, suddenly we have realized that the beats were fewer and fainter, remedies applied have had their effect, and with glad, thankful hearts we have said, "He is safe now." So there are times in the history of a people when the leaders in great reforms have looked up from their tasks with a renewed hope, made conscious of a new light and of the coming of better things. The finger of the temperance worker has been on the fevered pulse of the people for long years, while cooling applications in various forms of license have been tried from time to time. Still the people have tossed restlessly to and fro, the remedies were found to be comparatively useless, while it might be said, as in the olden time, "There was not a house in which there was not one dead." Faithfully the watcher has done what he could, and has waited, and hoped, and prayed. The day is now come when the pulse of the people beats more slowly and steadily. Reason begins, at last, to assert her sway, and we believe, that ere long, the people will be free from the great moral disease of intemperance. Our local option law has now come to be vigorously used, thus paving the way for general prohibition, which is to give new life to the people and usher in the brightness of a better morning. The morning is coming, dear friends. Looking out through its mists we see the light breaking, while, flashing across its brightness, come the glad tidings from all Christian lands. The United Kingdom Temperance Alliance reports progress in all branches of the work, the British Women's Temperance Association has been successful in all the work undertaken by that society, while in the United States a prohibition candidate (ex-Governor St. John) has been nominated for the presidency, and Iowa and Maine have been added to the bright stars that grace the prohibition flag. All this gain across the line is very largely due to the persistent, prayerful efforts of the National Women's Christian Temperance Union. New Zealand also has its Women's Christian Temperance Unions, and temperance organizations are being formed in the most remote places. Great activity is manifested also in establishing coffee-houses, and in taking other preventive and remedial measures in France, Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands. In Canada, Manitoba is preparing for Scott Act work; the different places in the Maritime Provinces have stood firm against all threats of repeal, while in Quebec Province, Athabaska and Stansstead lead the way, and there are more to follow. Turning to our own province and pressing onward to our daily work over the road we have so often gone, the way of toil and duty and of sacrifice, now the mist disappears, and here, in a long line of march, come our counties of Ontario, noble little Halton at the head. True, the smoke of the evening's powder enveloped her again for a little while, but the wind changed and the opposing shout became one of confusion rather than of conquest. Oxford, too, comes with a glad song of praise, then Simcoe, with more than eleven hundred voices in chorus, while close behind press Peel, Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry, and many others. Sisters of Halton, of Oxford, and of Simcoe, right nobly have you done your part in the campaign which has just closed. We congratulate you and praise God for the results. While good men and true, of all classes, and of all church denominations, have risen above all selfish and minor considerations, and have been in the front of the fight, from our ranks

the breath of prayer has ceaselessly ascended, building, on its upward way, a barrier against which the liquor traffic has not been able to prevail. We are looking at the counties still pressing forward, and we know that the same loyalty and devotion to the cause will be sustained by our sisters there; but as we look, raising our eyes still higher, we see above them written, "This battle is not yours, but the Lord's."

"Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing,
Were not the right Man on our side—
The Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus—it is He.
Lord Sabaoth is His name,
From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle."

Seven years ago, while enjoying the hospitality of your beautiful city, our Ontario Women's Christian Temperance Union was organized. Then a small company, we now number ourselves by thousands. We are one, too, of a still greater company; for, in the United States alone, 100,000 women, led by Miss Willard, wear the white ribbon badge, the badge of the W. C. T. U. Mrs. Lucas, sister of Hon. John Bright, leads a similar movement in England. In British Columbia and Manitoba, unions are rapidly forming. The Maritime Union has just held a very successful convention, reporting increased interest and fresh accession of members. The Provincial Union of Quebec held its annual meeting last week, reporting a year of marvellous growth and successful work. We join hands with all W. C. T. U. women in all lands, north, south, east and west, while we extend a hearty greeting to all Christian temperance workers, no matter by what name called. Representing not merely a temperance society, we represent in a large degree the homes of our young Canada, of this beautiful Province of Ontario. The reasons that prompted this organization were, alarm at the increased evils of intemperance and the want of protection for our homes. Protection for the loved ones, who sat with us by the fireside, and especially for the little ones, who, in their bright boyhood and gentle girlhood, were the gladness and beauty of our lives. We guarded our sons carefully in their childhood and sent them out into the world, pure and upright, a mother's kiss upon their lips and a mother's prayer present with them. To so many homes our boys have been returned, no longer upright and pure, but wrecks of their former selves, made weak, morally and physically, love of home and mother and of God covered up or drowned out under the influence of strong drink. We saw in cases, too, not a few, that our daughters were coming under this evil influence or were suffering from the unkindness of those who were slaves to drink. We looked, and through our tears we said "something must be done." Later we said "who is to do this something?" We were told that there must be legislation, "the voters will see to it." So we waited for those "older than we," for "those far wiser than we." As we waited we saw that elements of weakness were creeping in to impair the voters' strength, and what seemed to us foolishness was taking the place of wisdom. We saw that the devotion to party in the strife of politics, was set up against the devotion to the home. We saw that the network of the liquor traffic encompassed many interests, and that our brothers were crippled by it, so that when the time came for them to protect their homes, temperance men of a lifetime voted for the candidate of their party without any question as to his temperance principles. How could we expect prohibitory legislation when temperance men had made lawmakers of those who were avowedly opposed to prohibition. Then the difficulties concerning revenue were explained to us, if prohibition became the law of the land. We have the testimony, however, that in 1848, when Father Matthew conducted such a wonderful temperance revival in Ireland, the whiskey revenue was almost nothing, but the general revenue went up for the year to £90,000 (\$450,000) above the average. Since then, too, our own Finance Ministers have told us this argument was not worthy the name. But in contemplation of all this, as it was presented to us at that time, we began to ask ourselves "Is there nothing we can do?" We have found that there was a great deal for us to do. After much heart searching we realized that we, women, were not without blame. We had lent our influence, unthinkingly, to this evil, we had given a lodging place to the enemy in our sideboards and in our kitchens, and had paraded him in our parlors, while in secret we had prayed God to deliver us from evil. As little bands of women came together throughout our country, we "confessed our faults, one to another," and pledged ourselves against alcohol in every form. In every place where it was at all possible we co-operated with other temperance societies, seeking not to take the place of any, not to place ourselves before any, but to come to all as helpers in the work of saving humanity and lifting it to a higher level. We have seen an added strength in our Provincial society, which is a bond of union for all the scattered societies. From the counsel given at the annual meeting of the Provincial Union have emanated many wise and helpful suggestions, and different departments of work have been arranged, the details of which have been faithfully carried out by the several committees whose reports will be given you.

I have to congratulate the union on the many newly-formed auxiliaries to this society, and as will be seen from the report of the corresponding secretary, there has been a marked increase of interest, as well as of membership.

Much of this new work has been the outcome of Scott Act agitation in the various counties, but very much of it is due to the earnest efforts and self-sacrificing toil of our county superintendents.

We have gained during the year in the good achieved, largely through the labors of the Scientific Instruction Department. The Literary and Press departments have also been very successful, as well as all the other departments on the list.

The Y. W. C. T. Unions are doing good work. Our young ladies are earnest and enthusiastic, our older ladies are steadily active, and our Bands of Hope join us in the work, singing with their sweet childish voices the great refrain, "For God and Home and Native Land." The resolution adopted by this society at its last annual meeting forbade our seeking further to remedy the License laws. Accordingly we have given our help and our influence to secure the adoption of the Scott Act in our various counties. In this work our own Mrs. Youmans has been of great service, while by her side have stood the W. C. T. U.