

# Citizen and Home Guard

SUPPLEMENT TO DAILY ADVERTISER---SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 1894.

Next week the HOME GUARD will publish the full text of the report of temperance committee of the Hamilton and London Synod of the Presbyterian Church adopted at Hamilton this week. The report is a valuable one and many of our readers will be glad to see a verbatim copy. Some of its clauses are being misrepresented for mere political purposes.

That the deplorable results of intemperance are felt by every member of the family, as well as by the particular individual who drinks, is illustrated in nearly every day's observation. Writing of its effect in destroying homes and family circles, Mr. A. G. Rolston, a leading lawyer in New South Wales, writes: "I do not think that any one except the judge of the divorce court has a better opportunity of judging than I have. I was for two years clerk of the divorce court, and have since then, for nearly ten years, been constantly practicing in that court, and I can safely say that in at least 75 per cent. of all the cases which come before the court, drink has either directly or indirectly been the cause which has brought about the matrimonial offense or offenses upon which the court has been called upon to adjudicate." That clearly indicates that the wives and daughters and sons of the intemperate are all sufferers whether they are abstainers or not. How absurd to talk, in the face of such facts, which occur in Canada as well as in England, that "the drinker is his own enemy only."

## The Royal Commission Report.

The report of the Royal Commission on the liquor traffic, which a good many people had reason to believe would be presented to Parliament two years ago, has not been presented yet. It is probable that some summary report will be laid on the table of the House, in manuscript, before the session closes, but too late to be of any value—if "value" it will ever prove to be, anyway. Last year, when the subject came up in the House, the Government assured the country that the report would probably be ready and in print and circulated before the present session would be convened. How far those "expectations" have been met the country can now plainly see.

As a matter of fact very few persons of any party are looking with interest to the finding of that commission, anyway. When it was first proposed, over three years ago, many doubted if it would be of any real practical value, and many others were clearly convinced that it was nothing more or less than a make-shift. When a year was allowed to elapse before the Government named the members of the commission at all it became evident to many more that not much practical results need be looked for. When it began its work of wandering almost aimlessly up and down the country, at irregular intervals, collecting up all kinds of crude opinions from all kinds of people and extending these wanderings over months and months of time, nearly all expectation that any good practical purpose would result from such a waste of public money and time died out. For months past no one, possibly outside of a few professional politicians, has been looking with any anxious interest for that long-expected and long-delayed Royal Commission report.

So far as the taxpayers have been officially informed, the costs entailed by the commission, up to the 1st of March last, amounted to \$34,387. Since that time the wanderings of the members here and there, "taking evidence," seem to have ceased, but when the bills all get in it will be found, we doubt not, that the six members, at \$14 per day and travelling expenses, have been keeping themselves "at work." The Government is evidently in no hurry for a report, and the commissioners, who seem to be consulting their own business conveniences in the matter, are evidently in no hurry either.

It has been stated that some 7,000 pages of "evidence" have now been accumulated, and these will probably be printed in seven stout volumes of 1,000 pages each. The cost of printing will probably range somewhere between \$1,000 and \$2,000 per volume. Is there any probability that 100 men in all the Dominion, including all the members of the Commons and the Senate, will ever wade through the heterogeneous mass thus collected?

All told, it now looks as though the heavy burdened Canadian taxpayers will have to foot a bill of not less than \$50,000 in connection with the royal commission business, with very little to show for it all but an additional accumulation of blue books, to go with the waste paper of many other unread volumes of that class annually distributed.

## Presbyterianism and Prohibition.

The Presbyterians, ministers and laymen have evidently confidence in Sir Oliver Mowat's integrity and intention to carry out his promise regarding a prohibition law, if the opportunity comes in his way. Sir Oliver has been a faithful and consistent member of the Presbyterian Church from boyhood, and much as it may suit the purpose of his bitterest political opponents to besmirch his character and injure his reputation as a man of truth, his co-workers in that church have had no reason to have their confidence shaken in him.

At the regular annual meeting of the Synod of Hamilton and London, held in Hamilton this week, the report of the temperance committee was presented by Rev. W. J. Clark, of London, convener, which, after considerable discussion, was almost unanimously adopted. The report refers with gratitude to the great plebiscite verdicts given in favor of prohibitory legislation and the assurance of the Government, of which Sir Oliver is the head, of a willingness to introduce such legislation, as far as it is in their power.

The report also recommends that the various synods be requested to see that the excellent new temperance text books be used in the public schools in their various communities. It concludes with this recommendation:

"That in view of the pronounced state of public opinion expressed in regard to prohibition, the Supreme Court of our Church be asked to take such action as may influence the legislative body or bodies within whose jurisdiction the authority is found to be, in favor of the immediate passing of legislation prohibiting the liquor traffic, and advises the electors to support candidates favorable to such legislation."

Some members of the synod appeared to have misgivings to the adoption of any resolutions which would appear to be committing the church to favoring any political action, even on the temperance question. It must be remembered, however, that the church took the position first in favor of prohibition legislation, and the politicians are now coming up to the church platform and not the church to that of the politicians. It is well to always bear in mind, too, that it is to the politicians who are elected as legislators that the church and the country must look for the needed laws on this great question, and unless men of right principles are elected the work of years in that direction in the church will accomplish little. The hopes of all Christian workers now largely lie in the hands of the men soon to be elected as our next law-makers.

The liquor traffic exists in this country today only by the sufferance of the membership of the Christian Churches. They are masters of the situation so far as the abolition of the traffic is concerned. When they say "go" and vote "go," it will go.—[NEAL DOW.]

## American Women's Council.

The executive committee of the National Council of Women of the United States have issued a call for a meeting to be held in Washington in February next. This meeting is called to make all due arrangements for a National Council to be held in Washington in February next. A large number of local councils, it is reported, are springing up all over the country, and the organization is assuming a great national importance.

As this National Council is constituted of the presidents and general officers of the various women's organizations affiliated with it, all such are invited to send representatives to the Philadelphia meeting in May. The local preparations are being made by Rachael Foster Avery, of Somerton, Phila., who will give all necessary information to those needing it.

Among the organizations identified with the council are the North American Woman's Suffrage Association, National W. C. T. U., National Woman's Relief Association, Woman's Foreign Missionary Union of Friends, Woman's National Relief Corps, National Association of Women Stenographers, and a number of others.

## The Good Time Coming.

Rev. Dr. Dewar, editor of the Christian Guardian, and one of the old and reliable temperance workers of Canada, is taking a very hopeful view of the prospects of early and final success of prohibition efforts in this country.

In a recent editorial article in his paper he argues that the friends of temperance need not be discouraged because of the recent unfavorable reply of the Dominion Premier. He goes on to remark that "Everybody knows that there has been a steady growth of sentiment in favor of prohibition, which is an earnest of victory. The increase of prohibition among the people is more important than the

attitude of politicians or cabinets. If the people are only right on the question, the politicians must get into line. If the whole Dominion had placed itself on record as being as strongly for prohibition as Ontario, Manitoba and Nova Scotia, the powers at Ottawa would have given a more favorable reply to the demand of the deputation. If the Provinces are shown to have jurisdiction, these Provinces will act."

The article goes on to say, "The liquor traffic has its deep root in the soil of the country, and has the support of powerful social and financial interests. It is not wise to underestimate the strength of the opposing forces, or to act as if there was no further educational work to be done. Even in Ontario the temperance people should work steadily to reduce the minority against prohibition. While we continue to press for prohibitory legislation, there should be steady efforts to reclaim the fallen and to convince our opponents of the error of their way."

## Temperance Items.

### CANADIAN.

—Ald Thomas Morris, of Hamilton, has been nominated a candidate for the next Legislature for East Hamilton by the Central Temperance Executive of that city.

—G. A. Martin, one of the Kingston hotel proprietors, was before the police court on Wednesday, charged with pointing a revolver at a domestic in his house while intoxicated. The case is not disposed of yet.

—It is said that the prohibitionists in Toronto intend to support one of their number in each of the four ridings of that city in the coming Provincial elections. The Prohibition Association which was formed during the late plebiscite campaign has taken

two brothers, Henry and George Nehring, got quarrelling over a bottle of whisky and George was murdered during the fight. He was 22 years of age, and Henry, the murderer, is 18.

—At Fall River, Massachusetts, license fees are as follows: Innkeepers, \$1,800; victuallers, \$1,200; common saloons, \$1,500. In North Denver, Colorado, the fee has just been raised from \$400 to \$3,000 a year. At Buffalo, N. Y., it is \$125 a year.

—In Kentucky a licensed liquor seller is liable to a fine of \$20 for furnishing liquor to a known inebriate. And for any violation of this section the wife or any relative of the inebriate may recover not less than a like amount for her or his benefit before any court of competent jurisdiction.

In consequence of the severe business depression several hundred saloons closed up in Chicago some months ago. The Lever, of that city, now states that most of them are open again and new ones are springing up. The Lever remarks that "it takes something more than hard times to close up saloons permanently."

—The law as to the sale of intoxicants is very stringent in Nebraska, where the statute provides that "the person licensed shall pay all damages that the community or individuals sustain in consequence of such traffic; he shall support all paupers, widows, and orphans, and the expenses of all civil and criminal prosecutions, growing out of, or justly attributable to, his traffic in intoxicating drinks."

The Journal of United Labor, a leading American labor journal, says: Prohibition in the State of Kansas has become a fixture, and no political party there has the nerve to even agitate the question of resubmission to the people. This is in part accounted

fears, however, that if Scotland can only get it along with England she will have long to wait. If Scotland stood alone she would have it in six months.

—Field Marshal Lord Napier says: "On reviewing the records of soldiers' offences, all practically have their origin in drunkenness. Of 1,800 men under my command in India the total abstainers had no crimes. The temperate men had practically none. The whole body of crime was among the non-abstainers."

—Prohibition politics are coming to the fore in England as well as in Canada. Rev. G. Arturhow, a leading Church of England minister, in a recent address, urged that education alone would not remedy the evil, and the only way to solve the problem was to make it a political question to bring about temperance legislation.

—There is a Temperance Association in connection with the British Army and the Government gives it a grant of \$2,500 this year. The Secretary of War, in presenting his estimates to the House of Commons, paid a tribute of praise to the excellent results which follow the operation of the association, both at home and abroad.

—Rev. Fleming Williams recently asserted in a speech in the London county council that no one, he believed, would dispute that the increase of insanity was due to facilities for getting drunk, and, therefore, they were under an obligation to move in the matter. He did not know many places in London suffering from a dearth of places giving facilities for getting drunk. Ultimately the debate was adjourned.

—There has been a pretty general movement for organization among the liquor interests of Scotland just as there has been in Ontario. There is the Scottish Licensed Trade Defense Association, which has just issued an annual report. It goes on to say that 1893 was a year of most momentous interests to the Scottish trade in all its branches. It then refers to the Government Local Option Bill, and says that the whole Scottish trade was appealed to besir themselves in self-defence, as all must be prepared to fight it.

—In the London county council, which is a larger and more important body than our Ontario Legislature, Mr. Doubleday, a member, recently submitted the following resolution, which is now under consideration:

"That as the large number of licensed houses for the sale of intoxicating drink in the county of London leads to excessive drinking, which is the chief cause of pauperism, insanity and crime, this council do memorialize the licensing justices of the various divisions in the county to refuse to grant all fresh applications for new premises." He said only this week the council paid £4,000 for a license which they had allowed to lapse. Under these circumstances he hoped his resolution would be carried unanimously.

—From returns recently presented to the House of Commons, it is shown that the convictions for drunkenness in England for 1892 amounted to 248,289; in Wales, 107,714; and arrests for the same cause in Scotland, to 50,591. In England these figures give, in round numbers, 1 conviction for every 200 of the population; in Wales 1 in 150; in Scotland, 1 in 80. To take some of the larger centers of population on both sides of the Tweed, a writer in a London weekly periodical finds the following proportions: The Metropolitan police district, numbering 5,596,101 souls, is responsible for 23,110 convictions, or 1 in 242; the city of London, 1 in 61; Manchester, 1 in 98; Liverpool, 1 in 61; Leeds, 1 in 240; Birmingham, 1 in 181; Newcastle-on-Tyne, 1 in 46; Sutherland, 1 in 164; South Shields, 1 in 39; Hull, 1 in 200. The borough of Cambridge shows 53 convictions in a population of 36,982, or 1 in 698. Glasgow totals up to 1 in 30; Edinburgh, 1 in 43; Aberdeen, 1 in 80; Dundee, 1 in 60; and Greenock, 1 in 20.

### GENERAL.

—The drink bill of New South Wales for last year was £4,011,800, as against £4,713,000 in 1892.

—At the end of the government year, 1892-93, there were 23,563 breweries in operation in Germany.

—The imports of malt liquors in the Dutch East Indies amounted in value in 1892 to 109,415 Dutch florins.

—According to the Swiss Federal Statistical Bureau, Switzerland, though so largely a wine country, has also 324 breweries.

—The tourist season in Switzerland is officially estimated to bring in an annual profit of £328,000 to the 1,000 hotel-keepers.

A famous wine cellar belongs to the Common Council of Bremen, Germany, in which there are twelve butts of wine named after the twelve apostles.

—A French paper called Le Matin declares that drunkenness in France is the cause of many suicides and much

## LIFE INSURANCE.

The most important features to be considered in judging of the merits of a life insurance company are: 1st, the safety and equity of its plans and policy contracts; 2nd, the care and economy exercised in its selection of risks and general management; 3rd, the character of its assets and their relation to its liabilities. If these features are right, everything is right, whether a company be large or small, old or young. No company stands better in any one, or all of them, than the Temperance and General Life Assurance Company.

For desired information address H. SUTHERLAND, Manager, Toronto, Ont., or consult an agent of the company.

crime, and earnestly recommends the Government to check its progress.

The number of suicides in France in 1890 was over 8,000.

—A Hindoo who has written a book about England says that "John Bull lets his people hear sermons Sunday mornings and get drunk in the afternoon. Why do the English spend twice as much for drink as for bread?"

—The people in India, says Sir Lepel Griffin, are on a far higher level of morality than Englishmen. They are industrious, sober, chaste, religious; a drunken man (unless an Englishman) is rare; a drunken woman is unknown.

—One of the great strongholds of railway temperance men is at the Great Northern Railway Company's goods station at Farringdon street, London, where out of the large staff employed both night and day nearly 80 per cent are total abstainers.

—So many disasters of the Trans-Andes line of the Chilean railways have been traced to the inebriety of employees, that the directors have decided to discharge every conductor, engineer and telegraph operator who shall be found under the influence of liquor.

—The late General Mellinet, of the French army, who died recently at the age of 95 years, had throughout his life abstained from stimulants of all kinds, and was in the habit of saying that he did not even know the taste of wine. To the last he was a healthy, vigorous old soldier.

—Reports just on hand from Jamaica speak of the steady growth of temperance sentiment there. At Rose-hill the Rev. Leo Miller, ably assisted by Mrs. Miller, has done excellent work through the year, and added to the roll of abstainers. Through their efforts a society has been instituted at Brainerd, where, despite exceptional difficulties, good work has already been done.

—According to "Mulhall's Statistics," a standard authority in such matters, the amount of spirituous liquors consumed per head of the population is greater in Sweden than in any other country in the world, and Norway stands third on this list. These facts ought to be pretty carefully considered by the well-meaning advocates of the Gothenburg system, especially in Canada.

—Dr. Bode, of Hildesheim, declares that the manufacture of intoxicating liquors in Germany robs the country yearly of 4,500,000 acres; it plunges 32,000 into such poverty that they must be supported by the State or by friends; it sends 4,250 into compulsory confinement in labor colonies; it has robbed 30,000 of their reason, and it has raised an army of criminals, 159,000 strong.

A temperance society has been organized in St. Petersburg, which includes many high dignitaries as members. The leading Russian newspaper in commenting on it said: "Only the co-operation of the government departments with the efforts of the society can deliver the people from the thralldom of drunkenness. To abolish such is the province and the power of the government."

A "liter" of beer or any other liquid is equivalent to nearly a quart, English measure. According to recent reliable statistics the inhabitants of different European countries consume the following quantities of beer, besides wine and spirits: In Bavaria the annual allowance per head of the population is 221 liters; in Berlin, 191; in Belgium, 169; in England, 143; in Switzerland, 131; in Denmark, 133; in the United States, 31; in Sweden, 11; in Russia, 5.

—The following is an item from Austria. We give it for what it may be worth: "A native of a small village, after a long cataleptic trance a year ago, declared that he had been in heaven and had been commissioned by the Almighty to return and teach peasants the wickedness of drinking spirits. Soon the entire village took an oath of total abstinence. The district governor committed the man to the madhouse, where the doctors kept him for six months and then declared him sane. He resumed his agitation and in a short time seven villages had taken vows of abstinence. The result was that a number of liquor dealers to whom the government had granted licenses, refused to keep their contracts. The district judge gave orders that the dangerous agitator be arrested if caught preaching abstinence."