

Temperance Department.

TRUTH desires to give, each week, information from every part of the Temperance work. Any information gladly received. Address: A. W. Cass, G. W. S., Editor, Napanee, Ont.

The Ontario Alliance.

The annual convention of the Ontario Branch of the Prohibitory Alliance was held in this city last week, and it was much more largely attended than for some time past. The increased attendance is indicative of the increased interest felt among all classes in regard to the prohibitory movement. These sessions lasted three days and the interest continued unabated throughout. Though there was a good deal of discussion and many important questions considered, not much business of actual importance was transacted, nor were any new lines of action decided upon.

A number of leading temperance workers were present and added much to the value of the meeting. Two or three ringing speeches were delivered by Hon. S. H. Blake, the President, of such a character as to raise the enthusiasm of all temperance workers. Prof. Foster, M. P., also added much to the interest by his valuable speeches and suggestions. Mr. J. J. MacLaren, Q. C., so well-known in connection with his successful defence of the constitutionality of the Scott Act before the Privy Council, gave much valuable legal information in regard to the Scott Act and our Provincial License law. W. H. Howland, Esq., gave a valuable and thoughtful paper in regard to "the beer question." It would not be possible to name the large number of other workers from the various parts of the Province whose information and whose suggestions were of much real worth. It is to be hoped that full and revised reports of the speeches of Mr. MacLaren and Mr. Howland will be published for the information of the country.

The old officers were re-elected for the coming year:—Hon. S. H. Blake, Toronto, President; Mr. F. S. Spence, Secretary; H. O'Hara, Treasurer. A large number of Vice-Presidents were appointed, and also a good working Executive Committee, composed almost exclusively of residents of this city. The *Canada Citizen* still continues the organ of the Alliance.

There was a public reception the first evening, given by the citizens of Toronto in Shafsbury Hall. After refreshments had been served excellent speeches were given by Hon. S. H. Blake, Prof. G. S. Foster, Rev. C. Morrow, Hon. Senator Vidal, ex-Alderman Moore and Mrs. Susannah Evans. Peck. The following evening another public meeting was held in the same hall, but in consequence of the severity of the night the attendance was not at all large. The third evening a larger and more enthusiastic meeting was held at Occident Hall, at the west end of the city. Full reports were given in the daily papers of all these meetings.

Temperance in Toronto.

Seldom have the temperance workers in Toronto been more active or successful in their work than they now are. The old Toronto Temperance Reformation Society, in whose hands is the well known Temperance Hall, on Temperance street, is doing much better than in years before. The Hall, a legacy handed down to the city from the workers of other days, was in quite a dilapidated condition about a year ago. It has been much improved since, but still needs improving. The weekly meetings are much better attended than they were. Each Saturday evening a free entertainment is given, and the attendance is fair. The Sunday afternoon meetings are also increasing in interest and attendance. A much larger number would probably attend if the meetings were more extensively and judiciously advertised. Last Sunday Col. Bain, of Kentucky, was announced to lecture and the Hall was greatly crowded. He was sick,

however, and not able to put in an appearance. Mr. William Burgess, of this city, occupied his place, and seldom have we listened to such an able and stirring address in the Hall. We would be glad to see it extensively published. In the evening another meeting was held and addressed by Mr. Biond, and ex-Alderman Moore. The meetings will be kept up each Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon at three o'clock.

The West End Temperance Society is officered by very active and judicious men, and though their meetings are in the immediate locality of the largest barracks of the Canadian Army, they are always successful in obtaining a crowd. They know the value of good advertising and they always provide a good programme and in consequence the large Occident Hall is filled each Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon.

The various branches of the Church of England Temperance Society are also active, and though their meetings attract little attention except to the actual adherents of the Church, yet a great deal of good is being done. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union is also actively at work, doing its share as far as it lies within the sphere of its members. There are several organizations for electoral purposes, and all of them are active and united.

The Good Templars and the Sons of Temperance are working harmoniously and as successfully. For some years past, each doing their share, especially in the temperance education of the young people.

All these agencies, added to the influence of the Pulpit and the Press of the city, are doing rapidly their work of educating the people of Toronto up to the point of the early adoption of the Scott Act, and of its enforcement, we trust, when adopted.

Another Victory.

Voting took place in the City of Guelph on Thursday, 22nd inst., on the adoption of the Scott Act, and another victory was scored for prohibition. The total vote recorded is reported to have been 1,191, being one of the largest votes yet recorded in the city. For the Act there were 680; against it, 511; majority, 169.

Guelph is the first city in this Province where the Scott Act has been adopted. The others will be much encouraged by this result. In St. Catharines, London, Kingston, and St. Thomas the petitions are now being circulated and votes may be expected before long.

That public opinion is fast growing is indicated pretty clearly from the fact that not many years ago a similar vote was taken in Guelph on the Dunkin Act—and the temperance men were left far behind.

Carleton county votes this week, and a hard fought battle is expected. God grant that the right may prevail.

NEWS AND NOTES.

PROHIBITION IN POLITICS.—*Demorest's Monthly Magazine* for February thus writes of American politics of the future:—

"Out of something over ten million of voters, some 150,000 at the last election cast their ballots for the Prohibition candidate, Governor St. John. This does not, however, represent the real feeling of the community on the necessity of the nation taking a hand in restraining, if not abolishing, the sale of intoxicating drinks. It is a remarkable fact that wherever the single issue of Prohibition and anti-Prohibition has been presented to the voters, the Prohibitionists have succeeded by overwhelming majorities. This was true of Maine, Iowa and Kansas, the only three States in which the naked issue was presented without entanglements with party, personal or local questions. It is admitted by the shrewdest politicians that a total prohibition put to vote in Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, it would be sanctioned by the people of those States, and at the rate at which the temperance sentiment is growing, there is little doubt of its ultimate adoption by the whole nation. But there are many impediments in the way of its advocates. The politicians are all opposed to the agitation, and hence the party machines, the regular organizations, do what they can in keeping

it from coming to the fore at election time. Then the courts of the country have so far acted in the liquor interest. They have partially nullified the will of the people in Ohio, Iowa and Kansas. The liquor dealers, of course, are very powerful; but with all these drawbacks the horrors of the liquor traffic are so obvious that the public sentiment against it is steadily deepening. The women of the country are on the side of prohibition. Moral issues with our people always win in the end."

THE REVENUE.—The *Western Plowman*, a well conducted journal, published in Moline, Illinois, puts the whole question in this way:—

The high license law of Illinois has reduced the number of saloons from 13,000 to 5,000, while the revenue from licenses has increased from \$700,000 to \$1,500,000—A. Z.

The revenue from licenses is really a revenue from drinkers, for of course the saloon-keeper gets the license money he pays from those who drink his liquor, besides his own expenses and as much profit as the business will stand. It is probable that the greater portion of this money comes from people who do not own homes. At an average of \$1,000 each, this license money would purchase 4,500 homes. If the drinkers who furnish this license money took the same amount of money and invested it in a building association, it would pay the dues on 25,000 homes. This, remember, is the license money alone. If we assume that three times the amount of license must be taken in by the saloon-keeper to pay his expenses and his own living, we see that what is drunk in Illinois alone would furnish annually sufficient money to pay the dues on 75,000 homes. These are plain figures, and not being election figures, they don't lie.

THE R. C. CHURCH.—The *Chicago Signal* says:—Among the harbingers of a brighter day is the stand taken by the Catholic clergy on temperance. Notable meetings were held recently in Baltimore, under the auspices of the Catholic Total Abstinence Union, during the session of the Plenary Council. They were largely attended by churchmen of the highest rank. At one held in Ford's Opera House, Vicar-General McColgan presided, and earnest speeches were made by Bishop Ireland, "the Father Matthew of the west," Archbishop Elder, Bishop Keane and Bishop Spalding; and on two other occasions Rev. Father Cleary gave telling addresses, in one of which he declared the approval of the Holy See of these efforts and societies, and appealed to the people in the name of the church to make temperance "a universal church work," and urged upon them total abstinence as the "only remedy" for present evils.

DRINKING CUSTOMS.—The custom of touching glasses prior to drinking healths is common in England and other countries, and especially in Germany. It is curious to trace how this custom has prevailed, and still exists, even among savage tribes. To drink out of the same cup and to eat off the same plate was one of the ways in which the ancients celebrated a marriage, and the wedding feast continues to be in the least important of the marriage ceremonies to the present day. The Indians of Brazil retain a custom of drinking together a little brandy, as a sign that the marriage is concluded. In China similar customs are met with. In the mediæval banquets of Germany it was the custom to pass a "loving cup" from hand to hand, but this gradually necessitated that the cup should be of enormous size, and thus smaller cups or glasses were adopted, and the old custom was conformed to by the drinkers touching their glasses before drinking.

DRINK AND WORK.—The *Lancet* truly says: "Much of the best work of the world is done nowadays by those who do not use alcoholics; and the common work of the world is also, when the test is made, well done by total abstainers; they are industrious, reliable, healthy. According to Lord Walsley, they make good soldiers. Sir William Gull has said that it is one of the commonest things in our society for people to be injured by drink without being drunkards. The injury occurs and goes on so quietly that it is very difficult to observe its access or its progress. To the professional eye the effect is perfectly marked and distinct. Many other men have given simi-

lar testimony. There is, therefore, a amount of drinking deemed moderate by society, that, in the opinion of good judges, is very injurious to the liver, the lungs, the nervous centres, etc."

THE GREATEST CAUSE.—A telegram from Quebec to the *Witness* states that, in the ancient capital there were, during last year, 1,122 arrests made by the police, for all crimes, and there were 944 convictions. More than one half of all the arrests—567—were made for drunkenness, and over fifty per cent. of the remaining half were for crimes arising out of drunkenness, or in some way connected with the drink traffic, such as disorderly conduct in the streets, assaults, selling at prohibited hours, or the like. The like causes are producing like results all over Canada. And yet there are people actually claiming that there would be more crime and more criminals under a prohibitory liquor law than under a license system productive of such results!

LIQUOR IN OHIO.—The State of Ohio is now virtually without a liquor law at all. There is an almost obsolete provision in the constitution of the State, prohibiting the sale entirely, and in consequence of that the Supreme Court, a few months ago, declared the Scott law of the State unconstitutional. According to Ohio's Scott Act it required that \$100 must be paid for a license to sell beer or whisky, and \$200 for a permit to sell both. Since the Supreme Court judgment there has been little or no restraint. In Columbus alone it is said that thirty-five new saloons sprung up in one month, and the proportion elsewhere was nearly as great. A writer says that the people are now awakening as never before, and with the temperance people in the majority the saloons must go.

SOUND DOCTRINE.—The Catholic Total Abstinence Union of Rhode Island, has adopted a resolution declaring that while recognizing moral suasion as the basis of temperance work, it asserts its "confidence in legal restriction of the liquor traffic as a means to the advancement of that work." The resolution also "emphasizes the fact that the Union cannot in any way encourage the liquor interest, much less vote for it."

A TERRIBLE INDICTMENT.—Hiram Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, recently remarked: "There are 200,000 inhabitants in Washington, which is the capital of this great nation and the central point of its refinement and culture, and yet there is more drunkenness and crime here than among the 250,000 Indians who are savages, and have never felt the elevating influence of our modern civilization."

SCOTT ACT NOTES.

THIS YEAR'S PROSPECT.—The indication now are that the results of this year's Scott Act agitation in this Province will be much more favorable than even last year's were. A much larger number of counties are now getting ready for the contest than they were a year ago, and the friends are much more sanguine of success. During January four fine victories have been recorded, resulting in the adoption of the Act in the old and wealthy counties of Lennox and Addington, Kent and Lanark, and the city of Guelph. The metropolitan county of Carleton is to be heard from at the time of this writing, but the result will probably be known by the time these lines are read.

LAST YEAR'S WORK.—In the Secretary's report, presented at the late meeting of the Alliance here, the following figures were given in regard to the result of the Scott Act votes in Ontario alone during last year:—There were votes taken in fourteen counties. Eleven of these resulted favorably to the adoption of the A. T. The smallest majority recorded in favor of the Act was 662; the largest majority against it was 194. The aggregate vote in the fourteen counties was 43,953 in favor, and 32,967 against, giving a total majority of 10,986.

PROCLAMATION ISSUED.—The Ottawa Government has caused the necessary proclamation to be issued to bring the Scott Act into force in the counties of Norfolk, Bruce and Huron at the expiration of the present license year. It is also ordered that a vote be taken for the adoption of the Act in Drummond County, Quebec, on Thursday, March 5th.