

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

VOL. II.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1883.

No. 17.

The Temperance Worker

PUBLISHERS' NOTES.

In the paper here represented those who see it for the first time will find a thorough newspaper, containing a summary of the leading news from all lands, editorial discussions, markets and useful information. It besides devotes special attention to news of temperance organizations and work throughout the Dominion and interesting intelligence of the cause abroad, accompanied by original articles upon that exceedingly important subject. In addition to all these things will be found stories, puzzles and a large amount of Sunday-school helps, together with two or three fine pictures in every number. Subscription price only fifty cents a year, or forty cents to clubs of ten, in parcels or singly. Address JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Montreal.

Temperance news requires to be in our hands a week before date of issue, to insure insertion. Matter of extreme urgency can be admitted up to Wednesday.

Please show this paper to friends and introduce it into Divisions, Lodges, Unions, Clubs and families.

IS LIQUOR BRITAIN'S BASIS?

One of the leading literary magazines of England has contained labored and what were meant to be learned articles within a year back, in which it was attempted to heap ridicule and sarcasm upon the United Kingdom Alliance people for claiming that the nation would not suffer by the loss of revenue consequent upon the suppression of the liquor traffic. In that country, as most of our readers know, the bulk of the national revenue from customs and excise is levied off strong drink and kindred luxuries, as free trade is the policy that obtains with respect to all necessary articles consumed by the people. The financial returns of the United Kingdom for the year ending with March last, however, upset the wisdom of that wise believer in strong drink as the only salvation from national bankruptcy, and turned all his sneers at the simplicity of the temperance people back upon himself. Such prominent organs of public opinion as the *London Times*, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and the *St. James's Gazette* frankly concede that so far the claims of the temperance party have been justified. In commenting upon the financial returns, the first-named journal mentions as an encouraging fact that the decrease in excise receipts, which amounted to over a million and a half of dollars, was attended with an increase under every other head. That fact, it says, "suggests a hope that the chief danger with which the revenue has been threatened is at an end, that we have, so to say, turned the corner, and that we have reached the point at which the spread of the temperance movement ceases to be financially formidable." In this connection the *Times* calls to mind that Mr. Gladstone, "during a period of declining revenue took comfort in the thought that a nation which was spending less on drink must before long make good in some other

way the temporary loss it was occasioning." The *St. James's Gazette*, the vehicle of aristocratic Conservative sentiment, says the revenue returns for the past quarter and year are on the whole favorable, and that it hopes it may "have the pleasure of ascribing the falling-off in the excise to the spread of temperance rather than to industrial depression," but, on the other hand, it reminds its readers, "that the drink bill has diminished only in comparison with recent years, and it is still far above the figure at which it stood not very long ago." The *Pall Mall Gazette*, the organ of high-toned Liberal views, is almost enthusiastic in its contemplation of the returns in their relation to national sobriety. It says:—"It is no small cause for satisfaction that the increase is evident, not in the drink revenue but in other items. The nation is not drinking itself out of its difficulties, but is meeting them by a sober use of steadily increasing means. It is possible that a sudden flood-tide of prosperity, if it should come, would again demoralize many of the working-classes, and we must not rejoice prematurely as if the permanent conversion of the nation to sobriety were secured; but the omens are satisfactory up to the present, and it is at least ascertained that while steady and moderately increasing wages are consistent with increased sobriety, the revenue does not suffer to the extent which many have feared from the improvement. That a rich and sober people would be able to raise with ease all the revenue it needs was, in truth, what should have been expected. At present the stationariness or actual decline of the drink revenue has to be set against the improvement in other items; but in spite of all, the revenue grows as a whole, and it will grow with greater rapidity when the percentage of the total derived from drink has diminished still more. What the revenue returns thus show is not only a real increase in the means of the working classes from year to year, but such a wise use of their increased means that the returns themselves are no longer the measure they once were of the extent of the improvement." Temperance reformers in England a few years ago could only obtain scant courtesy from the leading press, and the above extracts, therefore, emphatically attest the change that is coming over that country. It would be a humiliating admission that a British subject would have to make if the facts did not enable him to deny that the basis of his country's financial standing was the greatest source of his country's crime and misery.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

The Halifax *Watchman* learns that Bro. Jewell, Most Worthy Patriarch, will attend the Grand Division of Nova Scotia the first of May.

Progressive Division, of Philadelphia, initiated a hundred and ninety-four members during 1882, and a total of seventeen hundred and sixty-four since its organization in 1867. Its receipts for fifteen years have been six thousand seven hundred and twenty dollars, and it has distributed four-

teen thousand tracts. It may well claim to have justified its name.

Bro. Halkett, Provincial D.G.W.P., reports the Order as having made satisfactory progress in Ottawa during the quarter which has just ended. "Bytown" and "Chaudiere" Divisions are increasing their numbers every week, and at present have a membership of some sixty each, hard-working advocates of total abstinence principles. In both are some of the most influential and respected citizens of the capital, so that their influence alone must have a beneficial effect on the community. On the 7th instant the officers of the latter Division were installed by Bro. Botterell (House of Commons), P.D.G.W.P., assisted by Bro. H. Alexander (Privy Council office), W.P. of "Bytown" Division. The new officers are Bro. Colin Campbell (Militia Department), W.P.; Sis. Fraser, W.A.; Bro. Wm. Stewart (contractor), R.S.; Sis. Cross, A.R.S.; Bro. T. B. Smith (Post-office Department), F.S.; Bro. Halkett (Marine and Fisheries Department), Treas.; Bro. Rev. J. H. George (Metropolitan M. E. Church), Chaplain; Bro. Phymey, (Post-office Dept.), Con.; Sis. L. Rea, A.C.; Bro. Wm. Rea (Secretary School Board), I.S., and Bro. J. H. Spencer (Post-office Department), O.S. The officers for "Bytown" Division will probably be installed on Tuesday evening first. There is ample room for flourishing divisions in the County of Carleton and many hope the G.W.P. will send an organizer into this field very shortly.

The Divisions at the Dominion capital, "Bytown" and "Chaudiere," are rapidly increasing their numbers—a great incentive in the good work having been given by Rev. J. H. George, Chaplain of the latter, having issued the challenge to old "Bytown" that within twelve months "Chaudiere" would head the list with members of the Order. This friendly contest will be watched with interest, as at present the rolls of both have about the same number of members. It is to be hoped both will win if such a possibility exists. On Friday evening, the 13th inst., while "Chaudiere" was quietly transacting its routine business, "Bytown" invaded its hall in full force. Whatever may have been the expectation it did not catch "Chaudiere" asleep, for "Chaudiere's" members numbered as many if not more. A most pleasant evening was spent and it did one good to see the hall filled with friends of the Order. Interesting addresses were delivered and all felt re-invigorated, ready for renewed strife against our common foe. "Chaudiere" will very shortly return the compliment and we hope Friday night was but the commencement of many such gatherings. BROOKE.

By the third day of a gospel temperance campaign in Manchester, England, one thousand three hundred and sixty-four pledges had been taken, two thousand four hundred and sixty persons had put on the blue ribbon and one thousand three hundred and twenty-seven had pledged themselves not to use tobacco. Messrs. Francis and Thomas E. Murphy were the principal workers in achieving such success.

TEMPERANCE ITEMS.

A blue ribbon club was started at Point St. Charles, Montreal, a few nights ago, when a hundred and sixty persons assumed the little badge.

In St. Patrick's Roman Catholic church in Quebec, on Sunday last, a thousand men took a pledge not to drink anything intoxicating during the ensuing summer.

A resolution proposing a prohibitory amendment to the constitution was agreed to in committee of the whole of the Michigan Senate, but afterward laid on the table.

Forty-eight cities and towns in Illinois voted upon the liquor question on Tuesday of last week, and seventeen declared against the granting of licenses and thirty-one in favor.

The South Carolina legislature has amended the license law so as to give it a local option character. One hundred dollars is the tax on beer and wine licenses and two hundred on those and other liquors.

An amendment to the constitution of Connecticut, to prohibit the making or selling of intoxicating drink within the State, was defeated in the Senate by a vote of eleven to nine.

A bill making it unlawful for a person to treat another to intoxicating drink has been passed by the Pennsylvania Senate, which should it pass the Representatives, must prove a strong weapon against the liquor traffic.

Strenuous exertions are being made by the Trades Benevolent Association—as the liquor-dealing society of Ontario calls itself—to have the Dominion Parliament relieve the trade from some of the burdens laid upon it by Provincial legislation. The public opinion, however, that caused restraint to be placed on the trade in the first place grows stronger all the time, and will not permit any relaxation of legal restriction, but is rather disposed to insist upon more severe measures in that direction.

A remarkable law to diminish intemperance is proposed to be enacted in Russia. It will prohibit drinking houses in the neighborhood of factories and workshops; the number of places where liquor may be drunk upon the premises is to be limited very materially, and the selling to children up to full age will procure the closing up of the offender's shop. Customers are also to be dealt with in the new law. An incorrigible, chronic drinker shall forfeit the rights of headship to his family, and his children be taken care of and educated by the state and no interference on his part allowed with them. The wife of an incorrigibly drunken husband may be granted a conditional divorce by the courts and shall be defended in her rights to her own earnings. On the other hand the husband of an incorrigibly drunken wife shall be released from the obligations of supporting and living with her. In neither of these cases, however, will the divorce be considered absolute, a second union of any of the parties being forbidden during the life of the other.