

and successful results in every quarter. The indications are that the work of securing the necessary twenty-five per cent. of the electors of each county, to attach their names to the petitions, will be the only serious item of the campaign, outside of Winnipeg. The public meetings held thus far have all been one-sided, and not in a single instance have the opponents of the Act placed a speaker on the platform. The petitions are being circulated in the following constituencies working directly under the executive committee, with headquarters at Winnipeg:—Winnipeg city, counties of Manchester, Dufferin, Rock Lake, Norfolk, Beautiful Plains, Westbourne, Marquette, Morris. The Brandon committee have undertaken to manage the counties of Souris, Turtle Mountain, Dennis, Brandon, Shoal Lake, Minnedosa, Russell and Riding Mountain, as well as the city of Brandon, and excellent reports come from these counties. The only counties not actively working are:—Portage la Prairie, Selkirk, Lorette, Carillon and D'Iberville. The city of Emerson is organized, but not reporting promptly, and Portage la Prairie has an excellent branch of the Alliance, but has not yet reported the opening of the campaign. In the counties of Rock Lake and Dufferin meetings are held nightly, and every township is being worked. Though the last to enter the field, these counties are reporting most vigorous efforts. Norfolk county is very well advanced, and to-day holds a convention with a grand public meeting in the evening. It is quite likely that to-day's canvass in this county will show that the petitions are ready for deposit in the registry office.

The agent of the Alliance, Rev. J. E. Allen, has just returned from a trip through the counties of Westbourne, Beautiful Plains and Minnedosa, and reports a most encouraging trip. The central committees for these counties are: Westbourne, at Gladstone, E. E. Best, chairman; H. C. Dean, secretary. Beautiful Plains, at Neepawa, Rev. J. N. Robinson, chairman; F. Skelding, secretary. Minnedosa, divided with the municipalities of Odanah, Clanwilliam and Harrison under the Minnedosa committee, Rev. J. M. Wellwood, chairman; F. Boyd, secretary. The municipalities of Saskatchewan, Blanchard and Strathclair, under the Rapid City committee, James Borland, chairman; Wm. Caldwell, secretary.

The reports from Southern Manitoba show that the lectures delivered by the chairman of the executive, W. W. Buchanan, have produced much enthusiasm.—*Winnipeg Sun.*

INDIANA.—At the late annual meeting of the Philanthropic Union of the Society of Friends, William C. Starr, of Indiana, is reported as saying: "In Indiana we have in nineteen counties 1,132 saloons, and in nine counties we have no saloons. In the nineteen counties there is one prisoner for every seventy-two voters,—in the nine counties one for every seven hundred and twenty voters—being ten times as many where liquor is sold" This is striking testimony as to the relation of the saloon system to crime. What is true of Indiana in this respect is essentially true elsewhere wherever liquor saloons abound;—to lessen crime, and the suffering and the grievous burdens which it imposes, spread total abstinence truths and close the saloons.—*National Temperance Advocate.*

MAINE.—Of all the States where the prohibition of the infamous rum traffic has gained a foothold, the most thorough and continuous test has undoubtedly been made in the State of Maine. Whoever pronounces it a failure here, must be as blind as a bat or so warped by interest or prejudice that he is unable to give a just and equitable verdict. Twice has this direct question been submitted to the people, and twice have they emphatically pronounced in its favor. This law has enabled seven-eighths of the towns of Maine to relieve themselves of rum-selling. They have never been able to do so under any other law. It has clearly been found here in Maine that legislation based on the prohibitory principle is more effective in mitigating the evils of the dram-shop than that based on the licensed and regulative ideas. It should be at once understood that prohibition is not based on the idea that the sale of liquors as a beverage can be absolutely prevented; but as ex-Gov. Dingley tersely puts it, "on the theory that a dram-shop is so serious a danger to a community that law should set on it not a seal of approbation, but a seal of condemnation." Prohibition rests on precisely the same principle that laws prohibiting gambling places, brothels, etc., do, viz.: that such dens are public nuisances and should be prohibited by law. The fact that such laws do not extirpate dens of this character, does not stamp the laws as failures. Even the laws against murder and theft do not prevent altogether the crimes against which they are aimed. Anything that will shut up rum-shops will lessen crime.—*Maine Farmer.*

General News.

CANADIAN.

Sir John Macdonald has arrived at Ottawa from England.

Thirty thousand acres of Government land on the north shore near Duluth, have been purchased in the past few months by gold and silver speculators. A vigorous hunt is being made for gold and silver.

Cooks Teets, the wife-poisoner, was executed on Monday morning at Owen Sound. The doomed man met his fate with apparent unconcern, and died protesting his innocence.

Kingstonians are becoming alarmed at farmers from the smallpox stricken village of Stoco visiting Kingston market. Measures will be taken by the authorities to prevent such visits while danger of infection exists.

Canton E. Brush & Bro., Toronto, wholesale dealers in buttons and dress trimmings, have suspended with a view of ascertaining the exact state of their affairs. Liabilities placed at \$65,000, and assets \$30,000. Dullness of trade and depreciation in value of stocks rendered this necessary.

FIRES.—A destructive and fatal fire occurred in Port Dalhousie at midnight on Sunday, during which an old man was so badly burned that he died yesterday afternoon. The damage will exceed fifteen thousand dollars.—At Toronto, on Dec. 6th, a fire broke out in Heinrick & Sons tannery, Riverside. About \$3,000 damages, covered by insurance in the British American Company.—At Woodstock, a fire broke out in D. Richar's broom factory. The building, which was of frame, is a total loss, together with the contents, amounting in value to about \$10,000; insured for \$4,000.—At Montreal, Dec. 5th, the premises of Peter Dame, milkman, situated on the Cote des Neiges road, were totally consumed by fire. Seventeen head of milk cows and one horse were burned to death, and a large quantity of hay and fodder and complete set of milk carts were destroyed.

UNITED STATES.

There is a terrible diphtheria epidemic raging in New York.

Gen. Larkin Smith, a veteran of the Mexican war, and a Confederate General, is dead.

At Galveston, Texas, Henry Basham, Dr. T. J. Sauls and Abraham Sauls were fatally shot on the 5th in a street fight. The difficulty grew out of an old feud.

At Salina, Cal., Col. Torres and Jose Emanuel Soto were hanged on the 5th inst., for the murder of Ah Din, a Chinaman.

At New Comerstown, Ohio, on Dec. 9th, Dent Murphy and Jesse Pratt were crossing a bridge with a self-propelling engine when the flooring gave way. They fell into the river, and were both killed. Pratt was married on Sunday evening.

At Thornburg Station, Iowa, on Tuesday, Mrs. Wm. Schultz murdered her two children by cutting their throats with a razor, and then ended her own existence in the same manner.

At Stratford, N.H., on the 5th inst., Stephen Young had a party. There was dynamite for blasting purposes on the shelf. One of the party to scare the rest fired a revolver. The jar caused an explosion of the dynamite. The house was blown to atoms and burned. A Frenchman employed by Young was killed, and 7 persons were wounded. Bonds amounting to \$50,000 and some railroad stock, were destroyed. Sadie Greenfield, of Rochester, was blown through a widow and her head cut open. Several of the injured will probably die, including Dr. Stephen Young, of Rochester, and his uncle, Stephen Young, at whose house the explosion occurred.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

The Franchise Bill was passed by the House of Lords, yesterday.

The alarm from dynamite is increasing in England.

Great distress prevails among the shipbuilding yards of Glasgow and Liverpool. It is expected that orders will be sent north from the Admiralty to build ships for the navy.

A terrific storm raged on the English coast last week. The loss of lives and shipping has been very heavy.

Changing the name of Sackville street, Dublin, to O'Connell street, to foster a national sentiment, has not met with the approval of the tradespeople. It is likely a case will be taken to the courts to test the right of the corporation to change the established name of a street.

Earl Dufferin, the new viceroy of India, has arrived with his lady and suite at Bombay, all safe.

Ten Nationalists and six Orangemen have been sentenced to imprisonment for terms varying from one to three months for participating in the recent riots at Coal Island.

While the schooner Greyhound was lying at the wharf in Conception bay, Nfld., on Sunday a fire broke out in the cabin. There was a large quantity of powder on board. The crew rushed ashore, which they reached safely as an explosion occurred, completely destroying the vessel.