

to the removal of the incubus. The *Nashville Christian Advocate* in a recent article says: "The spectacle of 1,300,000 Christians, many of whom live 'in ceiled houses,' are clad in purple and linen and also fare sumptuously every day, allowing every one of our mission-fields to suffer harm and damage because of a beggarly deficit of a little over \$100,000, is not inspiring nor edifying."

In Georgia, where out of 136 counties 100 have adopted Local Option and prohibited the liquor traffic, a justice of the Supreme Court, in his charge to the grand jury, spoke as follows: "I have presided as judge in almost every section of Georgia, and I find that violations of the criminal law are nearly three-fourths as great in those counties where whiskey is retailed as in counties where prohibition is enforced and respected."

THE METHODIST CHURCH.

The President of Newfoundland Conference is spending some time in Ontario, and has succeeded in securing some good subscriptions on behalf of the Methodist institutions in St. John's. All the circuits should liberally respond on behalf of our suffering brethren. The General Superintendent and presidents of the various conferences sanction the movement which should be successful.

The Montreal Methodists contemplate the establishment of deaconess' homes and training schools. Several deaconesses are already employed in the city, and they can do work where ministers cannot.

The Young People's Association of Ontario is becoming an influential organization. An Epworth League was recently formed at Grimsby Park, and an annual gathering at that celebrated place will no doubt be a great impetus to the League work.

The French Methodist Institute at Montreal has had a prosperous year. There were seventy-two students present, thirty-six of each sex. Of this number fifteen were from Roman Catholic families, and there were several Indians from Oka, Caughna-

waga, the St. Regis tribe and the Nipissing district.

Rev. Dr. Maclean, for some years missionary among the Indians in the North-West, while spending some time in England, delivered several missionary addresses which were well received. His portrait is published in the *British Missionary Notices*, with several extracts from his book, "The Indians of Canada." The said book deserves an extensive sale.

JAPAN CONFERENCE.

One of our Japan brethren has kindly sent us a copy of the Minutes of their Fourth Conference which we have perused with pleasure. Our old friend, Rev. Dr. Cochrane, is president; and Rev. F. A. Cassidy, M.A., English, and Rev. M. Kobayashi, Japanese secretary.

There were fifteen ministers and eight laymen present. Of the probationers six were received into full connexion and ordained, four of whom were natives, eleven others were continued on trial, five were received on trial, and two others were permitted to be employed under chairmen.

The membership is now 1,928, net increase 142, baptisms 2,658, 1,333 Sunday-school scholars, 395 of whom are in Bible classes.

The Conference School has an average attendance of forty-two. In the Woman's Work six Bible women have been employed, who had visited 1,864 persons; 169 weekly meetings had been held.

The five schools under the care of the Women's Missionary Society are all doing a grand work. Mrs. Gooderham and Mrs. Strachan from Canada were introduced to the Conference and were most cordially received. Mrs. Spencer Large was also in attendance and presented the report of the Women's Missionary Society's work in Japan.

Our brethren have also commenced the publication of a weekly paper called *Gokyō Newspaper*, which in one year has reached a circulation of 262.

The Japan Conference is doing a grand work in which the Methodists of Canada feel deep interest.