

of the existing parties to take the matter up and make it a distinctive plank in the platform of that party; and second, by the organization of a new party for the specific purpose of securing Prohibition. The former would be the speedier and, perhaps, the more effective way of attaining the desired object, but it is, unfortunately, rendered hopeless by the positive refusal of either of the parties to adopt any such plank. The people of Canada, therefore, who want Prohibition, have apparently no alternative than to adopt the second plan, and organize a prohibition party.

Why the Grit party does not adopt the Prohibition plank is a conundrum which no one appears able to answer. The party is out of power, is rowing a losing race, is utterly hopeless of retrieving itself under existing conditions, and the vast bulk of the rank and file are in sympathy with the Prohibition movement. It would seem that the party could possibly lose nothing—because it has nothing to lose—by a declaration of its principles, and would have everything to gain by such a course. Unfortunately, however, its present leaders are not in harmony with their followers on this question, and there is nothing to be looked for there.

Why shouldn't a Prohibition Party succeed? The principle of Prohibition is right. It has been practically endorsed by large majorities in those counties which carried the Scott Act, almost all the church courts have declared in its favor, and the membership of those churches is amply sufficient to carry any measure. The existing political parties refuse to grant it and there is no other way of securing the desired end. Why shouldn't a Prohibition Party succeed?

SCRUTINEER

On the "You" and the "We."

It has been observantly noticed that a very small downy feather sometimes shows how the wind blows. The tone of voice, or manner of using some small word, often indicates the tendency of a speaker's mind, or his relationship to the Temperance Cause. When the conversation turns on the merits or demerits of a particular measure for the promotion of Prohibition, one of the company may be heard to say "You Temperance people make a great mistake" in doing so and so. To a keen listener the use of the little word "you" (whether intended or not) very distinctly indicates little or no disposition on the part of the speaker to be classed as belonging to the designated ranks. A British soldier is never known to say "You, the British army." The right word is always ready, and "I" is the word.

Whenever a man or woman, boy or girl, no matter how good and kindly, and even patronizingly, starts to talk "You Temperance people," no one need be surprised to hear the same voice giving expression, further on, to the disavowal "I never was a temperance crank," which, no doubt, may be taken as a perfectly true (too true) statement. But had the little word "we" been used even in connection with the workers mistakes and shortcomings, it might be taken for granted that the speaker was at least in favor of the Temperance fraternity.

It may not require critical study of grammar as to first or second person plural or singular to make the discovery; nor need the particular use of the word be the result of careful precaution, but somehow it would seem as if a kind of consciousness of not being just in perfect harmony, or out-and-out (and in-and-in) all sound to the core on the great dividing question, dictates the person of the little pronoun accordingly.

From the pronouncer of the "you" there need be no great apprehension, generally, of hearing any very energetic pronouncement of condemnation on the "unholy traffic," or any strong denunciation of "a little wine." Even the rev. speaker who is heard to say something about "what the temperance people ought to do," by the form in which he puts forth his opinion, shows that he regards his utterances as referring to parties with whom he does not quite identify himself and yet is scarcely willing to class on the other side.

But the liquor traffic is quite right?—or else all wrong? If the former, and if the Divine be for—then who (but His enemies) can be against? If however, Heaven be against, who can be for, its licence—upholding protection and permissiveness? Some bold enough utterances have been lately reported as attempt to restrain "the Church militant" from active service in this "war between heaven and hell," some seeming disposed to drill the well-

appliance army to shoot the "you" instead of "we." However, it turns out happily that the main body of the hosts, may be heard very distinctly and with no uncertain sound pronouncing in thunder-tone the word "we." There seems no great need now for a long, difficult "shibboleth" test-word by which to distinguish the "Israelite indeed," nor need (you or) we proceed forth in search of grip, sign, or pass-word after the "you" made it emphatically clear that the "you" man is not for going into the war.

There appears to be something "hard to be understood," more particularly about the Christian pronouncer of the "you," although all temperance people may not be as wise or good as they ought to be, yet surely in Faith, Hope, and Charity—

Both thee and me
May well agree
Unite and be
More mighty we.
Then sooner see
Earth's jubilee.

OLD COUNTRY NEWS.

Mr. Spurgeon, at the annual meeting of the Tabernacle temperance society, has just said some good things. He hopes it will become the rule and not the exception that Christian people everywhere, for the sake of doing the largest possible good, will become total abstainers. This is pretty good from the great preacher who but a few years since openly stated his ability to drink a glass of beer to the glory of God.

The *Pall Mall Budget* gives a somewhat tragic description of "A night in a gambling hell." This horrible den is but a sample of hundreds of such in London. Nominally they are working-men's clubs, but really they are used by any one initiated. Here the young man goes as to the ordinary club house, here he may drink and gamble throughout the night, under the very shadow of Scotland Yard. How many a father will see his own boy in the "gentlemanly looking young fellow, seated alone, with a look of blank despair on his face." He is "cleaned out," he informs the visitor, in a whisper. To this den he brought in the morning his (or perhaps a young wife's) "last few shillings—they're gone and now," is the poor dupe's confession, "I don't know what in the world to do." Of course, this is the same old story—but then it is the same old evil, too, and while the one is permitted to continue, surely the other may be allowed to be spoken.

A letter from Rev. J. W. Horsley, M.A., the well-known Prison Chaplain, which appears in an English exchange, just to hand, gives some very interesting statistics of crime. They extend over ten years and go to show that crime generally has largely and rapidly decreased, there being at least 6,000 persons fewer in prisons each day than was the case in 1876, notwithstanding the enormous increase in population. Yet there is always a steady increase in the most noxious and burdensome incurable class. Men in this category are shown to be at their worst twice as good as women at their best; women at their best are nearly thrice as bad as the men in the same year, and twice as bad as men at their worst. As remedies, the chaplain suggests progressive punishment for drunken cases (for to this class the incurables mainly belong), and more active temperance work amongst women. Is it not strange that the good chaplain could not think of a third, and far more efficacious remedy which would stop the legal temptation of these incurables, and render punishment unnecessary? Will it yet be recorded of this generation that they saw not a better plan than making "holes in the sidewalk, and punishing those who fell through?"

The Compensation Clause is dead. The Government that came in "on a beer barrel," (as Tory governments generally do) has only escaped going out on a water-butt by deserting their former friends, and kicking over the pail which was to be the publican's profit. The resolute Ritchie, notwithstanding his boast, has had to yield, and Salisbury has had to bow to the will of a united people. There is a power greater than Bacchus to-day—even in Britain, and temperance people everywhere will rejoice in the moral defeat of a government which dared, in the interests of its wealthy brewer supporters, propose a step so retrogressive.

Nothing, perhaps, did more to kill this miserable little bit of bad legislation than the great Hyde Park demonstration—excepting the Southampton election. English papers lay great stress on the influence of both events, and even *The Times* was compelled to

show a little respect to so powerful and yet so peaceful an expression of the will of the people. It was no mere handful of cranks that processioned to Hyde Park a "mile and a half in length and a hundred feet wide." Of course they were not necessarily all teetotalers, and banners bearing inscriptions doing honor to the names of Gladstone, John Bright and other reformers were not infrequent, while the patriotic inquiry "Where's poor Joe," created no small amount of fun. A good thing, too, but of a different sort, were the thirteen waggon-loads of ragged, neglected little ones (but a small sample of the thousands belonging to the great city) proceeded by a banner bearing the touching enquiry, "Who shall compensate these?" It must have been an odd sight as this mass of humanity, drawn so largely from the slums, crossing Rotten Row, intercepted for a while the afternoon airing of "the classes,"—many of them, too, reaping the wealth of the iniquitous traffic! There was no expression of feeling at this momentary meeting, but must not the very silence have whispered, "Beware!"

The New Zealand "Drink Bill," is published in the *Auckland Leader* to hand. The record is to March 31st, 1888. From the figures given it is cheering to find that New Zealand spent nearly \$350,000 less last year on drink than during the previous year. Last year's expenditure was the lowest for nineteen years. In 1869 the total per head reached the extraordinary sum of \$50 per head, so that the present expenditure reaching but \$16 per head, it will be seen that the decrease is most marked. The present rate is lower than that of the other Australasian colonies and than Great Britain. This remarkable decrease is attributable very largely to the hold the temperance movement is now taking upon the customs and habits of the people.

The Australian local option polls still go largely in favor of the prohibitionist. At Waipu the temperance party had a "walk over, only four persons voting for license. At Ponsonby only 13 championed the drink-sellers cause. If this kind of thing continues all along the line, "pubby" will have to seek "pastures green" in more congenial quarters.

The women of Australia are seeking to have club-houses placed on the same footing as public-houses, and are endeavoring to have the sale of liquor to children under sixteen years prohibited. By public meeting and by petition to the Colonial Government they are working very hard, and the good cause is deserving of speedy and complete success.

The New Zealand Alliance, by the labours of its hard-working lecturing and organizing agent, Mr. T. W. Glover, is doing all that can be done to fight the drink curse from that land. The wonderful decrease in the consumption of liquor last year, to which reference is made above, is a grand tribute to the success of these labours.

—YENROC

R. T. T. Notes.

A new Council of the Order was instituted on Thursday evening, the 14th inst., on the Dovercourt Road, by District Councillor Hughes, with 26 charter members. The Council is to be known as "Western Star," and is expected to rank very shortly as a star of the first magnitude.

On the 15th Parkdale Council was instituted by Grand Councillor Steele, assisted by District Councillor Hughes and Bro. G. B. Boyle, of Metropolitan Council, with 35 charter members. The new Council is well officered, and threatens to show Western Star Council nothing but a clean pair of heels in the race for supremacy.

The Board of Directors of the Dominion Council, the Executive of the Grand Council of Ontario, and the Select Council of the Order throughout the Dominion, will be well represented at the coming Montreal Convention.

The Rescue Duet, which made a phenomenal record in York County in the early part of the year, is now hard at work holding Royal revival meetings in the Maritime Provinces, and the press comments are of the most favorable character. Grand Councillor Steele expects to join them early in July for the purpose of instituting the Grand Council of New Brunswick.

The decennial of Pioneer Council No. 1, Toronto, and of Royal Templarism in Canada, is to be celebrated by the Order by an excursion to the Chatauqua Assembly to be held at Niagara-on-the-lake on the 13th of August. The Supreme Command Knight Templar of Temperance will hold the annual review on the grounds that day, and a large attendance of Knights in the full uniform of the Order is expected. The members of other societies are expected to co-operate to make this temperance day at Niagara a grand success.

The Montreal Convention.

The Dominion Prohibition Convention, to be held at Montreal on July 3rd, 4th and 5th, will be a gathering of remarkable interest. It will be the first national Canadian conference of delegated Prohibitionists. The great meeting at Montreal in 1875, out of which came the Dominion Alliance and the Scott Act, was simply a mass convention of active Temperance workers. In the coming meeting every delegate will represent a constituency of Prohibitionists anxiously waiting the decision of their leaders and the call to arms for further conflict.

The convention has been called by the Dominion Alliance, but it will be thoroughly independent when it meets, and will organize and control itself. Every Local Temperance organization, every Lodge, Division, Council, Union, Club, Church Society, or any such institution is invited to send a delegate for each fifty of its membership, any number not being a complete fifty to count as fifty for the purpose of representation. Every Provincial Temperance organization is invited to send its Executive Committee or an equal number of representatives. Every Provincial Branch of the Alliance is to send ten, and every County Alliance or Scott Act Association is entitled to five.

The principal Railway and Steamboat lines are acting very liberally towards the Convention. The Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Railways and Richelieu Steamboat Company will issue return tickets to Montreal, for a single fare, to all persons applying. Tickets will be issued on this plan from Saturday, June 30th, up to Tuesday, July 3rd, and will be good for return passage up to Saturday, July 7th. The Intercolonial Railway will sell single fare tickets to Montreal at usual rates and will issue at Montreal return tickets, on presentation of a certificate signed by the Secretary of the Convention. It will be seen that all who attend the Convention (which will be open to the public), whether delegates or not, may avail themselves of these reduced fares.

The meetings of the Convention proper will be held in the Victoria Rifles Armory on Cathcart Street. On Sunday evening, July 1st, there will be held a great Gospel Temperance meeting at some central point; on Monday, 2nd, there will be an excursion to Mystic, and a Prohibition picnic there; on Tuesday evening, 3rd, a monster Prohibition mass meeting will be held. All these gatherings will be addressed by the foremost moral reform workers of Canada.

Already there is being manifested everywhere a deep interest in this Convention. Its doings and sayings will be carefully studied by the Temperance party, the liquor party and the politicians. It will make history. The Prohibitionists are in earnest. The policy they are advocating must speedily receive the careful attention of statesmen and voters. It is being pressed into active politics with a persistence that will not be daunted. It has behind it some of the best brain-power in the land, it has been warmly endorsed by different branches of the Christian Church, and it influences the vote of an important and growing section of the electorate. The Montreal meeting will be a gathering of men conscientiously and determinedly in earnest. We trust that in its deliberations wise counsels will prevail, and that its results will be for the welfare of our country and the advancement of temperance, which every friend of humanity desires to promote.

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