

Vrooman, secretary; North Dufferin, under Committees at Carman and Pomeroy, the first with Dr. Wilson, chairman, and J. H. Harrison, secretary; the latter with J. Philips, chairman, and Seth Bradshaw, secretary. The county of Rock Lake has a central committee at Crystal City, with Rev. Mr. Crichton, chairman, and Mr. Kenny, secretary, and a local committee in charge of the municipality of Lorne, at Pilot Mound, with John Hall, chairman, and J. S. Johnston, secretary. Morris County has a central committee at Morris, with J. H. Thorne, chairman, and R. Ferguson, secretary. The four municipalities comprising the County of Norfolk, are managed by an energetic central committee at Carberry, Rev. J. W. Bell, chairman, and Mr. Rorison, secretary. Brandon city and county are under the Brandon Central Committee, and Winnipeg is under the executive of the Provincial Alliance.

In Winnipeg a local committee is working in each of the six wards, circulating the petitions, and one of these petitions already contains upwards of 200 signatures. If each of the wards had as good a report to make, the petition would be sufficiently large, and this part of the work completed. The Executive Committee call upon all city committees to report at a special meeting to be held in the Roblin House on Friday evening of this week. This will be one of the most important meetings in connection with the effort in the city, and it is expected that there will be a general gathering of all interested.

Another point of the work, a most important one, too, has been quietly but determinedly pushed during the past few months, that of providing the sinews of war. The agent has been devoting his time largely to the securing of a guarantee fund, which would put failure out of the question. When the work was once fairly in motion, taking into consideration all the circumstances, particularly those of trade, he has been eminently successful, and has already pledged a very respectable sum.

The fact is, that the Alliance has been anything but idle. The leaders have been vigorously but carefully planning and preparing for the battle, which must follow the proclamation of the electors in the various constituencies. The indications are that this phase of the campaign is near at hand, and that in a few weeks the Dominion Government will have before them a big batch of petitions from Manitoba.—*Winnipeg Sun*.

W. C. T. U.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION.—This most notable gathering of the largest associated body of women in the world, held its eleventh annual session in the Morgan Street United Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 22, 23, 24, and 25. The first session of the convention was said to be more largely attended than any previous first session. The church, a plain structure, tastefully decorated with flags and flowers, was well filled before the conclusion of the morning session. The convention was called to order at 9 o'clock by the president, Miss Willard. The devotional exercises were conducted by Miss Clara M. Roach, of Washington, D.C.

Miss Willard's annual address held the attention of the large audience closely for about an hour. She took occasion to remark, at the opening of the address, that men were perpetually encroaching on "women's sphere." She mentioned that the home had survived the spoliation of weaving loom and spinning wheel, that when woman ceased to pick their own geese, and do their own dying, it still serenely smiled. The sewing machine has taken away much of its occupation, and French and Chinese laundries had intruded upon its domain.

"As women," said Miss Willard, "we are fortunate in belonging to the less tainted half of the human race." Then the women auditors beamed with satisfaction at being women. Sometimes, you know, we "beam" the other way, and pity ourself for our hard fate. "A bright old lady," said Miss Willard, "on viewing a brewery, distillery and tobacco factory, exclaimed 'ain't I thankful the woman folks hain't got all that stuff to chew, and smoke, and swallow, and get away with.'"

"Home," she said further, "is but the efflorescence of woman's nature, under the nurture of Christ's Gospel. She came into the college, and humanized it, into the literature and hallowed it, into the business world and ennobled it. She will come into Government and purify it, into politics and cleanse that Stygian pool as the waters of Marah were cleansed, for woman will make homelike every place she enters, and she will enter every place on this round

earth. Any custom, traffic or party on which a Christian woman cannot look with favor, is irrevocably doomed. Its welcome of her presence and her power is to be the final test of its fitness to survive.

No true mother, sister, daughter or wife, can fail to go, in spirit, after her beloved and tempted ones, as their adventurous steps enter the labyrinth of the world's temptations. We cannot call them back. All before them lies the way. There is but one remedy: we must bring the home to them, for they will not return to it. . . . In presence of the American saloon the American home is like a shorn lamb to which no wind is tempered."

The roll call which followed, showed delegates from almost every state and territory in the Union, even New Mexico being represented for the first time.

"GOSPEL POLITICS."

It was impossible that the convention, on the eve of the presidential election, with the great question of Prohibition burning in every breast, should keep out of politics. The above was one of the headings of Miss Willard's address by which entrance was made into the outer circle of the whirlpool which finally engulfed us all. She began cautiously, and calmly, by speaking of the great progress we had made, greater during the past year, than in any year previous. "The most senseless of proverbs," said she, "is that about the rolling stone that gathers no moss. What does it want of moss, when it can get momentum?" Then she drew a little nearer and hoisted as she did so not the "bloody shirt" but the red rag, which ere long set the bull a bellowing. At least that is what it would have been if the convention had been composed of men, but of course we did not bellow! Not a bit of it!

It is no new thing for us to "lend our influence to a party. Practically we have never done anything else. In local election we have talked, prayed and circulated literature for the side that favored no license, and we have done nothing more than that now, save to accept the courtesy of an invitation to sundry state and one National convention, courtesy we should, doubtless, have accepted from other parties, save for the very good reason that it was not offered." How many hundred letters I have filed away from our members, saying, "By dint of hard work we elected two temperance councilmen, we failed to secure Mr. —, for Mayor by only a few votes, or we have elected the majority of the city council," for although not voters, our women ally themselves so thorough with the party that takes up prohibition, that they always say, "We" . . . the whole Genesis and Exodus of Constitutional Prohibition is a party measure, no one knows better than our sisters who have either attempted or achieved this form of legislation: hence the W. C. T. U., if it would work at all for legal measures, and do so by lending its influence to a party. . . . That the justice, propriety, and logical necessity of such action should have been questioned, not in the quickness of conventions, but in the storm of this campaign, has inexpressibly surprised me; and I am confident that we have but to wait patiently till the 'mists have cleared away," when the universal verdict will be that we did right."

I have quoted thus at length from Miss Willard's opening address because it struck the keynote of the feeling of one side or wing of the convention. Much more she said which you have not room for, words full of significance and "stirrin' up" for the other side. When the conclusion was reached, Mrs. J. Ellen Foster, who heads the wing of differing views, requested the convention to join her in singing the suggestive hymn "Blest be the tie that binds." Mrs. Foster was heard from later, very emphatically.

The afternoon, after devotional exercises, without which no session was begun, each morning hour also ending with a prayer hour, was devoted to reports from superintendents of departments, of which there are thirty.

Among these reports, that of Miss Julia Coleman, superintendent of temperance literature, contained many suggestive features. Among other things, this department has issued school book covers, of paper or cloth, printed with suggestive facts or figures concerning temperance and the liquor traffic. It was expected that the convention would instruct its delegates to recommend the local Unions to purchase these book covers, of which there are several sizes, and offer, through a committee of its young ladies, to cover neatly and securely the books of all the public school children. This plan can not fail of sowing much temperance seed. No new movement is augured by the Union as more of promise than this.

In the report of Mrs. Geo. S. Hunt, Superintendent of Department of Unfermented Wine at the Sacramento, the statistics given