

Temperance Sentiment.

We hear a good deal occasionally about the temperance sentiment dying out, and that temperance workers are not as earnest and active as they were a few years ago. Such is not the case, for although there may not be quite, and there is not, as much outward activity on the part of the temperance community as there has been in the past, and there can be sufficient cause given for this, yet the cause never had as strong a hold on the minds of the public, and it has been as surely advancing in all directions, and still is, as at any previous time, and we shall not be surprised it ere long we find such a wave of temperance sentiment and reformation sweep over the land as has never been witnessed in former times, and the banners of temperance will be unfurled to every breeze and wave in triumph over the forts of the enemy.

In England Sunday closing (tavern) bills are receiving general support. The Wesleyan Methodists, through Sir W. McArthur, presented one petition in Parliament in favor of the bill, which was signed by 590,332 persons. The petition required several policemen to carry it into the House; and it was 2½ miles long, and weighed 3 cwt. 50 lbs. The names were in double columns, and if single would extend a distance of five miles. All honor to the Wesleyan Methodists; they set, in their zeal for temperance, a worthy example for other denominations to follow, and some of them are.

A mighty temperance wave has struck Germany, and wonderful things are being accomplished there in taking the enemy's forts.

In the United States the cause is making rapid strides of progress. A large number of the States of the Union have adopted local option laws and several have adopted total prohibitory laws, and they are found to work well. Of course there is found to be a good deal of difficulty enforcing such laws, but wherever adopted, though their enforcement has, in most cases, proved defective, yet the invariable effect has been to lessen drunkenness and crime and all their concomitant evils. And notwithstanding their imperfect enforcement the people could not be induced to repeal them, so beneficial has been their effect.

In Canada, especially in Ontario, New Brunswick, and Manitoba, the temperance cause is rapidly gathering mighty forces to its standard. In Ontario many eyes are turned towards the County of Halton. Halton has had the Scott Act for a year, and is still to be found in the old place on the map. Its population has not moved elsewhere, and its business men appear to be prosperous and happy. The Halton News recently interviewed a large number of prominent men in Georgetown, Acton, and other places, to ascertain the prevailing feeling with regard to the Act and its operations since its adoption. The large majority of those interviewed held that the law would be again carried at the close of the present term, and by an increased vote. A few thought differently, and freely alleged that more liquor was drunk under the Scott Act than under the old license law. They also asserted that business was injured, driven to neighboring towns where liquor could be more easily obtained; that men who wanted liquor got it in large quantities, and then drank to excess. Those who are not opposed to the Act, on the other hand, said that by the Act temptation was removed from minors and moderate drinkers, and no drunkards were being made; that the villages were growing, business being as satisfactory as ever it had been; the people had more money, better food and clothing; and crime was less frequent than under the license law. Several gentlemen stated that the worst feature of the Act was the clause permitting physicians to prescribe liquor indefinitely, a part of the law that was taken advantage of to the extent, in some instances, of making the drug store almost as bad as a bar-room. They are anxious to see this clause amended, and they have no fear but the Scott Act will accomplish all that is claimed for it.

The Toronto Prohibitory Alliance held their monthly meeting at Shaftesbury Hall, last evening, Rev. John Smith in the chair. The constitution and by-law of the Alliance were adopted, and ordered to be printed. A notice of motion for camp meeting to be held this summer at Grimby Camp Grounds was given.

Sir John Macdonald gives notice in the House of Commons that he will move the House into the Committee of the Whole to consider the resolution declaring that it is expedient to bring in a bill to regulate the granting of shop, saloon, hotel, vessel, and wholesale licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors in several Provinces of the Dominion.

Mr. Foster on Monday presented two monster petitions in the House of Commons on the subject of temperance legislation. The

first is one from the women of the Province of Ontario, setting forth that the granting of licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors to be sold in groceries and other places where other goods are sold is fraught with great evil, and praying that no such licenses be granted in future. The second petition prays for an Act providing against the sale of intoxicating liquors to minors, for the refusal of licenses to keepers of so-called hotels who have not the legal requirements for the accommodation of travellers, and to provide for higher penalties for violations of the law, especially for imprisonment for the third and subsequent convictions. Thousands of signatures are attached to each petition.

On Tuesday of last week Mrs. Chisholm, President of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, of Hamilton, forwarded from that city to Prof. Foster, at Ottawa, the mammoth petition substituted by that society. The petition had over 17,000 signatures and read as follows: "The petition of the undersigned citizens of the Province of Ontario humbly sheweth: That in the opinion of your petitioners the present license law for the regulation of the sale of intoxicating liquors in Ontario should be amended as follows:—1. To provide by statutory law against the sale of intoxicating liquors to minors. 2. To separate the sale of intoxicating liquors in shops from the sale of all other articles of merchandise. 3. To refuse the issue of licenses to keepers of so-called hotels which have not the full legal requirements for the accommodation of travellers. 4. To further limit the number of licenses granted, and to provide for higher penalties for violation of the law, especially for imprisonment for third and subsequent convictions."

If we come to our own community we find that the temperance sentiment is not by any means a dead issue. In our own village a series of temperance sermons are being preached from the pulpit of one of our churches which will, no doubt, prove effectual in the accomplishment of much good. On Tuesday evening of last week a committee appointed by the Division of the Sons of T. of Stouffville, had a conference with the ministers of that place, to consider the advisability of having temperance sermons at regular intervals, in the several churches. The meeting was unanimous in the following arrangements:

1. That a discourse be given on the subject of temperance in one or other of the churches on the last Sabbath evening of each month.
2. That the regular services of the other churches will be continued, but that the temperance service will receive prominence in the announcements of the previous Sabbath, and all who wish are desired to attend them.
3. That the ministers exchange pulpits for these services.

In the face of facts of this kind which may be gleaned every day and from every part, the statement fell flat that temperance is a dead issue. Never was it more alive in its work than it is to-day.

Arbor Day in Richmond Hill.

We believe we are not claiming too much for Richmond Hill when we say that she has taken the initiative in the matter of appointing a day on which all the citizens of our pleasant village are invited to turn out and join in the beautifying and ornamentation of our streets and highways by planting trees thereon, or on their own property as they may see fit. As we stated in an article of some length advocating the question a few weeks ago, this is an old custom in many parts of the United States, and has been found to work admirably, and there is little doubt but it will be found to work quite as satisfactorily in Canada as in the United States. There the day is set apart annually and is known as Arbor Day, and in the absence of any other designation we don't know that we can do any better than adopt the name. The idea is a good one and we are glad that our village heads the list in Ontario in this matter, at least as far as we know. To-day, (Friday, May 11th) has been set apart for that purpose, by resolution of our Village Fathers, and the favee has issued a public invitation to all to join in and give their assistance, not only to beautify the streets of our village, but also to beautify their own residences. The day may be regarded as a semi-public holiday, and it is expected that every ratepayer should join in making the day a success in the accomplishment of its object. We believe there are quite a number, who, at the time of writing this article, have expressed their intention of forming a company on that day, and the writer expects to make one of them, unless unforeseen circumstances arise to prevent, and proceeding to the woods at the west end of the Kilgin Mill farm, where we understand there are any number of beautiful saplings suitable for the purpose, and free to all, provided, of course, they do not unnecessarily destroy or damage timber, etc. This is a golden opportunity for all to supply themselves with shade trees and adorn the street in front of their residences, and we hope to see it heartily embraced. An old dogma says, "the more the merrier" and if there is a good, jolly company, a good half holiday may be spent in a pleasant and profitable

manner, and there is nothing more pleasant than a trip to the woods in the early spring. And as we write, the idea suggests itself, that it would be a grand incentive to the success of the affair if a number of ladies, say a dozen or two, would also join and form part of the company. The ladies, (bless their dear hearts, we can't do without them!) may largely contribute to the success of the affair by their presence, and we will not ask them to dig up the trees, but will allow them to go and gather May flowers—a favorite pleasure of the ladies—or oversee the work or hold a picnic—provided they invite the company—or anything else they may choose. Anything to have their presence, which is only required to ensure the success of the enterprise. The crowd will find means of conveyance if they will but volunteer their presence. Then let there be a grand rally to-day (Friday) at, say 8 o'clock a. m., for the woods, and make Richmond Hill's and Ontario's first Arbor Day such an one that its success will be referred to as an example for other places to follow in our footsteps.

Brandon Sun: During the several tariff debates, when the tax on agricultural implements was under discussion, the Finance Minister, frequently found it necessary to meet ugly objections raised by various points. In every case, where documentary evidence was produced, he read letters from manufacturers to support his contention. He posed as the manufacturers' advocate, and never once did he express himself in a manner to show that he had given proper consideration to the matter as presented by the consumer's point of view. Asking to extend the time for the operation of the new tariff until the first week in June, he quoted letters from manufacturers to show that a sufficient supply of implements could be sent forward before the 10th of May. He quoted the manufacturers to show that Ontario could supply the entire demand of the North West. He quoted manufacturers to prove that the increase of 10 per cent. duty on agricultural implements would not increase the price to the North-West settler. Evidently the manufacturer was the only person consulted in making the change; certainly he was the only person whose interests were studied.

This is what a Conservative writer in the Toronto World says of the Mail: "The only thing to admire about the Mail is the audacity of its hypocrisy. Every edition from Monday till Saturday teems with falsehood, insinuations, slander and malicious innuendoes and reeks with envy, hatred, malice, vulgarity and all uncharitableness, yet forsooth out comes a sermon in every Saturday's edition. What would be thought of anyone who would cheat, lie, steal, and slander people from Monday morning till Saturday noon and then preach a sermon. This is precisely what the Mail does. By its arrogant and bare-faced hypocrisy and abuse of people who are not as hypocritical as itself, it is undoubtedly doing more towards making atheism, agnosticism and contemners of all religion than anything else in the country. It is thus in two ways practically a wolf in sheep's clothing and an enemy of all religion. Were it not known that its editor-in-chief is an ultramontane, one would think him an atheist socialist in disguise."

The Ottawa Free Press says: "Sir John Macdonald has made the Orangemen a laughing-stock by bringing them to Ottawa only to be snubbed and kicked out. But there is more than a probability that Sir John did not try to control the Blues, as on other occasions, but turned in with them while trying to seem fair with the Orangemen. Mr. Curran, who is one of his most devoted instruments, would never have dared to insult the Orangemen as he did, without Sir John's permission. This view is sustained by the fact that Sir John sat silent and allowed the vote to be taken without saying a word in defence of the Order, vilified and traduced as it was by one of his most prominent supporters. Sir John is an Orangeman, and if he were an honest one and had respect for his obligation he would at least have defended the institution from its traducers. O, shades of Ogle R. Gowan, Tom Ferguson and John Hillyard Cameron!"

The culmination of the contestation of the seat of the Hon. Mr. Mousseau, Premier of Quebec, was reached on Friday when defendant resigned his seat in order if possible to escape personal disqualification, which, from the nature of the evidence presented, appeared eminent. Hon. Mr. Mercier, counsel for the petitioner, has accepted the hon. gentleman's resignation and allowed the charges of personal corruption, upon which they based their claim for the Premier's disqualification, to drop.

At the last meeting of the Markham Village Council the Reeve gave notice that he would at the next meeting introduce a By-Law to encourage the planting and growing of trees in that municipality, in accordance with the Ontario Tree Planting Act. This is a step in the right direction. We have already advocated the adoption of this course by our own Council. We hope, now that they have the example of a neighboring municipality, that they will take action in this matter and the inhabitants will give their heartiest sanction to such a course.

Voltaire's house is now used by the Geneva Bible Society as a repository for Bibles. The British Bible Society's house in Earlstreet, Blackfriars, stands where, in 1378, the Council forbid Wycliffe circulating portions of the Holy Scriptures, and where he uttered the words, "The truth shall prevail," and the Religious Tract Society's premises are where Bibles were publicly burned.

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The Peterborough Review in its last issue makes the following comment on the Mail's scandalous attack upon Mr. Patteson, Postmaster of Toronto: "We cannot congratulate the Mail upon its displaying either generosity, fairness or good taste in its onslaught upon its first editor, Mr. T. C. Patteson. In his present position as postmaster of Toronto, he is, of course, open like all other public officials to fair criticism of his public acts, but the whole tone of the attack is that of vindictive personal feeling. It is not so much his public acts as his private pursuits and tastes that are brought into question, though the Mail has no objection to availing itself of his special knowledge in such matters. Surely a leading journal might set a better example and not make the miserable mistake of supposing that a journal's influence is to be used for its private purposes rather than for the services of the public."

The Tory press still claims that the Ontario Opposition secured a majority of the popular vote at the late elections. Its contention is disproved by the official returns, which are now complete. There is in fact a Government majority of 4,326. By adopting a plan which used to be very popular with the Conservatives this would be increased to 18,611. That figure is reached if we count the whole vote as polled for the members elected in constituencies where the elections were by acclamation. But the fairer method is to take the returns of the previous election in such constituencies, and following this system of counting the Government have a popular majority of 4,326, already stated.

When John Brown's body was taken to the grave at Balmoral the coffin was covered with tartan plaid belonging to the Queen and sent by her from Windsor expressly for the purpose. What is more, Dr. Profeit, as Her Majesty's representative, laid upon the Queen a wreath of artificial violets, to which was tied a large mourning card. On this card the Queen had written the following words: "A tribute of loving, grateful and everlasting friendship and affection from his truest, best and most faithful friend, Victoria, R."

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The Tory License Bill Committee of the commons do not dwell together in harmony in consequence of the temperance members being in a minority and made uncomfortably conscious of that fact. A resolution to extend the hours of selling on Saturday nights till 10 o'clock has been reserved for consideration of the main Committee.

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