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MUNICIPAL REFORM.

The Morning Guardian

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B. D. HIGGS,
Editor and Managing Director.
J. P. HOOD,
Business Manager.

The Prohibition Case.

Parties interested in the manufacture and sale of liquor have retained a clever journalist to prepare their case for presentation to the royal prohibition commission. Mr. Kribs, who is undertaking the work, will no doubt get together the strongest evidence available, and will arrange his facts in the most impressive manner possible. If required he can not only prepare the case but present it effectually. If the prohibitionists are alive to the interests of their cause they will take care that their side does not suffer by the failure to adopt a similar course. The commissioners have instituted enquiries by circular among the classes of persons in a position to speak with some authority on the moral and physical evils of intemperance. They have also addressed enquiries to persons in a position to know something of the effect of local prohibition where it has been adopted. But it can easily be foreseen that the greater number of the persons from whom information is sought will not take much trouble to furnish it, and that many of the replies will represent the feelings and desires rather than the sober and considered judgment of the persons sending them. The commissioners will doubtless cover all the ground they can in their own work of collecting and marshalling facts, but as those connected with the liquor business realize there will remain room for individuals interested to strengthen and support the case of their party, the natural sequence of the action of the licensed victuallers would be the selection of a clever man to collect facts and prepare a case in support of prohibition. The Montreal Witness points out that the licensed victuallers can easily raise a few thousands of dollars for this purposes whereas the prohibitionists are always short of funds. Yet, if there is really the popular desire for prohibition that is generally thought to exist in this country, it ought to be possible to obtain in all Canada money enough to pay an able man for a few months' work.—St. John Sun.

Methodist Church and Amusements.

At the Methodist conference now in session at Pembroke, Ont., Rev. W. A. Hanna introduced a resolution referring to the question of theatre going, dancing and other such amusements and recommending the conference to affirm the necessity of insisting on the requirements of "the discipline."

Rev. G. T. Williams thought there was no need of such a resolution, as the discipline was quite explicit.

Rev. G. H. Porter and Dr. Hunter did not believe the state of the church called for such a course. The latter recommended that each minister should deal with any cases amenable to discipline.

J. M. Oxley thought that moral suasion was more effective than legislation. When he joined the church he gave up all amusements condemned by the church.

Rev. F. H. Bland believed that if the spiritual tone were raised these things would be dropped.

Judge Deacon agreed with Mr. Oxley, yet he would insist that the church speak very clearly so that there may be no doubt or debate. Better to have half a dozen good members than a mob of all sorts.

Rev. F. Chisholm recommended that the resolution under discussion be incorporated in the pastoral address. This was carried unanimously.

Orangemen not for Blaine.

CHICAGO, June 7.—A despatch from Detroit says: "W. J. H. Traynor, supreme grand master of the Loyal Orange Institution of the United States, will send to day a telegram to Stewart Gamble, grand master of the L. O. I. of Minneapolis, authorizing Gamble to state to the delegates to the national convention that any good American who may be placed on the ticket will receive a million and a quarter votes, none of which will ever be cast for Blaine." To a reporter Traynor said: "Orangemen are not prejudiced politically; they are interested in politics only so far as to prevent the usurpation of political power by any religious denomination. Their objection to Blaine is that he has shown partiality to Catholics in making appointments. He also attended high mass celebrated in the Capitol building in Washington on the occasion of the funeral of Senator Barbour. Blaine has offended us and we will not pass it by."

THE LEGISLATURE.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATES

Hon. Mr. ROGERS.—The safe way for a merchant to do would be to refuse to deliver tobacco to any person unless he was sure that he was over age. If the Bill were passed, I would not allow anyone in my store to sell tobacco to any person under twenty-one years of age. There might be the word "knowingly" put in that clause, which would make it meet the views of the hon. member from Souris. I would like to have the age put at twenty-one.

Hon. Mr. KICKHAM.—I would like to have it put at sixty years of age, and make an end of it.

Mr. DODD.—I live in the city, and I do not see boys smoking. The people who use tobacco most are the loafers at the corners of the streets. They leave their mark on the platforms, and it would be a good thing if they could be prevented from using it. If I was as strong an opponent of its use as some hon. members I would not sell it. I think this is a matter that rests with the parents, and if a father uses it and sends his boy to purchase it he must expect him to learn to use it also. It is much used by working men and many would rather go without their breakfast than without their tobacco. As for trying to prevent young men eighteen years of ago from using it, you might as well try to stop the wind from blowing. If you want to make people keep the law do not make it too stringent. As for the liquor, I heard it argued here that it was better to let it be sold freely than to restrict it, but I do not believe in that, I would like to see a good license law to limit the number of taverns and make them keep proper houses and accomodation for the country people. I do not believe there was much more drunk the last winter when it was sold freely than other years when there was a a law against it. I think the reason was that on account of the dull times many persons had no money to buy liquor.

Hon. Mr. ROGERS.—The reason why many young men of twenty years of age smoke cigars is because they have contracted the habit before they came to maturity, and it is hard to give up habits formed in youth. Now we propose to pass a law to tide them over the time they would be most likely to form those habits, and if they grow to manhood without getting a liking for those things, there is a probability they will not take up the habit after that time. We do not propose to prevent those who have contracted the habit from getting their supplies but to keep it from the young.

Mr. ROSS.—I do not think the Bill would be of any benefit, boys who wanted tobacco would find means of getting it, and they would only be taught to evade the law. There is a law imposing a fine on any man who sells liquor to an Indian, but he gets a white man to go and buy it for him. Boys would get young men to purchase tobacco for them, and the law would be a dead letter. If you try to keep a thing from children, they feel more like having it, and to pass an Act of that nature would only be doing an injury. People send their sons and daughters to the store for tobacco, and many of them are unable to write an order. Legislation has come down pretty small when we pass a Bill of this kind. Let parents instruct their children, and if they do not want their children to smoke let them give up smoking themselves.

A Floating Island.

TACOMA, Wash., June 6.—A strip of land nearly half a mile long and an eighth of a mile wide is said to be floating in the Pacific ocean off the point of Cape Flattery.

Capt. George W. Torrey, of the fishing schooner Alice, which arrived at Seattle to-day, reports that two weeks ago his vessel was almost run down by the floating Island.

The captain and crew went on it and made partial exploration. There was a hut and a small farm on the Island and other signs of habitation, although there were no signs of life.

"My vessel got caught," said Captain Torrey. "I was prepared to find several fat hogs and water. All the Islands in the straits have very abrupt shores, but I was electrified to find the line playing out fathom after fathom and still had no bottom. At last I held the end of the line in my hand, and although there were fifty fathoms of it over the side, the lead was not resting on the bottom.

"We broke loose as soon as we could and succeeded in getting away without losing any men, although two had narrow escapes from drowning."

THE Arcadia, a new paper, devoted to music, art and literature, is now on sale at the Bazaar Store. Also, a number of sample copies to be given away free Get one. You will then take a year's subscription. June 9. 3i

Worthy of Imitation.

A gentleman lately visited the great cigar manufactory in Cuba. On entering the spacious factory room where a large company of men were employed in rolling the tobacco, he was astonished to hear the tones of one who, in a loud, clear voice, addressed the audience. On making further investigation he found that on a raised chair sat a reader, who was employed by the men themselves, each paying his share of the expense, in order that during the enforced confinement and monotony of their life, they might have the possibility of improving their minds, and keeping pace with the questions of the day. "This is the first good idea we ever got from a tobacco establishment, and we gladly pass it along. In many workshops where the labor is noiseless such a provision would be of incalculable benefit to men, the monotony of whose life is its severest trial."—Un. Signal.

General Gordon's Generosity.

Lord Wolseley is quoted in a recent interview as telling this story about General Gordon: When the latter left Brussels for the Soudan, on the expedition from which he never returned, he was penniless, and borrowed $125 from the king to pay his board bill with. Lord Wolseley having elicited this fact by questioning, he promised Gordon to raise some money for him. "I went round to the various clubs," continues the narrator, "and got £300 in gold. He gave the money to Colonel Stewart, who went with him. Gordon wasn't to be trusted with it. A week or so passed by when I had a letter from Stewart. He said: "You remember the £300 you gave me? When we arrived at Port Said a great crowd came out to cheer Gordon. Amongst them was an old sheik to whom Gordon was much attached, and who had become poor and blind. Gordon got the money and gave the whole of it to him.""

A Remarkable Aerolite.

ST. PETERSBURG, June 2.—What is believed to be the largest aerolite ever known to have fallen is lying in the Caspian Sea, a short distance from the Peninsula of Apsheron. The aerolite made a terrific noise as it rushed through the air with incredible speed, and the white-hot mass made a light that illuminated the country and sea round about for a great distance.

Those who saw it were struck dumb with consternation. When it struck the water immense clouds of steam arose, and the hissing could be heard for a great distance. Huge masses of water were thrown upward, and the sight to those who were not frightened was a most beautiful one. So enormous is the aerolite that it projects twelve feet above the water, and save for its fused black crust, which gives it the appearance of having been varnished, it has every appearance of being one of the usual rocky formations met with along the coast.

Scientists are deeply interested in the phenomenon, and a number of them are making preparations to visit the peninsula to examine the aerolite.

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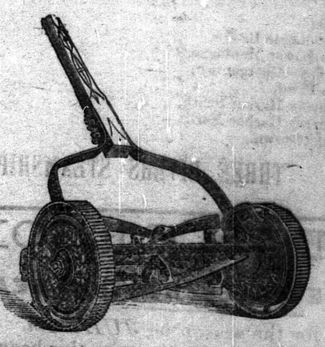

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