

THE DAILY EXAMINER

OCTOBER 26, 1898.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

The jubilee of the oldest temperance organization in this Province is worth noting. What has temperance reform accomplished in the past fifty years? The evidence is to the effect that it has accomplished much. Drunkenness is not tolerated by society as it was fifty years ago. Men could then drink and be drunkards without losing caste or character. But, now, the man who drinks does so at the imminent risk of forfeiting the respect of the community and becoming a social outcast. The results are that wine, whiskey and rum are not generally used as beverages, and that more men are temperate and more are total abstainers. In bringing about this result, the Sons of Temperance have taken a leading part. They are entitled to the credit of being the first organized body to attack the drinking customs of fifty years ago. To the measure of success that has been achieved they have contributed largely. That much remains to be done goes without saying. We hope that while agitating for legal prohibition, they will continue to use the good old weapon of moral suasion.

NEWS NOTES.

A serious problem which the Soudan presents is the surplus women who will have to be maintained. The number is placed as high as 300,000.

The Governor of Jamaica has communicated with the West Indian Chamber of Commerce, advocating the establishment of a West Indian trade agency in Canada, the idea being that Canada and the West Indies could reciprocate with mutual advantage.

Numerous German enthusiasts, on visiting the famous Luther house at Eisenach, have given expression to the idea of how delightful it would be to drink a glass of beer from the table at which Luther had sat. A brewing company in the neighbourhood has now conceived the idea of buying the house, and while retaining all its characteristics, of turning it into a restaurant. An earnest appeal is being made to the Grand Ducal Government of Saxony to prevent the barbarism of using one of the country's most interesting historical remains for such a purpose.

Bank clearings in Canada continue to be of a satisfactory nature, the increase of September being 16.6 per cent. over August, and of the nine months 22 per cent., compared with the same period in 1897. The total clearings for the nine months were \$1,014,245,062, compared with \$825,679,099 last year. Montreal shows the largest increase, with 27.1 per cent. Then come Toronto, with 24.5, Winnipeg with 23.7, and Hamilton with 5.7. Halifax and St. John show slight decreases of 1.1 and 1.6 per cent. respectively. Poor trade conditions, largely due to the late Spanish-American war, and to the over-stocking of the British lumber market, explain the decrease in the Maritime Provinces. The returns of the clearing houses in the United States are not as favorable as those relating to the Canadian concerns. For September, the returns were 1.3 per cent. less than for August, compared with Canada's 16.6 per cent. increase. The returns for the nine months, while not, however, showing as large an increase as those appertaining to Canada, still show the substantial gain of 21.7 per cent.

—Truth, of London, is hard on all kinds of frauds, and has lately been severe in its denunciations of the "chain letter" nuisance and the great "Australian snowball." Persons receiving letters asking for contributions of money or stamps by these schemes ought to throw the letters in the fire.

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SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

[Continued from first Page.]

state my belief that it still holds first place as the best work ever published in the province on the subject of temperance. Other societies also were organized, in different places, but little is now known of them. These societies, though short-lived, were preparing the public mind for a more general movement.

The Washingtonian movement, though widespread in the United States, did not reach us; but the order of the Sons of Temperance, which was organized in the year 1842, in the city of New York, was introduced into New Brunswick in 1847, when a Division was organized at St. Stephen on the 17th of November of that year; and into Nova Scotia when Acadia Division No. 1 was organized at Yarmouth; and was introduced here in the year 1848. On May 11th of that year Prince Edward Division No. 1 was organized in this city by R. G. Halls, D. M. W. P. of Nova Scotia, acting under commission from Philip S. White, M. W. P. The charter members were:

Charles Young,	Geo W Milliner,
William Barnstead,	John Davies, Jr,
William McKay,	John Piddwell,
John Powers,	Geo H Pippy,
John F Clarke,	Geo H Chudleigh,
A M McKenzie,	Edward Love.

Mr Love alone is now living of the original thirteen Charter members. It speaks well for the stability and permanence of the society then introduced that Prince Edward No 1, still lives and meets under the original charter. It was a very staid and conservative institution, so much so that the younger and more democratic members moved out and helped to form a new division named Rising Sun, No 2. These were followed by the organizing of Hillsborough, No. 3 and Victoria No 4, the latter still meeting regularly under the old charter.

A full list of all the Divisions organized to date was to have been put in this paper, but owing to the records for the first nine years being lost the list cannot be completed and hence the idea had to be dropped.

THE RECORDS EXTANT

begin with the year 1857, being the minutes of a special meeting held on Sept. 10th of that year on the state of order. Brothers John Rider, acting G W P, J P Tanton, Grand Scribe, G P Tanton, G Cond, John Bowers G Sent. The proceeding recorded all have reference to the records and proceedings to receive them. It appears the preceding Grand Scribe, Peter Desbrisay, had the records and owing to some difficulty with the G D or some other cause, refused to surrender. This difficulty almost broke up the G D, but mainly through the efforts of Brother Samuel Prowse, now Senator Prowse, who was elected G Scribe Oct. 29th 1857 some of the papers and effects were received and the finances of the G D put on a sound basis. Following this, good work was done by the G W P elected at the same time, brother J P Tanton, and the membership increased throughout the country. On the 23rd October 1848 the Island was granted a Grand Division charter which event we are commemorating to day. The movement had by this time spread widely over the continent. There were 35 Grand Divisions,—4000 sub Divisions and 220,000 members, and in considering the numbers we must bear in

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mind that at first only men of 21 years of age and upwards were admitted as members.

In the year 1852, Victoria Division No. 4, applied for incorporation which was granted a certificate of registration given on May 3rd of that year.

The energy and strength of the order in those days as remarkable. The party press gave the pioneers very little, so an organ of their own was deemed necessary. On the 1st of May, 1852, Mr. John P. Pippy issued the prospectus of a "Temperance Journal and Organ of the Sons of Temperance" to be issued monthly at a subscription price of three shillings per annum, in which he says "it will be the uncompromising advocate of Temperance Reform. The editorial department will be conducted by some of the leading members of the Order of the Sons of Temperance with occasional articles on Agriculture, education, and morality. No political or sectarian opinions will be permitted in its columns." It is to be regretted that the history of this paper cannot be followed further. In October of the same year

REV. DAVID FITZGERALD, W. P.,

stirred the community on the state of the liquor traffic, and as a result of the agitation a petition was sent to the Legislative, asking for prohibition, signed by Sons of Temperance and others. It was prepared and approved by the G. D. and ran thus:

"To the Honorable Legislative Council and House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island in Colonial Parliament convened. The petition of the undersigned Sons of Temperance and others interested in the welfare of this Island, Respectfully, Sheweth,—

"That in the opinion of your petitioners, the period has arrived when bolder measures and more decisive action should be adopted by the Legislature of this Island for the suppression of intemperance.

"That the weapons hitherto employed by the friends and advocates of Temperance principles have been powerful and efficacious, but there still remains one obstruction which these weapons are inadequate to remove, the traffic of intoxicating liquors.

"Your petitioners submit that the principle has long been established that the Legislature may deal with this traffic as with other callings and practices hurtful to the public welfare, and possesses the right to protect society from its evil consequences either by prohibitory or restrictive enactments; and seeing that this prolific source of crime, poverty, disease and death to large numbers of our fellow colonists annually, and is in a variety of other ways highly detrimental to the best interests of the inhabitants of this highly favoured Island generally,—

"Your petitioners therefore respectfully yet earnestly, pray that your Honorable House will be pleased to take the premises into its serious consideration and pass a law for the immediate and total annihilation of the liquor traffic in this Island similar in its leading features to those recently enacted with the same benevolent object by the states of Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island,—and in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray."

The petition and the prayers were unavailing. The bill was introduced and passed the Lower House by a good majority but was defeated in the Upper House by a majority of one vote. The agitation was not at once abandoned, for in the general elections of 1854, the Sons of Temperance introduced the temperance question for the first time into our politics. A special meeting of G. D., was held in C. town in May of that year and a course of action decided upon. A committee was appointed to draft a circular to the members of the order. The circular was in time issued calling on every Son of Temperance to drop party and support only men favorable to prohibition. This action had considerable effect but not sufficient to warrant the re-introduction of the bill. Still we can make the proud claim that temperance, yes even prohibition was first made a factor in our politics by the Sons of Temperance. We can also claim that the first determined stand against the granting of licenses under any conditions was taken by us when Bros. Tanton and Chappell, the one the mover the other the seconder—of a resolution to that effect—pressed that view and finally carried it in a large temperance gathering in Summerside. To use an Americanism we set the pace, and to crown our efforts in that line we straggled the last infamous attempt at foisting a license law on this community during the session of the local legislature in 1898.

RETURNING NOW TO THE RECORDS

we find that the society, during the years 1858, 1859 and 1860, was injured very much by matters of discipline and order. There were appeals, protests and many cases of insubordination. As a pointer to our friends now who, to save time, advocate semi-annual meetings of G. D. instead of quarterly ones, the records show that in the year 1857-8 there were no less than 27 meetings of G D held and nothing of importance done or undertaken. The year 1860 found the G D again in straits. Hard and earnest work was done by G W P's Sanderson and Davis. Rev. Mr. Davis, in his annual address on October 30th, 1860, put the facts of the case and the true position of the order faithfully before the representatives. The order had reached not only a standstill, but was declining; public opinion was at a low ebb, and drunkenness and debauchery abounded. There were only nine divisions alive, and some of them were barely existing. A handle is now made of the violations of the Canada Temperance Act, but license laws meant free rum and free sale everywhere. Even attempts at law enforcement in some places were dangerous. A notable case is put on the records that occurred at Dundas, King's County. "Flower of the Forest" Division attempted carrying out the decision of a meeting held there "to prevent the importation and sale of intoxicating drinks in

their midst." Thereupon, the record goes, the rum drinkers, led on by a smuggling rumrunner, organized against that Division a regular system of annoyance. Among other things they assaulted the house of one of the Sons, a magistrate, before whom proceedings had been taken against two rumrunners on account of illegal sales of their poison and committed incredible outrage upon those whom they found there. They dragged about the mother of our brothers by the hair, striking her with their fists and in horrible terms declaring their readiness to take her life. Two of his children, little girls, they kicked too and fro like foot-balls, bruising them shockingly, while a third, a little boy, they hurled over a fence six feet high. His sister, a young woman, in a delicate state of health, they violently pressed behind a door until her blackened tongue hung out of her mouth.

Similar and like outrages occurred

THE TOTAL MEMBERSHIP reported at the annual meeting was only 119 and 70 lady visitors. G. D. receipts £4 18. At that meeting our late esteemed co-worker, Bro. John Scott, was elected Grand Scribe and continued in office till 1869. A fresh effort was again made to organize new divisions and enlist new members with marvellous success, reaching in 1864, 44 Divisions and 1541 members, and subdivision receipts £117 8s 8d. Although there was soon a falling off, yet the position of the order was well maintained during Bro. Scott's occupancy of office. His records and minutes were models of neatness, fullness and clearness. From 1869 to 1876 the membership fell off yearly till in the latter year there were only 7 Divisions and 220 members reported to the National Division; from 77 to 80 gains were made bringing the number of Divisions up to 26, and membership to 1206. At this time the affairs of the Grand Division were again thrown into disorder. The minutes were lost and a debt created. The Grand Scribe dropped the work in a bad way. Bro D Rogers who was G W P, did the work of both officers for a time, and helped very much to restore order.

The following year, Bro. J. J. Chappell being G. S., put together all the minutes he could find, and through Mr. Bentley, then G. W. P., and his efforts, they paid off the debt, leaving a balance of funds on hand. From that date forward the order prospered both in membership and financially.

Mr Anderson, was followed by P. G. W. P. Tanton, of this city, who related his personal reminiscences of the order. The union of the flags, the Union Jack and the Star Spangled Banner, was an interesting feature of the entertainment.

LOCAL COUNCIL.—A meeting of the L C W. will be held at Prince of Wales College, next Saturday afternoon, 29th inst, at 3.30 o'clock. It is earnestly requested that all delegates and members of executive will endeavour to be present.

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The undersigned offers for sale the premises, situated on the corner of Queen and Water Streets, Charlottetown, consisting of large brick warehouse 50x24 feet, now used as Bonded Warehouse. Rental value \$150. A new roof put on same last year at large cost.

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