

### CANADA TEMPERANCE ACT AMENDMENTS.

A bill introduced in the House of Commons by Mr. Law, M. P. for Yarmouth, N. S., proposes several important amendments to the Canada Temperance Act. The following summary of the several sections of the bill will be of interest, especially to those in towns and counties in which the C. T. Act is in force. The enforcement of the law would, we think, be facilitated by the proposed changes:

The first section of the bill limits the quantity of intoxicating liquor which may be sold for medicinal purposes, and imposes a penalty upon medical men who give certificates to persons desiring to purchase liquor "for other than strictly medicinal purposes."

The second section makes the penalty for a third offence "imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months with or without hard labor." At present the law does not permit the addition of "hard labor" to a sentence of imprisonment. In some cases, persons sentenced to imprisonment have had conveniences and comforts and luxuries supplied to them during their incarceration, so that the penalty has been very light. A six months' term including hard labor would be a much more serious matter to be faced.

Another clause in the same section of the new bill requires the forfeiture of all liquors in respect of which an offence has been committed. Another makes the owner, lessee, or proprietor of a building, who rents or leases the same for the purpose of selling or keeping intoxicating liquor contrary to law, a party to the sale and liable to the same penalty as the seller.

The third section is intended to prevent other magistrates from interfering with any magistrate or two justices before whom a prosecution has been entered, requiring the original authorities to settle the cases brought before them.

The fourth section enlarges the search-warrant powers with which the act invests inspectors and other enforcing officers.

Section five authorizes the seizure of liquor found on the premises of any person charged with keeping the same for sale, and the destruction thereof when a conviction is made, or when no conviction is made and no persons establishes ownership of the said liquors within two months after its seizure.

The sixth section provides that all witnesses shall be compellable to give evidence identifying offenders or proving offences.

The seventh section is intended to prevent the difficulties that arise through the law's providing for first, second, and third offences respectively. It also makes provision for a conviction—notwithstanding that the accused person for some reason manages to evade attendance at the trial.

The eighth clause limits certiorari proceedings to cases in which persons convicted will, by affidavit, declare their innocence of the charges made in the information laid. Some other clauses deal with minor points concerning enforcement methods.

REV. G. C. P. PALMER, a well-known Methodist minister in this province, died at Newcastle, Friday. He was a son of the late Sheriff Palmer, of Queens Co. He was devoted to his work, a thoughtful preacher, and a successful pastor.

The area in square miles of the United States is stated at 3,557,000, which includes Alaska. The Canadian area is stated to be 3,406,542. Without Alaska the United States square mileage is 3,025,000.

### News of the Churches.

ST. JOHN, (NORTH).—Last Sunday three more converts were baptized at the Victoria St. Church. They and five others were received to membership. The Sunday-school gave a very interesting and instructive Easter exercise.

GIBSON, N. B.—We have closed the special meetings, after enjoying a good revival. "The people had a mind to work," and God graciously blessed us. Eleven have been baptized and fifteen added to the church. There are others to follow yet. About twenty have been converted. To God we give the glory.

A. D. PAUL.

CHEGOGGIN, N. S.—I am now closing the special meetings which I have already reported. Since last report thirteen have been baptized, and we shall have baptism again next Sunday. It has been a gracious revival. Not only has our churches been helped, but both the Baptist and Methodist churches, also. I estimate that forty have been converted, and fifteen backsliders reclaimed.

A. M. McNINTCH.

### General Religious News.

—The Roman Catholic priests of Cebu have definitely organized to prevent any native from giving a hearing to the Protestant missionaries and to prosecute such as may do so.

—The amount raised by the Salvation Army self-denial week is increasing year by year. Beginning with \$15,000 it reached the sum of \$250,000 last year. This year it is expected that \$300,000 will be realized.

—The Young Men's Christian Association of this country last year helped 12,000 young men to obtain employment, four of the State Associations alone performing this service for 4,000 young men. The clamors for practical Christianity can surely find in this nothing to criticize.

—The Baptists of the United States cannot be charged with comparative indifference to education. They have 105 colleges and universities for men, besides a large number of institutions for women. Of the other leading denominations the Methodists have sixty-six, the Congregationalists forty-four, the Presbyterians thirty-nine, the Catholics sixty-one, the Lutherans twenty-four, the Disciples fifteen.

—The statistics of the Evangelical Free Churches of England place their membership at 1,982,801. The estimates of membership of the Established Church given by the local clergy total 2,004,493, or 21,691 in excess of the Nonconformists. In the Sabbath schools of the Nonconformist bodies, however, there are 3,321,539 scholars, and only 2,851,656 in those of the Establishment.

469,880 less than in Nonconformist schools.

—The newspaper religious census of London now include fifteen of the twenty-eight boroughs of the city. The population of these boroughs is 2,520,572, and the number of people counted in the churches, men, women and children, at both the morning and evening services, was about one in five, or 503,588, distributed thus: Anglican, 239,265; Nonconformist, 219,848; Roman Catholic, 44,475. As in this country, the preponderance of the attendance was among the women.

—During the Chapel Car Conference in Kansas City last fall, Dr. S. A. Northrup called the attention of Mr. Thomas A. Edison to the good work being done by the chapel cars. Mr. Edison has recently sent one of his standard phonographs to each of the six cars, with twelve records selected by the missionaries in charge. He also sent a complete outfit to the general manager of chapel car work. These fine machines are the personal donation of Mr. Edison, and are highly appreciated by the chapel car workers.

—News from South Africa indicates that the Baptist churches there are generally taking on new life. The Pretoria church has called a pastor. The church at Wakkerstrom has recovered from the trouble and anxiety consequent upon the war, and all its departments are now in good working order. At Cape Town a site for a new church has been secured, and a building is to be erected costing \$80,000. The *South African Baptist*, the official organ of the South African Baptist Union, has also been enlarged and improved, and started the year with an increased circulation.

—In connection with the celebration of the centenary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, an effort is being made to raise a special fund of 250,000 guineas. The fund has already had a good start. The president of the society, the Marquis of Northampton, has given 1,000 guineas, and so have also ten or twelve other wealthy friends. One or two men have given as much as 2,500 guineas. King Edward has donated 100 guineas. The list so far has reached 35,000 pounds sterling. As the actual Centenary Day is not till the 7th of March, 1904, there is every reason to believe that the full amount aimed at will be collected.

—Prof. Henry C. Vedder, D.D., in his new book on "The Baptists," says: "According to the best statistics obtainable, which are by no means complete, there are now in the entire world 58,000 Baptist churches, with 5,454,700 members. Adding the numbers of those sects that are essentially Baptist, the grand total is nearly 6,000,000, of whom four-fifths are found on the American continent." This shows a remarkable growth, and affords ground for great thanksgiving, especially when it is remembered that the greater proportion of this growth has taken place in the last 150 years.

—Who shall say that there is a lack of interest in religious work when such great sums were bestowed last year by the active and wealthy churches in New York city: St. Bartholomew gave \$322,920, of which \$288,640 was devoted to missions at home and abroad, and only \$34,280 for the benefit of the church itself. St. Thomas gave \$181,595, of which \$140,410 went for the benefit of others and \$41,185 of themselves. Brick Presbyterian, \$138,642, divided as above into \$109,175 and \$29,467. Church of the Incarnation, \$123,710, \$87,718, and \$35,992. The splendid total is \$666,867, divided thus: \$140,924 for self; but \$525,943, or more than three-fourths, for benevolence.

### THE MAGAZINES.

Bright, fresh and spring-like is the April number of *The Housekeeper* magazine. Jessie Ackermann, the traveler, contributes the second of her series of illustrated articles describing her adventures in various parts of the world. She tells of the strange modes of conveyance she has had to employ. The parallel traits of men and dogs are described in the April instalment of "A Society Woman's Letters to her Daughter." The maidens whose acquaintance was made in the March *Housekeeper* are now launched upon their travels, and the sights they see and the experiences they encounter are related in the "Three Girls in Paris." Mrs. Elizabeth O. Hiller, lecturer on cookery and allied topics, contributes several pages of new recipes. A new department instituted in the April *Housekeeper* is "How to be your own Miller." The other departments are up to their usual high standard. Not the least popular page will be that devoted to the boys and girls. The April *Housekeeper* is a model magazine for the American home.

LIFE INSURANCE.—A blue book just issued by the finance department shows that the net amount of the insurance in force in Canada at the end of last year was \$508,794,371, or an increase of \$45,025,337 over the preceding year. Three-fifths of the risks are carried by Canadian companies. United States companies carry \$159,153,000 and British companies \$41,435,454. Altogether, Canadians paid \$17,143,561 in insurance premiums.

### Marriages.

PEOPLES-ROBERTSON.—At Rowena, V. Co., on the 26th ult. by Rev. L. A. Fenwick, assisted by Rev. R. W. Dennings, Fred. Peoples and Grace M. Robertson, both of Perth, V. Co.

### Deaths.

LAWRENCE.—At Dumfries, York Co., April 1st., James Lawrence, aged 79 years. He was born at Dumfries, Nov. 5th, 1823. Four sons, a wife one brother and one sister survive him. Bro. Lawrence became a Christian when a young man, uniting with the Free Baptist church at Dumfries, under the labors of Rev. Stephen Currie, and up to his death he remained a faithful and consistent soldier of the cross. May God bless the bereaved family. Funeral conducted by the writer Text, John xiv, 1. H. W. McCORMACKSON.

STICKNEY.—At Connell, Carleton Co., N. B., March 6th, 1903, after an illness of nearly five months, which he bore with patience, Benjamin, second son of the late Nathaniel Stickney, aged 76 years, 3 months and 18 days. He leaves two brothers, William, of Vancouver, B. C., and Josiah, of Connell, and a large circle of relatives and friends in Carleton County. He professed religion, was baptized years ago, and joined the Free Baptist church at the mouth of Big Presque Isle, where he remained a member until his death. He was always ready to contribute in a good cause. Where he died was about one fourth of a mile from where he was born. Com.