

licenses to be certified by a majority of the ratepayers in their respective wards or parishes. The amendment of the law by the adoption of these two proposals would give the people a voice in the control of the liquor business which they do not now have. With the law amended as proposed, the people of a city, town, or county, could, by a majority vote, prohibit the issue of any licenses. The law as it now is gives all the advantage to the liquor traffic people. Even those features of the law which seem to offer the opponents of the traffic an opportunity to prevent licenses are so constructed that they make it practically impossible to seriously interfere with the traffic. The amendments proposed are needed; they would, probably, make the law restrictive in some degree; they would, at least, give the people a chance to say what they want. The government has not yet intimated whether it will amend the law. A year or two ago, when memorialized to pass a prohibitory law for the Province, the government declined to do so. What will be done in this case will be watched with some interest.

The situation in Ontario as to liquor traffic legislation is interesting. Repeatedly the people have, by large majorities declared in favor of prohibition. Premier Ross promised advanced legislation at the present session. It is not yet known what measure he will introduce, if any. He proposed to his followers in caucus a government control measure, but they refused to support it. He then suggested a referendum at the next municipal elections on the question of the abolition of the hotel bar and shop license, each municipality to have what it voted in favor of. This, also, failed to receive the approval of his supporters. It is now stated, though not authoritatively, that the most that will be attempted is the amendment of the license law increasing the license fees, reducing the number of hotel licenses, and imposing a higher penalty for illegal selling. A measure of this kind will not be satisfactory to the temperance people, who have repeatedly declared by overwhelming majorities in favor of prohibition, and who have been promised much more than this proposal includes. To judge by what they have said in convention and through the press, they will not be satisfied with anything less than the abolition of the whole bar system. Whether the proposed changes in the license law will be acceptable to the liquor traffic men remains to be seen. So long as they are given any chance at all, they usually manage to take all the chance they want. And under the system of license commissions, which makes the commissioners part of the political party machine, it is not difficult for the traffic to do with the law about as they choose.

Premier Ross is, doubtless, in sympathy with temperance and prohibition. Did he follow his own feeling he would probably introduce a measure quite as drastic as the temperance people are demanding. His position is difficult. His friends in the temperance ranks are urging him to stand by his promise to abolish the bars; they tell him he is on trial, that it is the greatest political crisis of his life, and that he would do

better to go out of power on this question than to yield to the clamourings of those who fear to antagonize the liquor men. Just what will be the outcome of it is not easy to predict. Let us hope for the best.

It is in such an emergency as this that a great weakness of the temperance party does serious harm. Politicians naturally canvass the record of the temperance and anti-temperance voters in their relation to the political parties at election times. They recall the fact that a great many temperance men — the majority, some say — while ready to work heartily and vote loyally for prohibition when the abstract question is presented to them, cannot be depended on to do the same when electing representatives — that party loyalty then determines their votes. They recall, also, the fact that the liquor traffic men, while they may be divided as to their party preferences, do not allow such preferences to influence them in their choice of representatives — they support only and always the men, no matter of which party, who can be depended on not to interfere with their business. Temperance voters would do well to take a leaf out of the book of their opponents in this matter. Till they do, the cause they desire to forward will continue to suffer. We are glad to be able to believe that the number of those who are ready to put this great question before any other that demands their consideration in their choice of representatives is increasing. When temperance voters are understood to be a unit at the polls, their wishes as to legislation will command respect and be given effect. May the day be hastened.

ABOUT INCOMES.

In a comparative study of the incomes of professional men and laborers in the United States, the New York *Herald* estimates that the average for doctors is \$1,500; preachers, \$1,200; lawyers, \$1,500; teachers, \$700; college professors, \$1,200; newspaper men, \$1,200; musicians, \$1,000; architects, \$1,200, and actors, \$1,800. The effect of the labor unions in making an absolute minimum wage is to bring the average for skilled labor somewhat higher than the average for professional work, although none of the former have the opportunity to win such special prizes as are given to the most successful professional man. Bricklayers get the best minimum wage, or \$5.20 a day, while the maximum is \$8 or \$9. With steady work their average would be more than \$2,000 a year.

According, then, to these figures, men who desire to consider the question merely from a pecuniary point of view, as to what shall be their avocation in life, had better become bricklayers.

UNION RESOLUTIONS.—A meeting of ministers and laymen of the Presbyterian and Methodist churches in Halifax was held Friday evening to discuss the question of the union of these denominations. Three resolutions were unanimously adopted favoring co-operative union of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Canada, and in the meantime urging that all strive after a basis of such union.

News of the Churches.

FROM REV. J. HENDERSON.—A severe attack of congestion of the left lung left me very weak, so that I have been confined to the house all winter. I have gained slowly, though, and expect to get out as soon as the weather becomes warm. I have enjoyed the weekly visits of the *INTELLIGENCER* very much during the cold and stormy winter months and have read with special pleasure the denominational news; the blessing that has attended the labors of the ministers has made me glad that precious souls have been brought into the new life.

J. HENDERSON.

MARYSVILLE, N. B.—The special meetings at Marysville are being blessed. A good many church members have been helped. Some have professed conversion, and two were baptized last Sunday. The meetings are being continued this week.

Last Wednesday the church celebrated its forty-seventh anniversary by a roll call. It was an enjoyable service. Contributions amounting to \$50.00 were made.

GRAND HARBOR, GRAND MANAN.—The special meetings at Grand Manan have been closed. A grand work was done. The church was in a low state spiritually, but has been greatly quickened and blessed; in all thirty-two backsliders and unconverted people have received blessing and pardon. The work continued for five weeks, and closed on Sunday, 20th ult., with baptism. We have now started special work at North Head, and are praying for a revival in that church.

A. M. MCNINTCH.

MILLSTREAM PASTORATE.—Permit me to acknowledge a donation from friends at Head of Millstream of \$26.00. The evening of the presentation was very pleasantly and profitably spent in a social gathering, held in the Temperance Hall. The ladies provided a tea, and the young people furnished entertainment, and throughout it was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The other churches of the circuit are doing very well. The severe winter has interfered much with the work of the mountain churches, but they are holding on, and are hopeful. Snider Mountain intends to repair their church this spring.

Lower Millstream is a good church, and is doing well. The brethren take a real interest in their church — do up their business in a business-like way, are not afraid to leave old ruts, nor backward to take up greater burdens when the cause demands it. They have increased their contributions for pastoral support by about \$80.00 this year. They also contributed \$32.00 towards furnishing the parsonage, which sum was increased by gifts from the other churches to \$40.00. The churches will make other improvements in the parsonage this spring.

A. W. CURRIE.

FROM REV. A. PERRY.—The congregation at Petitcodiac made me a donation

of \$40.00 last Friday night. The church at Graves Settlement have purchased a new organ, by which they hope to make their Sunday School much more interesting.

ABRAM PERRY.

VICTORIA, STREET, ST. JOHN.—The work is going on pleasantly. Although the winter has been cold and stormy all the services have been well attended. The contributions are larger than in any previous year. We have not held any special meetings, but have endeavored to make the prayer services as evangelical as possible, with the result that three young persons have accepted Christ as their Saviour. The Mission Band gave a concert on the evening of March 16th; all the parts were well rendered by the little folk; the concert was highly appreciated by the large audience. Twenty-four dollars was the amount realized.

D. LONG.

MINISTERS.—Rev. A. J. Prosser received two members into the Hartland church, Sunday, 27th ult.

Rev. F. A. Currier, of Woodstock, was assisting the pastor in St. John West in special meetings last week.

Rev. D. T. Porter, of the Nova Scotia Conference, writes: "My health has improved since last summer, but I am not yet able to do much. Have not attended a meeting or a public gathering of any kind since I was taken sick." Bro. Porter's many friends will be glad to hear that he is gaining, and will pray that soon he may be fully restored.

Rev. F. C. Hartley was able to resume his work last Sunday.

Licentiate Boyer preached last Sunday at McAdam.

Rev. E. Crowell is holding special meetings in Yarmouth, N. S.

OTHER DENOMINATIONS.

—Rev. Mr. Ross, pastor of the Methodist church, Woodstock, has been voted a month's vacation on account of poor health. Dr. Chapman is in charge during the pastor's absence.

—The Presbyterians of the Maritime Provinces have wiped out the debt on their foreign mission fund — some \$12,000. The amount contributed so far is nearly \$13,000.

—Rev. Dr. Smith, of Summerside, P. E. I., has accepted a call to the Presbyterian church in Sydney, N. S.

—Rev. J. A. Gordon, writing in the *Messenger and Visitor* of Baptist work in Montreal, says the five Baptist churches are making good progress. The First Church, of which he is pastor, contributed last year over \$33.00 per member for the church's work, and over \$8.00 per member for the general work of the denomination. The churches, two years ago, organized a Church Extension Board, its purpose being to direct and foster city missions. They have now five vigorous missions in promising sections of the city, each having a Sunday-school, a mid-week prayer meeting and a Sunday evening service.