

**A HAPPY GATHERING.**

Between 75 and 100 Prohibitionists accepted the invitation of Mr. W. J. Dean, late Prohibition candidate for Governor, to a banquet on the evening of January 19th. It took place in the parlors of C. W. Dorsett, who is at the same time one of the leading caterers of Minneapolis and an enthusiastic Prohibitionist. After an excellent menu in several courses, Geo. F. Wells, toastmaster, introduced "Gov." Dean, who drew some encouraging lessons from the late contest.

Letters of regret were read from Prohibitionists in various parts of the state, all breathing a spirit of hopefulness and determination. "We are right, God is with us, we shall win," was the keynote of letters and speeches. Mr. Levering and Chairman Dickie wired their greetings. The former said, "The sacrifices of the past demand greater efforts for the future. Hon. Jas. P. Pinkham, made an eloquent plea for righteousness in governmental affairs. Then State Chairman Geo. W. Higgins took the floor and asked the assembled guests what they proposed to do about the saloons of Minnesota this year. So effective was his appeal, that as soon as he gave the opportunity contributions for the prosecution of the state work came in rapidly. Mr. Dean said that he was frequently called upon to contribute for the support of the poor, to the hospitals and other causes more or less closely related to the liquor traffic. He had made up his mind to give more liberally hereafter to secure the overthrow of the saloon and let others who believe in the license system take care of its fruits. He then offered to give \$200 of \$1,000 which the company should pledge. Ex-Chairman C. M. Way offered to add 25 per cent to whatever amount up to \$1,000 should be raised. Mr. Dorsett quickly pledged \$100, Chairman Higgins and Secretary Wells each \$50, Dr. W. A. Powers, J. W. Lansing, W. G. Calderwood, C. A. Fowble, Mrs. E. A. Russell, J. A. Sanborn and Miss Newman each \$25. These were followed by three pledges of \$20, something more than twenty of \$10, and a number of \$5, until in order to meet the condition of Mr. Way's subscription, Mrs. Dean subscribed \$60. Even then the tide of liberality could not be stayed. The announcement of the total, \$1,275, caused great rejoicing. After short speeches by Mrs. Frances Neal, and Prof. Haynes of the State University, and some soul-stirring music, the party broke up at a late hour, confident that 1897 is to be a year of substantial growth in this state for the brave party of reform.

A meeting of the State Central Committee was held on the following morning, and several meetings of the Executive Committee have since been held. Comprehensive plans for the year's work are being laid. John G. Woolley will be engaged if possible. The circulation of BACKBONE and other literature will be pushed unrelentingly.

The state will be thoroughly reorganized for the next battle of ballots. W. G. Calderwood, Post-Office Box 424, Minneapolis, has been elected Assistant Secretary. He is a hustler. Communications regarding all other matters than BACKBONE and the Lever should be addressed to him.

Let every Prohibitionist get to work and every enemy of the saloon ally himself with a party which is fighting his battle.

**Prohibition Lessens Taxes.**

Blot out the saloons, breweries and distilleries of a state, and that destroys the income which they pay, and the market they make for grain, it is true. But it also cuts off manifold more expense for constables, courts, jails, poorhouse and asylum expenses, to say nothing

of stopping the slow poisoning of several million citizens and the slaughter of several thousand fathers and young men.—North and West.

**PUSH THE BATTLE.**

AN APPEAL FOR THE SINEWS OF WAR.

{ PROHIBITION HEADQUARTERS,  
Minneapolis, Feb. 10, '97.

The last three months have been marked by greater confidence, activity and self-sacrifice on the part of our workers than any corresponding period immediately following an election since the organization of the party. State and county conferences are the order of the day. A new life has been infused into the party. While there is still an honest difference of opinion among us as to the breadth of the ideal platform, there is a growing feeling that the triumph of the Prohibition party and the incorporation of its principles into state and national legislation are the burning need of the nation. And since other parties ignore this issue, we must all the more bravely and persistently push it to the front.

While rejoicing in the progress of the work elsewhere, we take special pleasure in the signs of promise in our own state. In the three weeks following election day, our workers, in spite of the hard times, contributed \$600 to meet the unpaid bills of the campaign. And now comes the news of "Gov." Dean's banquet, at which about 75 Prohibitionists pledged \$1,275 for the work of 1897. This is a good starter, and we now appeal for an equal amount from the state at large. Not less than \$2,500 will be required for the work which this year of opportunity ought to witness.

As to our particular plans, I need add nothing to what has appeared in our papers, except to say that if the requisite means are provided, we contemplate a thorough reorganization of our forces in every part of the state, and a very extensive circulation of vote-making literature among both Prohibitionists and "hopefuls." The high character and business ability of the members of your committee are a guarantee that the funds entrusted to it will be expended judiciously.

By this time you are probably asking yourselves how much you ought to give. Only a few words upon this point:

You know better than I can tell you what you are able to give. The cause is yours as well as mine, and I have no reason for doubting your willingness to bear your fair share of its burdens. I only ask that you do what you can, and that we hear from you very soon in order that the precious weeks of this great year may be improved to the utmost. Subscriptions will be payable quarterly unless you indicate otherwise. Please address me at 14th St. and Chicago Ave., Minneapolis. Geo. W. Higgins, Chairman State Central Committee.

**Greetings.**

The Christian voter's wish-bone would be a "holy terror" to "the world, the flesh and the devil," but for the suspicion that there is "not much back of it." With a backbone to match he can possess the earth and hold it for Him whose right it is to rule. I congratulate my old home state upon the new paper.

JNO. G. WOOLLEY.

**Sound the Advance.**

The Golden Rule, the organ of the Young People's Societies of Christian Endeavor, says: The Christian Endeavor world is ready. Let

the church of God move forward against the saloon, and the young men and women of these societies will be found in the ranks, every one of them, and eager to do whatever they are told to do. It is a young people's society. It is not ours to lead the church, but to be led by the church; that the young people are ready and eager to be led against this monster evil, let no man for an instant doubt.

**The Boss Anarchist.**

What can anarchy do that the saloon does not do? If the one defies the law, so does the other. If the one flouts at civil government, so does the other. If the one destroys human life and wrecks human homes, so does the other. If the one curses God and derides religion, so does the other. There is not a clause in the Constitution nor a line in the Declaration of Independence nor an injunction of the Decalogue that is not daily and hourly violated by the liquor traffic, for its very existence is a direct contradiction to the principles that underlie all these deliverances from man and God.

**A Man as Well as Minister.**

There is a churchly tradition coming down from the dark ages that the priest and minister must not concern himself too much with earthly affairs. This must be worn or cut away and the priest and minister ceasing to be of that fabled third sex must become a man of affairs and of the world. He must place himself under his share of the political burden and as a teacher of the truth must speak fearlessly and apply the truth to modern conditions and necessities.—Thos. N. Strong.

**Woman's Sphere.**

The courts have decided that woman suffrage carried in Idaho. Mrs. Rebecca Mitchell, state president of the W. C. T. U., has been elected chaplain of the legislature.

Twenty-eight of the fifty-six counties of South Dakota have lady county superintendents of schools.

The petition for woman suffrage that has been circulated in the United Kingdom was signed by two hundred and fifty-seven thousand women.

The coming generation of women, the girl-babies now in the cradle, will enter upon a new world more different from the old one than an American woman on her bicycle is different from Queen Victoria drawn by that Italian donkey.—New York Sun.

**Saloonists Shut Out.**

The Masonic Grand Lodge, in session at St. Paul during the past month, declared saloon-keepers and bartenders ineligible to membership. The preamble adopted states that "the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage tends only to degradation and misery." Six hundred delegates were present. This resolution has been smothered in committee at several preceding sessions. Several orders which have an insurance feature have taken similar action as a measure of self protection. The action of the masonic order is significant in that it was taken on moral grounds.

**The Same Here.**

The Christian Commonwealth, of London, speaking of the difficulties in the way of the liquor reform, states the case thus, which shows that the rummies have the same political grip in Britain that they have in this land: "The Tory Party is in the main tied to the brewer's dray, while the Liberal Party is, as a whole, afraid to upset the dray."