

EDITORIALS.

CO-OPERATION IN ENGLAND.

By courtesy of President George A. Smith, we have been favored with a perusal of late half-yearly reports and balance sheets, and the printed rules, of the Leeds (England) Industrial Co-operative Society, limited, also a letter partly explanatory of the operation of the Society.

The object of this society is "to carry on in common the trade of general dealers, both wholesale and retail, for the better enabling them to purchase food, firing, clothes and other necessities; also for the purpose of manufacturing flour, or of spinning, weaving and manufacturing raw cotton, hemp, flax, wool, silks and yarn; also the business of farmers, builders, contractors, brick-makers, iron manufacturers, workers of mines and quarries; also to buy and sell land." An extensive field for operation.

The funds of the society are raised in one pound shares, no member to have less than five nor more than two hundred. Shares to be paid in full or by installments of not less than two shillings monthly until two shares are paid. If the remaining three shares are not otherwise paid, 10 per cent. of the member's profit is deducted every half year. At the discretion of the directors, a member may be admitted at an entrance fee of one shilling, but who receives no profits until he has paid two pounds, fines may be levied for non-payment, and if six months expire without contribution, or adequate excuse, all moneys paid are to be forfeited.

Surplus funds of the society may be invested in certain ways, by the committee of management, subject to the sanction of a meeting of the members; or the amount of shares may be reduced, the highest first.

Members may withdraw, with their money due, under certain regulations.

Shares are transferrable. They are also forfeitable in case of legal claim of the society against the holder.

Shares are forfeited, or held in abeyance, on the death of the holder, or in the event of five years' absence of claims on or dealings with the society, subject to directoral discretion as to other claimants.

Here is one of the most important of the rules—

The net proceeds of all business carried on by the said society, after paying or providing for the expenses of management, interest on loans, the proper reduction in value of fixed stock, and for such interest upon the subscribed capital thereof as aforesaid, shall from time to time be applied by direction of the half-yearly meeting, either to increase the capital or business of the society, or to any provident purposes authorized by the laws in force in respect to friendly societies; or shall be divided among the members of the society in equitable proportion to the amount of their respective trading.

No member is allowed to vote until one share be paid up. List of membership to be open to inspection of members and creditors.

Each member receives a card with his name and number upon it, also a book with Dr. and Cr. account of his dealings with the society, to correspond with the Society's ledger, and to be handed to the secretary half yearly.

A majority of members at a meeting may remove or appoint officers, under certain regulations, or appoint a special committee to investigate matters affecting the society.

The secretary is required to ask every member to nominate, in writing, any relative to whom his shares and interest may be transferred, on his decease.

The committee of management have discretion either to make transfer to such nominee, or pay him the full value of the interest instead of transferring it.

All members residing within three miles of the society's place of business, are liable to serve officially, if nominated, or fined on refusal.

The society is managed by a board of twelve directors, who have control of all the business of the society, except as specially arranged for in regard to cottage building. There are also three or more audi-

tors, one elected half yearly, and all retiring in rotation. All officers are paid for their services, and are eligible for re-election. The signature of the secretary to all contracts made by the directors is conclusive.

The directors meet for business once a week, and as much oftener as necessary, five forming a quorum. They elect their own president, who has the casting vote, appoint a secretary, and select their committees. No member eligible for directorship, if not a member twelve months, with two paid-up shares, and he must not be a member of a similar society in the same borough. In the absence of the President, or chairman, a chairman pro tem. may be elected. No paid servant of the society is eligible for president, director, or auditor. The term of office for directors is eighteen months, four to retire each half year.

The auditors examine the books and accounts of the society monthly, prepare a balance sheet in April and October, sanctioned by the directors, and in January and July prepare a detailed report for printing and distribution.

The directors appoint and control the labor servants of the society, responsible ones giving security.

Each member may propose, by filling a printed form, one director. The directors are chosen from nomination lists, made from the above forms by the society.

General business meetings of the society are held quarterly.

Portions of the profits may be granted, by the directors to the committee appointed by them, for the advocacy and extension of the principles of co-operation.

The President, or three directors, or a hundred members may convene a special meeting.

All questions are decided by vote, the majority binding the minority, subject to the society's rules and the laws relating to such societies. Thirty members present within half an hour from the time specified may hold meetings.

There are also local committees, who act for and in behalf of the committee of management.

The directors can receive loans not exceeding one-third of the share capital of the society, but the members can empower them to receive loans not exceeding two-thirds of said capital. Bonds, securities of receipt, etc., of such to be signed by the president, secretary, and one director.

A book is kept, in which members are requested to enter suggestions or complaints relative to the business of the society, which are brought before the directors. If not settled by them to the satisfaction of the aggrieved member, he may appeal to the next quarterly meeting. No complaints entertained against persons or articles of business, unless so entered and signed by name and number of complaint.

The books of the society are open to the examination of members.

A majority of the members, on six days' notice, may expel any member, the expelled member to receive his money interest as if he withdrew, and not to be again eligible to membership for a year from date of expulsion.

Disputes to be subject to arbitration, three arbitrators to be drawn, from a list in a box or glass, by the complaining party or his appointee. Persons requiring arbitration to deposit ten shillings for costs, such costs to be finally paid by the parties in such proportion as the arbitrators may direct.

No action at law, involving more than twenty pounds, can be taken, unless first sanctioned at a meeting of members. Parties undertaking such sanctioned action, to be indemnified for damages or expenses thereof.

The building department is managed by a committee of seven members, (four constituting a quorum), elected each time a grant of money is made for building purposes, the committee to act until the grant is expended, unless otherwise determined at meeting of members.

Any member desiring a house, either purchasing or erecting, and land, either renting or purchasing, applies to the building committee, signs agreement to the rules, and deposits one-tenth of the cost of such house or land, or approved security for the same under certain regulations. If there are too many applicants, the ballot determines the preference.

When the house is tenanted,

interest on the balance due on it is charged, at the same rate as the society pays its members on their shares. Conveyance made at his expense, to the member or his heirs etc., when all dues are paid. If he fails to comply with his agreement with the society, the committee of management may evict him, take possession of house and land, and dispose of it as they choose, the evicted to pay costs of eviction.

The interest of a member in such house may be disposed of to others, members or non-members, subject to the rules of the society. The building committee have supervisory control over such house until all the society's dues on it are cancelled. As an instance of the rates of reimbursement, a hundred and twenty pounds for building can be repaid with interest (5 per cent) by five shillings per week, or £3 5 s. per quarter. This total would be thus liquidated in twelve years and one month. The amount can be paid quicker if the payer choose. After ten per cent. has been repaid by contribution, the directors have power to grant exemption or delay of three months from contributions in case of inability or distress of the payer, and three months further exemption for each tenth paid by contribution. He also pays five shillings per annum for working expenses.

The society's usual rate of interest is paid on members' deposits or contributions, and on moneys paid for a house before it is tenanted.

All properties of the society are insured, cost of insurance to be repaid by the purchasers.

There are fines for neglect in paying subscription, for house or land, and when such fines, with subscriptions and interest thereupon, equal the sum paid in the ratio of one to five, the society may take possession and receive rent of the property, and dispose of it if not redeemed within twelve months.

In the last half-yearly report (July 30) the following figures are given—members, 9,071; capital, £49,469 6 0; turn over £137,783 0 0; net profit, £8,881 2 10, the latter divided into flour department, £2,020 18 1; grocery department, £5,004 18 3; drapery, boots and shoes and outfitting departments, £83 11 1; coal, £816 15 4.

The capital (shares) paid in receives five per cent interest. Then the profits of the business are equally divided among the members, in proportion to the extent of their purchases from the society. Thus, besides the interest on his paid in shares, each member receives the whole net profit on the amount of his purchases from the society. If the net profit of the society's business is fifteen per cent., and a member purchases a hundred pounds worth of goods from the society, his share of the net profits is fifteen pounds.

We understand that this society works well, and that the fairness of either principle or practice is never questioned, which speaks well for the honorable manner in which the business of the society is conducted, and the satisfaction which it gives to the members.

THE WOMEN WENT AGAINST IT.

AT THE recent annual meeting of the Woman Suffrage Association at Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, Mrs. Lucy Stone, chairman of the executive committee, read the fourth annual report, in which it was stated that the committee had corresponded with members of Congress and worked actively to defeat the effort to merge Wyoming in Colorado, and to abolish woman suffrage in Utah. The report says—

The Judiciary Committee prepared and carried through the United States Senate a bill to suppress polygamy in Utah, which also prohibited women from voting, and established the English Common Law concerning wives in the form "in which it existed at the time of the Declaration of Independence." The common law, as construed at that date, gave to every husband the "custody of his wife's person," the right to "give her moderate correction," the right to keep her by constraint, the right to all her money. It took from the wife everything, rights of person, rights of property, blotted out her legal existence, and left her with the one right to be maintained. A right which is accorded to idiots and town paupers.

For this enormity Senator Frelinghuysen, of New Jersey, is especially responsible. Under the covert expression, "The common law as it existed at the time of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence," he struck a dastardly

blow at every right of the married women of that Territory. The bill passed the Senate but was defeated in the House by the active opposition of Mr. Sargent of California, (now Senator from that State) and by other representatives, so the women of Utah still vote.

EGYPTIAN CORN.

Now they have an extraordinary grain in California, under the title of "Egyptian Corn," a name which, we believe, was handed around some time back. Some tall stories are told of this "Egyptian corn," which remind us that such wonderful articles usually come under the classification of humbugs. We know not whether any Utah farmers have had experience with this remarkable "corn," but if the reports of its doings are true, it might be a useful grain to introduce into Utah for secondary purposes. Two crops a year, however, except in the extreme south of the Territory, would hardly be realized in Utah. The mummy story, too, is hard to credit. Many people do not believe that seeds have such prolonged vitality. The San Francisco Chronicle says of this grain—

Among the many novelties embraced in the wide range of agricultural products of this State, one which bids fair to assume prominence is the "Egyptian corn" which has already been raised in considerable quantities in the vicinity of Sutter, and is now being introduced extensively about Vallejo. Its capabilities are not yet fully understood, but, as far as its growers have got acquainted with it, it is found at least to be an excellent food for poultry and all kinds of stock—even preferable for these uses to either wheat or barley. It yields as much as seventy bushels to the acre, and, it is believed, can be relied upon for two crops per annum. The manner of planting it is similar to that employed with broom-corn, which the stalk somewhat resembles, while the head in shape is more like that of the sorghum or Asiatic sugar-cane. Instead of growing straight up, as that does, the Egyptian corn always crooks at the head and turns down when maturing. The grains in shape and size bear some resemblance to broom-corn seed, but on crushing a grain it is found to be more of the nature of Indian corn than anything else. The seeds from which this corn is grown were taken from the wrappings of Egyptian mummies; and that they grew after being thus laid away for two thousand years shows that this variety of cereal possesses wonderful power of reproduction. It has been suggested that it might be found to advantage to replace barley for the use of maltsters and brewers. Doubtless the experiment will soon be made.

THANKSGIVING DAY.—The Washington Star says President Grant made his proclamation for the coming Thanksgiving Day early, that the Governors of States and Territories might have sufficient time to appoint the same day for the people under their respective local governments, so that all the Union could observe the same day, instead of there being several days observed in different parts of the country, as was the case last year.

EXCUSES.—The habit of imbibing strong drink is becoming deplorably prevalent among many otherwise good people hereabout. It is astonishing what miserable subterfuges a great many individuals resort to as excuses for going to take a drink. It is presumable that the excuses are prompted by the parties being half ashamed at doing what their better sense tells them is contrary to their professions. They might as well save themselves the trouble of attempting to apologize, and if they would only consider what they would think about such excuses when they proceeded from others they would cease making them, for but few people like to be considered hypocritical.

How many who pop into drinking saloons make worn out excuses such as these—

"I've got a bad cold."

"I can't very well stand this hot weather without a little stimulant."

"Really, I'm not in the habit of drinking, but I feel so chilly, a dram would do me good."

Another goes into the dram shop holding his jaw and says: "I've got the toothache, and a drink of liquor always eases me." This one takes enough to irrigate an acher.

"I take a little occasionally because I have to work so hard."—To help the matter this one drinks hard, and he soon becomes a hard case, wearing out the system by hard work and hard drinking.

"I'm bilious," says another, and he encourages that ailment by imbibing alcoholic poison.

Another says, "The water in this country doesn't agree with me."—But few people would agree with him in this argument.

"I'm bald," exclaims another, "and alcoholic beverages encourage a hirsute growth." If this be true, it is generally unknown.

Another drinks to drown sorrow, and he might as well drown himself.

"Here's a friend of mine, and we thought we would take a little for old acquaintance' sake." The friendship of these fellows requires "stimulating," or it will die out.

"I've got such a poor appetite, and can't eat anything till I take a drop, especially in the morning." This one keeps killing what little appetite he may have by creating a false one and ruining his digestive apparatus.

"I've got the rheumatics, and a little liquor helps me along." Of course it does—to his grave.

"I've got the gripes in my stomach," says another.

"I'm low spirited to-day." This one tries to keep his spirits up by pouring some down, and forgets the flatness of reaction when the influence of the liquor goes off; but perhaps he keeps adding more unnatural fuel before the steam has time to go down.

"I have so much walking to do, that I have to take a little occasionally to keep me going." Better keep his family going in food and clothing and avoid going into debt and ultimate physical prostration.

"I haven't sufficient exercise, having to stay behind the counter all day, and I need a drink or two to sustain me." Yes, and then if this one did not drink and chew tobacco, customers would think the counter was wide enough without them having to get into the middle of the store to keep clear of the fumes of his aromatic breath.

Many other subterfuges, apologies and excuses, daily resorted to, might be adduced, for their name is legion, but the above are sufficient as samples. They remind one of the anecdote of the schoolmaster who, on entering the schoolroom unawares, found a large number of the scholars puffing away at tobacco pipes. He catechized each one in his turn. All the little fellows had an excuse, but when it came to the last one he was in a bad fix. The others had exhausted the vocabulary of excuses. At last a brilliant idea struck him, there was one apology that none of the others had made, so he said he "smoked for corns."

Then there are the deodorizers used by whisky drinkers, to submerge the smell of the liquor, by taking something with a still stronger effluvia, of which cloves appear to be the favorite. Some resort to raw onions.

Drinking is one of the greatest evils that afflicts the human family, being the primary cause of innumerable crimes of every name and nature, and should therefore be avoided.

It brings untold misery, not only upon drunkards themselves, but upon thousands of innocent families, and the excuse often put forward that in drinking a man only injures himself is utterly and totally false. Therefore it should be avoided.

Drinking robs a man of his manhood, by taking away his reason, beclouding his mental and destroying his physical powers. Therefore it should be avoided.

If a man says he can take liquor or let it alone, then he is a fool if he doesn't let it alone.

A man may think he can drink moderately with impunity, but his reason should tell him that moderate drink creates and feeds an appetite for strong drink that will eventually enslave him if he does not quit, and he is apt to go down to the grave like a dog. Only think of the many examples illustrative of this.

Tipplers give the public too little credit for penetration. They think people do not know that they drink, and go on their way losing their characters for sobriety, and as a natural consequence for reliability, for however bright a drinking man may be, he is not a reliable man, for nothing is more treacherous in business than habitual dram drinking. Therefore, let one and all, old and young, avoid this debasing, soul-destroying vice.

—Truth enters the heart of a man when it is empty and clean and still; but when the mind is shaken with passions as with a storm, you can never hear the voice of the charmer, charm he never so wily.