

# The Camp Fire.

A. MONTHLY JOURNAL  
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF  
THE PROHIBITION CAUSE.

Edited by F. S. SPENCE

ADDRESS - - TORONTO, ONT.

Subscription, TWENTY-FIVE CENTS a Year.

NOTE.—It is proposed to make this the cheapest Temperance paper in the world, taking into consideration its size, the matter it contains and the price at which it is published.

Every friend of temperance is earnestly requested to assist in this effort by subscribing and by sending in facts or arguments that might be of interest or use to our workers.

The editor will be thankful for correspondence upon any topic connected with the temperance reform. Our limited space will compel condensation. No letter for publication should contain more than two hundred words—if shorter, still better.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1896.

**Do not hesitate to take this paper from the Post Office. If you have not paid for it in advance, some one else has done so for you, or it is sent you free.**

## THE PLEBISCITE.

It is not necessary to call attention to the vast importance to the prohibition movement of the announcement just made by the Dominion Government. A crisis of intense interest and importance has been reached in the history of our cause. Within a few months the people of this country will be face to face with the direct question of the Dominion Parliament, "Are you in favor of prohibition?" Behind that question will be the pledge to enact prohibitory legislation if an affirmative reply should be given. The whole matter is now in our own hands.

It is not necessary at this time to discuss the desirability or undesirability of a plebiscite. We have simply to face the most momentous responsibility that has yet to come to us in our work for the legal suppression of the liquor traffic. We cannot afford to lose a moment, an effort, a thought or a dollar upon any side issues or inconsequential details. The future of our cause for many years depends upon this response which the electorate will give the governmental interrogation. We must see to it that the people give a right response. The sentiment of our country is overwhelmingly in favour of prohibition. It is our duty to see that the electorate is stirred to give full expression to that sentiment. The value of the expression will depend upon its force. The magnitude of the majority to be recorded in favour of prohibition will be the measure of the power we shall have to compel speedy, thorough-going, effective legislation. It would be unfair to our cause to leave unpolled a single prohibition vote.

## THE PARLIAMENTARY BAR

One of the most encouraging evidences of the growth of prohibition sentiment and the influence exercised in the recent election by prohibition workers, is to be found in the prompt action of our legislators at Ottawa in reference to the House of Commons bar.

Men who meet to plan for the promotion of our countries welfare ought

not for a moment to encourage in any form an institution that is our country's cruellest curse. A bar for the sale of liquor should have no more place within the precincts of Parliament, than any other of the degrading and demoralizing institutions with which the Christian sentiment of this community is at war.

We hail this action on the part of the House of Commons as a sign of the times. We sincerely hope that the Senate in response to Hon. Mr. Vidal's challenge, will show itself also regardful of constituency, public interest and morality. The complete dislodgement of the liquor traffic from a position which it has long held to our country's discredit, will indeed be an evidence of progress for which we shall have a right to be profoundly grateful.

## THE COMING CONTEST.

Preparations are being already made for the great campaign. The duty of the hour is thorough organization. Little will probably be done in the way of active campaign canvassing until the plebiscite bill is passed. Meantime the different detachments of our army of workers must be recruited, drilled, and assigned to their respective positions. The hand to hand fight is not upon us, but the duty of preparation is pressing us now. Every Prohibition Club that can be formed, every Temperance Society that can be organized, every total abstinence pledge that can be secured, every temperance Sunday School lesson, every temperance sermon, every temperance tract, every temperance meeting, will be a factor in the fray. Every worker however humble, may help to win a glorious victory.

Instructions and advice regarding methods of work will shortly be published. They will suggest careful thought our plans of action. No one, however, should wait a moment before doing his whole immediate duty. We look for a campaign of agitation and education such as our country has never before experienced, and such as will result in a magnificent victory that will place us in our warfare against the liquor traffic far in advance of any position which we have hitherto occupied.

## THE TORONTO EXHIBITION.

The Exhibition which has just been closed in the City of Toronto, was a great Temperance lesson. It was characterized throughout by order, decorum, safety and respectability. In days gone by this same institution has been disgraced by liquor selling which this year was happily conspicuous by its entire absence. No signs of liquor selling were anywhere to be seen. The results were manifest in the sobriety of the many thousands which thronged the grounds. Too much credit cannot be given to the Exhibition authorities and the officers of the law whose firm position brought about this desirable result, giving to the world a splendid example of the remarkable beneficiary results of well enforced prohibitory legislation.

## Ripans Tabules.

Ripans Tabules cure nausea.  
Ripans Tabules: at druggists.  
Ripans Tabules cure dizziness.  
Ripans Tabules cure headache.  
Ripans Tabules cure dyspepsia.  
Ripans Tabules cure flatulence.  
Ripans Tabules assist digestion.  
Ripans Tabules cure bad breath.  
Ripans Tabules cure biliousness.  
Ripans Tabules: one gives relief.  
Ripans Tabules gentle cathartic.  
Ripans Tabules cure indigestion.  
Ripans Tabules cure torpid liver.  
Ripans Tabules cure constipation.

## A PLEBISCITE PROMISED.

### SPEECH OF THE PREMIER OF THE DOMINION.

Much importance attaches to the statement made by Hon. Mr. Laurier at the City of Ottawa on the 3rd inst., in reference to the proposed action of the Dominion Government in relation to the prohibition question. In order that our readers may know exactly what was said, we reproduce the First Minister's speech in full. It was as follows:—

I fully recognize the great importance of the meeting, and the delegation which I see before me, and of the object they have in view. I fully agree with every word spoken by Mr. Vidal and Mrs. Alexander as well, when they said that the cause of temperance was, perhaps, the greatest and most important in all civilized communities at the present time. (Cheers.)

I am glad to say, though perhaps you have not yet reached the point you are aiming at, that I can bear my testimony to the fact that the cause of temperance has made immense progress in the last twenty or twenty-five years. As a gratifying evidence I may tell you that as leader of the Opposition I have held no less than three hundred meetings in all parts of Canada, and I am here to bear witness that in all these meetings, with the exception of three, I never saw a man under the influence of liquor. (Cheers.)

Such a thing was impossible thirty or perhaps fifteen years ago. Let us hope that the leader of the Opposition twenty-five years hence will be able to bear the same testimony without making even three exceptions.

But what is temperance? We are here as practical men. You hold that it is absolute abstinence. Many people believe that temperance is moderation, and this we cannot forget. When the Liberal convention met here in 1893, having to deal, as we thought we had to deal, with the interests of our common country, we thought to have the opinion of the people properly tested so as to ascertain what the feeling of the country was, whether it should mean absolute abstinence, as you think, or moderation, as others think.

We thought the taking of a plebiscite the best way, and we decided to divest it of every other question which might more or less bias the judgment of the people. We thought it better to go even further than Sir Oliver Mowat's government went when it took a plebiscite in connection with municipal elections. We wished the question divested of every other consideration, so that we might have the judgment of the people on this question itself.

There are other views. The people of Canada are not a unit on the question of abstinence or moderation, and there are also local interests. Take the Province of Quebec, which has had a prohibitory law which dates back from 1804. Previous to Confederation, Municipal Councils were empowered, and are still empowered, to enact such prohibitory by-laws with the municipalities. There is no need to appeal to the people, but the Council itself has the right to enact a prohibitory law, and in some sections of the Province this power has been largely exercised. In the counties of Lotbiniere, Drummond, Arthabaska, Portneuf and Megantic, the sale of liquor under the sanction of law is almost unknown. In Arthabaska, out of eighteen municipalities, there has not been a drop of liquor sold under the law, or a single license issued, except in two. In Megantic, out of fourteen municipalities, my impression is that the same thing is true, except in one municipality. In Lotbiniere there is not a single license, and the same is true of Portneuf. (Cheers.)

It remains to be seen whether the people there are in favour of a change, and the plebiscite will show that. The plebiscite is part of the Liberal programme adopted at the convention of 1893. Our policy has been before the people who have pronounced upon it. It now becomes our duty to carry out our programme, and I say frankly it is our intention to do so. (Cheers.)

As to the time when it should be done, my answer is this:—It is the intention of the Liberal party to carry out to the letter every article of its programme, within the very shortest possible limit. There is no intention to delay. On the contrary, speaking even politically, it is perhaps the best policy of all to deal with the question

within the shortest time. It is not our intention this session, but I have every hope that next session, and not later, we shall introduce the legislation promised. (Loud cheers.)

This is a question in which the women are, perhaps more than the men, interested. Mrs. Alexander has not the right of suffrage, but all will admit that she could not influence the government of her country more if she had a vote than she can do simply speaking. (Cheers.)

## ANOTHER STEP.

### THE OTTAWA MEETING AND ITS RESULTS.

The deputation appointed to wait upon the Dominion Government carried out its instructions at Ottawa on the 3rd inst. There was a big gathering of representative prohibitionists in the Railway Committee Room of the House of Commons at half-past nine a.m. among those present being many members of Parliament.

Hon. A. Vidal, President of the Dominion Alliance, was elected chairman of the deputation; Dr. J. J. MacLaron, Q.C., President of the Ontario Alliance, Mr. J. R. Dougall, President of the Quebec Alliance, and Mrs. Alexander of the Ottawa W.C.T.U., were appointed to speak for their companions.

Hon. Wilfred Laurier, Hon. Sir Oliver Mowat, and Hon. Sydney Fisher, represented the Dominion Government.

Hon. Mr. Vidal introduced the prohibition speakers, all of whom were brief, pointed and effective in their addresses. Hon. Mr. Laurier replied, expressing his deep sympathy with the work of temperance reform, and his appreciation of the results that had been achieved. He went on to state that the taking of a plebiscite on the question of prohibition was a part of the Liberal programme. It was the duty of the government to carry out that programme, and it was their intention so to do. He hoped that legislation in this direction would be introduced at the next session of Parliament.

Mr. Fisher and Sir Oliver Mowat also spoke impressively, and were very cordially received.

After the members of the Government had retired, the following resolution, moved by Mr. Walter Paul of Montreal, and seconded by Mr. S. J. Carter, was unanimously adopted:—

"That this meeting having heard the statement of the Hon. Mr. Laurier, Premier of the Dominion, desires to express its satisfaction with his promise and calls upon temperance workers everywhere to get ready to give all the help possible, that when a plebiscite is taken, the temperance vote shall be successful."

## PARLIAMENTARY ACTION.

The Legislation Committee of the Dominion Alliance met in the Tower Room of the Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, shortly after the interview with the Dominion Government on September 3rd. Between thirty and forty members of Parliament were present, besides the officers of the Dominion Alliance and other members of the committee. Hon. A. Vidal, presided, and Mr. J. H. Carson acted as secretary.

The chairman announced that the House Committee of Parliament had resolved upon the abolition of the bar in the basement. A resolution was adopted asking the Senate to take similar action.

The resolution adopted by the deputation after hearing the Government's statement regarding the plebiscite was submitted to the meeting. After some discussion the following was adopted by a unanimous vote.

"Whereas, it is the government's declared intention to introduce legislation at the next session of parliament for taking a plebiscite on prohibition, we are therefore of the opinion that it would be undesirable to introduce any resolution at this session on the question."

## A PROSPEROUS CURSE.

The London *Daily Telegram* states that the past year has been an exceptionally prosperous one for brewers. The number of barrels of malt liquor on which duty was paid was 14,456,501, an increase of over a million barrels compared with the previous year. The statement is made that there is a marked increase in export trade to Egypt, South Africa and Australia.