

## 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, OCTOBER, 1901

### PUNISHMENT OF PERJURY.

The Prince Edward Island Advocate states that the Government of the Province intends to take vigorous action to secure the punishment of parties found guilty of perjury in connection with liquor cases.

This will be a step in the right direction. It is frequently stated that prohibitory laws are productive of perjury. No doubt there has been a good deal of false swearing by persons charged with offences against liquor laws, and some people have short sightedly attributed this crime to the law which it is used to defeat.

The real difficulty has been the laxness of the officials who have made little effort to secure the punishment of persons who were manifestly guilty of perjury in liquor cases. Men who are vile enough to swear falsely are often deterred from this wickedness by dread of the law.

There will be much perjury in connection with liquor cases if persons charged and witnesses heard are led to believe that they will not be punished for perjury committed in defence of violation of the liquor law, but will be severely dealt with if guilty of perjury in any other connection.

Encouragement to perjury is, however, not given by the liquor law, but the remissness of officials who ought in every case to do their utmost to suppress an evil so inherently great and so subversive of law and order in the community.

The Guardian commends the proposal of the Government to insist upon enforcement of the law against perjury, quoting the section of the criminal code which the Government proposes to vigorously enforce, and which is as follows:

Every one is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to fourteen years imprisonment who commits perjury or subordination of perjury.

### A STIRRING DEBATE.

At the recent meeting of the Provincial Synod of the Church of England, in Montreal, a strong attack on prohibition was made by Judge McDonald, of Brockville, who made himself famous as a member of the Royal Commission on the Liquor Traffic, by his bitter opposition to prohibition and his unfair treatment of witnesses who favored prohibition.

The Judge refrained from quoting any of the strong evidence submitted to the Commission showing the good results that had followed the suppression of the liquor traffic. He claimed that such laws were a failure, and went on to declare that no free people would consent to a prohibitory law.

The learned judge's extravagant remarks were even surpassed by the anarchistic declamation of Rev. Mr. Lewis, who was quoted as stating that he was unalterably opposed to prohibition, and was prepared to take up arms against it if necessary. No man or government had a right to say to him what he should eat, or drink, and the taking away of natural rights was the enslavement of men, and would leave life of no value and prevent the growth of strength of character.

The Rev. Mr. Lewis and some other speakers strongly supported the Gethseburg system, which was vigorously denounced by Mr. C. N. Vroom, who presented a formidable array of facts and arguments that this method of dealing with the liquor traffic had proved a failure, and that under it drunkenness had increased.

The debate was concluded by the adoption of the following resolution moved by Mr. N. W. Hoyles:

"That this synod, deploring the widespread evils of intemperance and recognizing the obstacles that it presents to all Christian effort, impresses most earnestly upon the clergy and laity the importance of studying and promoting all means of temperance and reform, and both by example and influence doing everything in their power to influence public opinion in the matter, and more especially urges the formation in every parish of this ecclesiastical province of branches of the Church of England Temperance Society, and also bringing pressure to bear upon the proper authorities to bring about a reduction in the number of licenses, and a more strict enforcement of the present licensing laws. And that this house respectfully memorialize the house of bishops to issue a pastoral on this subject to the Canadian Church in this ecclesiastical province, or to embody it in the pastoral to be issued by them at the close of this synod; such pastoral to be read in every church in this province on some Sunday to be appointed by the bishops."

### A METHOD THAT FAILS.

Some weeks ago a woman appeared before Magistrate Denison in the Toronto Police Court, charged with drunkenness, and the statement was made that she had previously been there on a similar charge exactly one hundred times. One hundred times the magistrate had passed judgment upon her case, and it looked as if she was likely to continue coming before him as long as physical strength would permit her to do so. What an absurdity it is to attempt to remedy inebriety by the common police court method of imposing a fine or an alternative imprisonment.

The Fredericton Religious Intelligencer recently reported and commented upon even a worse case of the same kind in the following terms: "At the age of sixty years, after having served 317 sentences on fines of \$5 to \$10, miserable Mary O'Brien died in the Cook County Infirmary, in Chicago, a victim of alcoholism. Arrested and sentenced 317 times for drunkenness! Think of it! And this was the best that this foremost Christian government of the twentieth century of the Christian era could do for a poor, rum-cursed woman! Somebody will have an awful claim to settle when the Son of man takes the judgment throne."

### THE RUSSIAN LIQUOR MONOPOLY.

The London Echo has been publishing a series of articles on the progress of the temperance reform in different parts of the world, and in a recent issue has discussed the Russian Government Monopoly of the sale of intoxicants. The Echo does not think that the new method will be of much value in reducing the evils of intemperance. It shows that the sale of liquor has increased, and quotes the statement of Mr. Raffalovitch before the British Royal Statistical Society that in four years the liquor revenue was increased from £29,000,000 to £32,000,000. This seems to indicate increased drinking. The Cabinet Minister who controls the traffic has proposed that attractive women shall be employed instead of the present bartenders. Other important aspects of the system are set out in the following paragraphs of The Echo's article:

"While vaunting its determination to check the deadly national proclivity to vodka drinking, the administration actually sent out a variety of instruction to the local authorities to facilitate in every possible manner the supply of intoxicating drink to the people. Furthermore, officialism is carefully graded in the system, so as to give the managers every incentive to push the sale of intoxicants. Promotion is conditioned on success in sales.

"The new kabaks, owned by the Tsar himself, are of three classes. The salary of the chief of a first-class public house is £30 a year, with free residence, fuel and light. The salaries for second and third-class managers are £27 and £12 a year respectively, with the same extra advantages. Promotion from one class to another entirely depends upon activity in selling.

"The very small remuneration allotted to a third-class manager of course spurs him on to constant efforts. Official salaries are small in Russia, as they well may be in a land where commodities are excessively cheap.

"For several generations a kind of local option has prevailed in Russia, owing to the peculiar communal system, which is the only democratic factor in the country. Many village mirs or communes have long possessed the privilege of allowing or interdicting the opening of a drink-shop. These have recently, in many cases, petitioned the Government to refrain from establishing a vodka shop in their parishes. No such request has been heeded.

"Some communes have begged that the Government drinkshops compulsorily established should at least be closed on Sundays, and on the recognized Feast Days. The Rural Board of Gdov supported its petition by pleading the sufferings of the population through the late famine. But the Imperial Council turned a deaf ear to this very reasonable prayer also. Even a famine-stricken district appealed in vain for exemption in so partial a degree from a system which must sorely deplete the poor resources of the peasantry. The Administration has had its reward. M. Raffalovitch is altogether inaccurate in his estimate in the increase of the excise revenue, which, according to him, is twenty-five millions of roubles, while the Minister of Finance, M. Witte, in his report, declares it to be no less than ninety-five millions. Government publichouses are immensely lucrative, but they are certainly not conducive of reform."

### A TEMPERANCE HOSPITAL.

#### TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The twenty-eight annual report of the London, (Eng.) Temperance Hospital has been issued. It covers the period of 1900, and states that during the year 1282 in-patients were admitted, being 72 fewer than in 1899. The cases cured were 851; relieved, 234; unrelieved, 80. The deaths were 117, of which no fewer than 32 occurred within twenty-four hours of admission. The death-rate is therefore 9.1 per cent., which may be regarded as moderate. Excluding morbid cases the death rate was 6.6 per cent.

From the opening of the Hospital in 1873, the in-patients have numbered 17,910, the cures have been 10,372, and the deaths 1290, giving the low death percentage of 7.2. The out-patients treated in 1900 were 8327, who made 21,015 visits. In 1899 the figures were 8328 and 22,043 respectively. The casualty patients in 1900 were 14,012, and their visits 32,361. In 1899 the figures were 12,545 and 30,656 respectively. Added together, the out-patients and casualty patients in 1900 numbered 22,339. These were new cases, the visits being 53,376.

It should be remembered that the London Temperance Hospital was founded in 1873 for the treatment of medical and surgical cases without the use of alcohol as ordinarily prescribed. It was provided, however, that the medical staff should be at liberty to administer alcohol when they deemed this to be needful. Every such case has been recorded. During the twenty-seven years of the Hospital's existence there have been forty-three such cases in a total of 17,910 in-patients.

Of the 17,910 in-patients admitted 7,496 have been abstainers, and 7662 non-abstainers—2752 being unclassified, and that number includes children. In all, 10,372 cures have been effected, 5422 patients have been relieved, 1290 died, and 826 were reported up to 1887 as "unrelieved."

Of the total of 1282 admitted in 1900, 170 were from country districts, one being from Scotland, one from Ireland, two from Wales, and two from the Channel Islands. There were 297 abstainers (132 males and 165 females). In 1900 seven patients were given alcohol, and only three recovered.

Subscriptions are asked on behalf of the hospital, and should be forwarded to the secretary, Mr. A. W. Bodger, London Temperance Hospital, Hampstead Road, London, N.W.—League Journal.

### ORGANIZATION DOES IT.

A few years ago the liquor people were powerless to prevent the sweep of temperance legislation, and politicians promised much.

To-day the liquor people are not half as numerous, and have not more than half as many customers; yet they can block all legislation in the lobby.

Should their influence grow as it has during the past twenty years, they will soon be able to carry any legislation they want.

And the worst of it is that they will be able to do it with temperance votes, for temperance men of both parties are ready to vote for whatever the party dictates.

These facts show how temperance loses strength as its numbers increase, and liquor gains power whilst losing in numbers. A few people banded firmly together carry more weight than a mass of people who cannot be trained to follow one leader or object, and who in most cases decline to take their places in organized ranks.—Royal Templar.

### MUNICIPAL REDUCTION OF LICENSES.

There has been another instance of the reduction of licenses by the Corporation of Hull in England. In the old town, and just outside the dock area, licensed premises are "as thick as blackberries," and the more temperate part of the population has for years complained that the facilities for obtaining drink were too great. In the demolition of old premises now being dealt with by the Hull Corporation, there is included a considerable quantity of licensed property, and the licensing magistrates have taken advantage of the opportunity to impress upon the Corporation the desirability of extinguishing all licenses acquired for public improvement. Notwithstanding that they are considerable losers by the transaction, the corporation have, as far as possible, endeavored to meet their views. Nine out of sixteen licenses have been extinguished.