

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, DECEMBER, 1897

ANTI-PROHIBITION.

The liquor men of Canada are making preparations for the coming campaign. Appreciating the value of literature, they will imitate the example of prohibitionists in the free circulation of campaign documents. In the Province of Quebec they have already in the field a handsomely printed weekly journal of sixteen pages to be called *The Licensed Victuallers' Gazette*, the initial number of which lies before us, and is full of matter interesting to the liquor traffic, and to our temperance friends.

The opening article of the *Gazette* is an appeal for support to persons engaged in the liquor traffic, "and all others who believe that justice should prevail." It is curious that the first sentence of the first paragraph of the first number of this journal should be a misrepresentation, stating as it does that the plebiscite is the result of a demand from the temperance people. The article, however, makes clear the fear entertained that prohibitionists will succeed in the coming campaign. The second article is extremely bitter in tone, denouncing prohibitionists, regretting the weakness of the government in yielding so far to them, and calling for union and organization to fight in behalf of the traffic. One of the lines of work recommended is set out as follows: "Let party politics take a rest until we obtain our rights, and support only such candidates or governments as are on our side."

On the second page is to be found a strong argument in favor of Sunday opening of saloons. Curiously enough, one of the arguments used is that there would be less drinking under the open saloons than is done at present in defiance of the law.

Under the heading "Who Should Pay for the Plebiscite?" the mistake is again made of charging this method of dealing with the liquor traffic upon the prohibitionists, and then urging that "the petitioners for a plebiscite should be compelled to bear the cost of the taking of it."

A feeble attempt is made to controvert some of the hard facts set out in the Alliance campaign leaflets. Dealing with the argument that many workingmen who are now idle because of their drinking habits, who under prohibition would be industrious and thrifty, the *Gazette* says:

"Undoubtedly this is a pleasant prospect for the general employers of labor. Wages would be down to rock bottom immediately, without increasing the population of the country by one. But how about the toilers who are now

competing in the labor market? The misery and suffering for those who could not leave the country would be terrible to contemplate. Therefore it must be manifest to the most disinterested. Such a cruel disturbance of the industrial forces will not be countenanced."

An article on Compensation gives us for the first time an intimation of the ideas of men interested in the liquor business as to what kind of claim they would present if their absurd proposal were to be considered. After stating that to attempt to put a prohibitory law into force without compensation would be worse than robbery, the *Gazette* says that the amount necessary to give "due compensation" to all concerned "would certainly double the debt of the Dominion." As the present public debt of Canada is in the neighborhood of \$260,000,000, we have here a suggestion that the compensation claims of the liquor traffickers would amount to that sum. The Royal Commission estimated the total capital invested in breweries, distilleries and malt houses, in real estate occupied by vendors of liquor, and in fixtures, etc., used by these vendors at \$74,588,953.

A full announcement is made regarding the Licensed Victuallers' Association of Montreal, which is to be composed hereafter of "distillers, brewers, wine and spirit dealers, cigar manufacturers, and firms in other branches having business connections with the trade." The membership fee for distillers is \$50, for brewers \$25, for wholesalers \$10, and all others \$5.

There are, as might be expected, forcible articles denouncing prohibition. Other items of interest to patrons of the journal are also plentifully supplied, such as instructions for the making of fancy drinks, advice to bar tenders as to how to treat customers, information relating to pugilism and the like. The *Gazette* is printed in both English and French, about one-half of it being in each language.

GETTING READY.

The Dominion Parliament is expected to meet in January. An appeal for the taking of a plebiscite will probably be one of the earliest measures submitted. It is anticipated that voting will take place shortly after the close of the session. In any case, it is now probably that 1898 will be the plebiscite year. The marvelously advanced position which the temperance cause has attained, the sentiment which has compelled Parliament to take the action indicated, is to a great extent the outcome of the earnest, faithful efforts that have been made during the past fifty years by the temperance societies whose operations in every corner of the Dominion have given us the generation of prohibition voters whose influence is telling so powerfully for good to-day.

The pioneers of the days gone by will be expected to do much of the hard fighting that is near at hand. Temperance societies will be expected to take the lead. More than this, those who will be as individuals, the most effective workers, are those who are stalwart teetotalers, pledged to total abstinence as well as favoring prohibitory legislation. We shall be strong in the coming contest in proportion to the numerical membership of active working total abstinence societies.

Every Temperance Lodge and every other similar society, will be a help. If we could fill the land with such organizations we would ensure

success. Building up our lodges, planning new ones, enlarging our membership, spreading our influence, is doing the best kind of work for the securing of a great victory against the liquor traffic.

With the utmost earnestness therefore, do we appeal to our temperance workers to strive as they have never striven before, for the strengthening and building up of their Orders at this time, thus making effective preparation for the great struggle that is fast approaching.

"If the money now worse than wasted in intoxicating liquors could be turned into the channels of honest trade, we should see such a revival in every department of trade that there would be such a demand for labor wages would go up, and a fair day's wage for a fair day's work would be within the reach of every reliable man."—*J. H. Raper.*

CAN'T DO IT.

It is about time that good people ceased their attempts to improve the liquor traffic. It is a hopeless task, as hard as trying to make an empty bag stand upright, or to determine just where is the best point to apply regeneration to a thoroughly bad egg. The one logical thing to do with the liquor traffic is to kill it.—*The Voice.*

"The Liquor Traffic is a great sin against God and a crime against Society. It inflicts more mischief upon the Nation, and more misery on the People than comes from all other evils combined. It is a great obstacle to the way of the progress of the Gospel, and while it continues the coming of Christ's kingdom is impossible."—*Neal Dow.*

WEIGHTY FRAGMENTS.

The drink habit and trade is one of the most subtle, ubiquitous, and destructive foes of the grace of God manifested in Christ Jesus the Son.—*Rev. Dr. John Clifford.*

Virtue must come from within; to this problem religion and morality must direct themselves. But vice may come from without; to hinder this is the care of the statesman.—*The late Prof. F. W. Newman.*

It is mere mockery to ask us to put down drunkenness by moral and religious means when the Legislature facilitates the multiplication of the incitements to intemperance on every hand.—*Cardinal Manning.*

My gall rises at the rich brewers, in Parliament and out of it, who plant these poison shops for the sale of their million-maiming trade, while probably their families are figuring away somewhere as refined philanthropists, devout evangelicals, or ritualists.—*George Eliot: Life and Letters.*

Let but all the pulpits speak out plainly the truth about the liquor traffic for a few years, and the power of the traffic would be broken, and the dread of it removed from the minds of statesmen. The cry to Parliament for the Direct Veto power would become too loud not to be obeyed, and prohibition would spread from district to district like a prairie fire.—*The Alliance News.*

"As well try to regulate a rattle-snake by holding it by the tail as to permit and then attempt to regulate the Liquor Traffic. The way to regulate a rattle-snake is to

kill it, smash its head,—its tail may live until gun-down, but it cannot bite. The way to regulate the Liquor Traffic is to kill its head—the Licensed Grog-Shop—the school of vice, crime, and political corruption."—*John B. Finch.*

CAMPAIGN LITERATURE.

TORONTO, 1897.

DEAR FRIEND,—

You are respectfully requested to carefully examine *The Camp Fire*, a neat four-page monthly Prohibition paper, full of bright, pointed, convenient facts and arguments; containing also a valuable summary of the latest news about our cause. It is just what is needed in the plebiscite campaign to inspire workers and make votes.

The contest upon which we are entering, will be largely a literature campaign. Printed matter tells. It does its work continuously, silently, fearlessly and well. No form of literature is so generally read and so potential as the up-to-date periodical. It comes with the force and interest of newness and life. For this reason the form of a monthly journal has been selected.

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