

The Camp Fire.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF
THE PROHIBITION CAUSE.

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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, APRIL, 1899

A DASTARDLY ATTEMPT.

When the late session of the Ontario Legislature was drawing near a close, a bill was introduced by Mr. German, of Welland, proposing to amend the Liquor License law so as to provide that liquor might be sold in hotels on Sundays to "bona fide travellers and lodgers."

This proposal, if carried out, would practically annihilate the law against selling liquor on Sunday. Any person who chose to take a room for a Sunday at a hotel, could purchase and distribute to his friends liquor as freely as he desired. Any person away from home could freely patronize the bar. In these days of bicycling any man who wanted a drink could become a bona fide traveller. Mr. German's plan would make Sunday a day of unlimited liquor selling and disgraceful debauchery.

The vigilant secretary of the Ontario License Holders' Association was on hand at the Parliament Buildings during most of the session. In all probability he was lobbying members and striving to exert influence in favor of the proposed outrage. The license holders had asked the Government to introduce legislation giving them more opportunities for selling liquor. Their request was not granted, so that they could only get their wishes before the House in a Bill introduced by a private member. The Bill introduced went far beyond what the Government was asked to promote.

There was no time to do much by way of stirring up public sentiment. The Bill was printed only a few days before adjournment. The Dominion Alliance promptly took hold of the matter, communicated with members of the Government and sent a strong personal letter to every Member of the Legislature, asking him to oppose this uncalled for and infamous attempt to practically repeal a law that has the endorsement of all good citizens. Leading friends of the cause in different parts of the Province were notified and responded by telegrams to Members of the Government and others, protesting against Mr. German's action in the strongest terms. The Bill did not come again before the House. No doubt the quick action of the Alliance had its influence. It is not likely, however, that the Legislature would have allowed itself to be made the tool of the liquor party as Mr. German desired it to be.

In the incident there is a warning. The liquor traffic is active and unscrupulous. It would sacrifice every institution and custom that our people prize, to increase its own profits and help it on in its selfish preying upon humanity. Only by eternal vigilance can we successfully cope with it.

THE WHINERS.

There are a few friends of the temperance cause whose faith in the movement seems to be very limited and weak. They are with us theoretically, and have the reputation of being on our side. They have however, so little contact with the practical part of our work that they know almost nothing of the strength of conviction that lies behind it. These half-hearted friends sometimes do us more harm than open foes. Claiming to be on our side, they minify our strength and magnify that of our opponents. When the Plebiscite was over, when we had won the greatest victory that the temperance cause has ever seen, when we were in a position of strength, enabling us to demand effective legislation against the cruel liquor curse, these whiners leaped to the front with cries of defeat. Instead of standing by the flag and fighting for principles that are right, they weakly avowed that we were beaten and invited the Government to rob us of the fruits of the victory we had won.

Our cause is based upon justice and benevolence. The liquor traffic has no rightful place in Christian civilization. To claim for it the right to exist until a majority of the people declare against it, is to drag morality down to the level of expediency and claim that a majority of votes can make evil lawful or good unlawful. The whiners go much further than this. They are continually seeking excuses for what is bad and throwing the weight of their influence on the side of wrong, while they claim to be leaders in what is right. Weak hearted allies are more dangerous than open foes.

A STRONG PROTEST.

THE GOVERNMENT DECISION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Prohibitionists are Insisting upon Their Rights.

The prohibitionists of the Dominion of Canada are united in refusing to accept the decision of the Government that no legislation is to follow the Plebiscite victory. Here and there a few weak-hearted adherents have taken sides with the Government and claim that our victory was a defeat. These, however, are rare exceptions. Unitedly and indignantly the loyal prohibitionists of Canada have denounced the injustice of the Government position, and repudiated the sophistry by which it is defended. We have only space to mention a few of the strong declarations that have been made.

The Executive Committee of the Council of the Dominion Alliance in a series of stirring resolutions reviews the history of the reform, expresses its strong dissatisfaction with the Government decision and calls upon Parliament to carry out the mandate of the people at the polls.

The Temperance Committee of the General Conference of the Methodist Church takes the same ground, criticises the unfair decision and calls upon the people's representatives to carry out the people's will.

The Annual Meeting of the Alliance Legislation Committee at Ottawa, made up mainly of Members of Parliament, by a large majority declares that Parliament should not ignore the demand made, and appoints a committee to plan parliamentary action in harmony with the majority vote.

The Ontario Provincial Grand Division Sons of Temperance declares that prohibitionists have as much right to the legislation they seek as the Members of Parliament have to the seats they occupy, and calls upon members of the Order to insist upon their rights.

The Ontario Provincial Woman's Christian Temperance Union endorses the action of the Alliance and refuses to accept the Government decision that nothing is to come out of the people's declaration against the liquor traffic.

The British Columbia Branch of the Dominion Alliance, expresses its views in a series of very strongly worded resolutions, pressing upon the Government and Parliament the duty unmistakably laid upon them by the mandate of the people, and urging immediate action in response thereto.

Resolutions by Churches, Presbyteries, Committees, Divisions, Lodges, Councils, Unions and all kinds of organizations, as well as strong personal letters, are pouring in upon the Members of Parliament. The temperance press is unanimous in its demand for legislation, and nearly all the religious newspapers of the country definitely take the position that the prohibition vote must not be ignored.

It is a time for decision and a time for action. Friends of the cause are earnestly urged to make their opinions known and their influence felt by letters to the press, by resolutions at meetings and by personal letters to their representatives in Parliament.

PROHIBITION AT OTTAWA.

The principal event in the history of the prohibition movement during the month of March, was the meeting of the Legislation Committee of the Dominion Alliance, which was held in the Railway Committee Room of the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa on March 22nd.

The attendance was remarkably large, about sixty Members of Parliament being present, besides the special members of the Committee appointed by the Dominion Alliance. Hon. A. Vidal, President of the Alliance, occupied the chair. Mr. J. H. Carson of Montreal acted as Secretary.

Mr. F. S. Spence at the request of the Chairman, gave a short outline of the history of the cause since last meeting, referring particularly to the refusal of the Government to introduce a prohibitory measure. He claimed that the vote polled by the prohibitionists was large enough to form a safe basis for effective legislation, this being especially the case in regard to that part of the Dominion outside the Province of Quebec. In this great territory the vote in favor of prohibition was a much larger percentage of the possible vote than what was polled in favor of the Government at the last general election.

Addresses were also made by Messrs G. Taylor, M.P.; T. B. Flint, M.P.; T. D. Craig, M.P.; Dr. P. McDonald, M.P.; Firman McClure, M.P.; A. Broder, M.P.; F. Oliver, M.P.; W. H. Orr and J. S. Carter.

On motion of Mr. McClure, seconded by Mr. Moore, the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas, in the opinion of this meeting the vote polled by the electors of Canada in favor of prohibition at the recent plebiscite was so large, and influential and parliament should not ignore the demand thereby made for prohibitory legislation, and whereas the government has declined to introduce and become responsible for such legislation, therefore resolved that a committee of seven be appointed by this meeting to decide upon a plan of action, whereby the views of those in favor of prohibition may be brought directly before parliament at this session."

The following were appointed a committee in accordance with the resolution. Hon. A. Vidal; Dr. T. Christie, M.P.; F. McClure, M.P.; G. W. Ganong, M.P.; T. B. Flint, M.P.; A. H. Moore, M.P. and James McMullen, M.P.

A SAMPLE OF DRINK'S DOINGS.

A Kingston despatch dated March 16th, tells of the death of a traveller in one of the hotels of that city. He was an apparently strong, healthy man, thirty-five years of age, but had been drinking so heavily as to be helpless. He was taken to his room by the hotel proprietor and found there dead next morning.

IMPORTANT.

TORONTO, 1899.

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 to **inspire workers and make votes**.

The victory won last year was only the opening of a campaign in which the liquor traffic will do its utmost to block, delay, and if possible prevent our securing the enactment and enforcement of prohibitory law. We have plenty of hard fighting ahead of us. We must keep posted and equipped, knowing all that is being done by our friends and foes, and sophistry and misrepresentation that will be advanced.

The Camp Fire will be one of the best aids you can have in the struggle. It will contain nothing but what you need. Every number ought to be preserved. You cannot afford to be without it, and the subscription price is only nominal, **Twenty-five cents per year**.

While a necessity to every prohibition worker the **The Camp Fire** will also be of special value for distribution. Literature won the plebiscite victory. We must keep up the educating work. Printed matter tells. It does its work continuously, silently, fearlessly, and 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.

This journal will be in every respect reliable and readable. Every article will be short, good and forcible, containing nothing sectional, sectarian or partizan. The literature of the old world and the new world will be ramsacked for the most helpful and effective material. The price is very low.

Such literature will convince many a man whom his neighbors cannot convince. It will talk to him quietly, in his own home, in his leisure moments, when he can listen uninterruptedly, when he cannot talk back and when the personality of the talker cannot interfere with the effect of the talk.

It will ply him with facts, arguments and appeals, that will influence, instruct and benefit him. It will set him thinking. This is half the battle. Its wide circulation will swell the victory that we are about to win. This is its object.

Your help is asked in this great work. *Every society* should subscribe for and distribute hundreds of copies. This is the easiest and surest plan of making prohibition votes. Look at the terms:

Twenty copies will be sent to any one address every month for six months, for ONE DOLLAR, payable in advance.

On no other plan can a small investment be made to produce so much of educative result. One hundred and twenty copies may be placed in as many homes, and have more than HALF A THOUSAND readers. One dollar will cover this placing of the claims of our cause before five hundred people. Ten dollars may reach FIVE THOUSAND. WILL YOU HELP US?

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