

# The Camp Fire

A. MONTHLY JOURNAL  
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF  
THE GOOD TEMPLAR ORDER.

Edited by F. S. SPENCE.

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Subscription, FIFTEEN CENTS a Year.

**NOTE.**—It is proposed to make "THE CAMP FIRE" 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, AUGUST, 1894.

## THE CAMP FIRE.

The majority of the Executive Committee of the Grand Lodge have approved the proposal by which Good Templars are to be furnished with THE CAMP FIRE on the special terms of which all deputies have been notified.

The Grand Executive has done its duty; now we want every Subordinate Lodge to take hold and help to give our paper a circulation that will make it really valuable to our cause and Order.

The object of the paper is to give help, information, and inspiration to prohibition and temperance workers.

In the carrying out of this work every member of the Order can render some assistance.

We want news from every part of the country, of all that is being done by our friends and our foes.

We want suggestions for improving THE CAMP FIRE and extending its circulation.

We want ideas and suggestions about temperance work, and Good Templar work, from every one who can furnish them.

We want a good list of subscribers from every locality in the Province of Ontario.

Some Lodges have already done nobly, and sent in encouraging lists of subscribers.

Among those who have helped in this practical fashion may be named: Dwight Lodge, of Muskoka; Paisley Lodge, Poole Lodge, Clinton Star Lodge and Cameron Lodge. We thank them very heartily.

Remember that this work is only a means to an end. That end is the good of our Order, and the helping of the work for the suppression of the cruel drink traffic.

We love the Good Templar Order simply because it has been found to be one of the most effective agencies for fighting the drink traffic and helping humanity.

What a mighty work the I. O. G. T. has done on these lines. That you may understand it more fully read carefully the article entitled "Our Circle of Unity," in another part of this paper.

Consider carefully the wonderful offer that has been made to Good Templar Lodges. See what it means to help the cause in your locality, and send us in a good list of subscribers.

Consider carefully the premium offer made last month for general lists of subscribers, bearing in mind that THE CAMP FIRE will be a missionary of good, and a friend of our Order in every home into which you can introduce it.

We want the help of every sister and brother to insure for our little paper the largest circulation of any temperance journal in the world.

Everywhere it goes it must do good. Your effort to circulate it will be missionary work. In it you will be blessed and will be a means of blessing.

## THE LIBERTY QUESTION.

The most dangerous errors are perversions of truths. A known fact or a sound principle is misrepresented as justifying some wrong proposition or proposal, and our favor for the right leads us to accept the wrong, if we do not carefully consider whether or not the known right has the alleged relationship to the other proposal or theory.

A good example of this sophistry is found in the statement that the personal liberty, which is desirable and right, would be unduly interfered with by a law prohibiting liquor-selling. As a matter of fact, in a community personal liberty can only be secured by just such restrictive legislation. A man's liberty to live at peace in his own house would be destroyed if a stronger man were given liberty to drive him out of it. True liberty can only be secured by the suppression of tyranny.

Liberty for that which is good can only be attained by restricting the liberty of that which is bad. Honest men can freely walk the streets in safety, because law prevents the dishonest man's interference with another's purse or life or character. Here law protects liberty by restricting liberty. You do not plead for freedom for the poisonous snakes in the grass on which your children play. You want no liberty for wild beasts or mad dogs about your home; but you protect your children's liberty by destroying what would interfere with its exercise. If the strong drink traffic hinders and counteracts the purifying and ennobling work of church, and school, and home, then you can have liberty for church, and school, and home only by destroying what militates against their success, hampers every step they take toward their noble, liberty already accomplished. We plead for prohibition in the sacred name of liberty.

Good and evil are eternally antagonistic, one can exist only at the other's expense, and FREEDOM FOR THE RIGHT MEANS SUPPRESSION OF THE WRONG; liberty for virtue means prison bars for crime; and when the grandest ideal of freedom prevails supreme, every man will have the right to do what he chooses, only as far as he chooses to do what is right.

## NEED FOR WORK.

The criminal statistics of the Dominion of Canada for the year 1893 have just been published. From this report we learn that in the year named there were 35,653 convictions for all offences. The able leader who stands at the head of the government of the Province of Ontario tells us that 75 per cent of our crime is due directly to intemperance. We have then to face the awful fact that last year we had about 25,000 crimes committed, of which strong drink was the cause.

It is easy to talk of convictions for crime caused by drink. The figures really give no idea of what lies behind them. Every step in the downward career of every one of these wrong-doers was a step that injured society, a step that crushed some heart. There is an awful record of ruined homes, and blighted lives, and wretched homes behind every one of these convictions.

In a Christian community, governed by so-called Christian laws, we have in operation a traffic, legally authorized, which is responsible for these terrible results. It is a sin against God, and a crime against humanity, to tolerate the nefarious licensing system.

All over the land to-day, women and men are organizing to fight this foe. Is there not need for all their efforts?

Is not their work worthy of encouragement? Should they not have the co-operation of every Christian, every friend of humanity? Earnestly we plead for recruits for the ranks of the great crusade of the 10th century.

## WHAT AN ORDER CAN DO.

The pulse of all Good Templars ought to be stirred in reading the magnificent record of achievements recorded in the article entitled "Our Circle of Unity," in this paper. We do well to be proud of the splendid organization that has accomplished such magnificent results, and that to-day yields so mighty an influence.

Let us not, however, live in the past. On our action to-day the future depends. Good Templary is good, Good Templary is strong, but it is, in Ontario, far short of what it ought to be. Let us do our duty by it, and we may soon bring it to a better position than it has ever occupied, and make it more powerful for good than it has ever been.

To every lodge, to every officer, to every member, to every friend of right, we appeal. Let us rally in a determined effort to make the very best use of the organization which has proved itself of so much value. By giving thought and effort to extending Good Templary, we will be working for the good of humanity, and hastening the coming of the day when the legalized liquor traffic will be a thing of the past.

## HOW WE HAVE BEEN TREATED.

The Dominion Parliament has treated the prohibition cause with scant courtesy. A resolution in favor of prohibition was introduced by the prohibitionists last session, but was side-tracked by a technicality. The Royal Commission voted for by Parliament in 1891 has not yet presented its report. The temperance cause has been most unfairly dealt with.

We must expect this treatment as long as we are ready to fall into party lines and vote for any candidate the machine may nominate. Both parties hang back from taking aggressive action. No doubt they fear the strong and wealthy liquor traffic. The leader of the Conservative party gives us no word of encouragement. The leader of the Liberal party has declared in favor of prohibition if a plebiscite should show that the people desire it. Provincial plebiscites have already shown an overwhelming public opinion in favor of prohibition, yet the Liberal party has not declared for the action demanded.

Temperance sentiment in Canada is strong, but so far it has failed to manifest itself in the electoral action which alone can compel legislation. Politicians recognizing this, shape their actions to please the liquor men, whom they fear, disregarding the temperance men of whom they have little dread.

It has been claimed that Canada is ripe for prohibition. We are ripe for it in the sense of needing it. We are ripe for it in the sense of desiring it. We have not shown ourselves ripe for it in the sense of being ready to make sacrifices for it. There is educating yet to be done; education of the conscience and the character, as well as education of the mind.

In action there is education. We will develop the needed independence by taking independent action. While we do it, let us not forget the need for all the work that can be done by every temperance organization, and that must be done still better before we can win.

## ELECTORAL ACTION.

The general election for the Parliament of Canada will be upon us very soon. That parliament has unchallenged power to put down the liquor traffic. Its action in reference to that traffic will be determined very largely by the actions of the voters in the coming election. By united effort we can return a parliament pledged to the immediate suppression of the liquor evil.

To accomplish this great end there must be organization. Prohibitionists must learn to work together. They must refrain from indulging in anything that will tend to divide the ranks. It is only by being united that they can win.

There are thousands of Conservatives who think more of temperance than they do of party. There are thousands of Reformers who care more for this cause than they do for any partisan consideration. Let us have confidence in each other, and show it by uniting in solemn determination to support only temperance candidates, to put principle before party, and demand the immediate enactment of prohibitory law.

The duty of temperance men, however, begins long before the day of election. It is their business to see that good candidates are in the field. They can only do this effectively by making themselves useful politicians, and at the same time making it distinctly understood that they are Prohibitionists first. Temperance people should be at their party's caucuses, assisting at the nomination of Prohibition candidates, letting it be distinctly understood that if their party fails to nominate the right man, that party must count upon their aggressive position, in favor of any candidate who is sound upon the great issue.

This action will compel the recognition of our cause on the part of politicians. If we stand firmly for the right we can secure the nomination of reliable men. To do this we must be willing to vote against the party we have hitherto supported, if such action is necessary to secure the election of a prohibitionist. We must be prepared to take part in nominating and supporting independent candidates where the candidates nominated by the parties are not up to the mark.

Now is the time for work. Now is the time for organization. Now is the time to go earnestly into politics with the firm determination to be prohibitionists before being partisans.

## A MODEL LODGE.

Open promptly at the appointed time. Omit nothing in the opening exercises required by the ritual.

Do the business of the lodge in a business way.

Make the initiatory ceremony what it is designed to be. The work is grand and impressive. Make it appear to the candidate that you are in earnest in the work.

Make your intermission ten minutes of real social enjoyment. Shake the hand of every brother and sister in the room.

Throw your very best energies and talent into the good of the order. Have a lodge paper to be read once a month. Change editors every three months. Don't fail to have lots of music. We forget sometimes the value of music. Its power for good cannot be estimated.

Close the lodge just before the members become tired, and this is perhaps the most important of all the rules.

Officers should commit the ritual. I wish such might be the requirement for eligibility to hold office. The work can very soon be committed and you would see very much more interest manifested, and the initiatory ceremony, instead of being a tiresome duty, would really become one of the most interesting of lodge exercises.—L. O. Miller, G.C.T. in I. Templar.