

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, AUGUST, 1900

PROVINCIAL PROHIBITION.

One of the most important deliverances of the Convention held in the Horticultural Pavilion at Toronto on July 17th was the following:

That while we can accept as final no legislation short of total prohibition, we believe that great good will result from the enactment and enforcement of laws similar to those recently passed in Manitoba and Prince Edward Island, and that a strong deputation be appointed to wait upon the Provincial Government to ask for the introduction into the Provincial Legislature at its next session, of a measure prohibiting the sale of liquor in the Province of Ontario up to the full measure of the power of the Legislature.

That the said deputation also wait upon the Leader of the Opposition asking a pledge from his party if they come into power that his party will grant legislation prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors, to the full extent of their power in the Province of Ontario.

These resolutions mean provincial prohibition. There is to be no lowering of the standard. There is to be no loitering on the way toward total national prohibition. That great object, however, is to be brought nearer by the suppression of the liquor traffic in the largest, wealthiest and most influential of the Provinces.

It is not likely that the Ontario Government and Legislature will refuse to accede to the request of the deputation. Hon. Sir Oliver Mowat committed his Government and the Liberal party to this policy. Hon. Mr. Hardy declared that there would be no going back. Hon. Mr. Ross, a life-long prohibitionist, cannot take any other position. Manitoba and Prince Edward Island have already taken the action proposed. We ought to have been ahead of them. We must now follow promptly in their steps.

A new campaign has already begun. There must be organization to make it effective in every part of the Province. Earnestly we call upon our friends to at once take steps to secure the uniting of all the moral forces of Ontario in a demand upon the Government for the legislation that it is reasonable to ask and expect.

THE JURISDICTION QUESTION.

In the year 1893 the Supreme Court of Canada at the request of the Dominion Government, considered a series of seven questions prepared by Sir Oliver Mowat and submitted for ascertaining the extent of the jurisdiction of a provincial legislature in the matter of the prohibition of the liquor traffic.

The first question enquired as to the power of a provincial legislature to prohibit liquor selling generally; the second question as to its power to prohibit selling in parts of the province in

which the Scott Act was not in force; the third as to its power to prohibit liquor manufacturing; the fourth as to its power to prohibit the importation of liquor; the fifth as to its power to prohibit retail liquor selling only; the sixth as to its power to prohibit liquor selling in quantities such as the Scott Act prohibited; and the seventh as to its power to pass the Ontario Local Option Act.

The decision of the Supreme Court was appealed to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council of Great Britain and the finding of the Judicial Committee is the latest decision on the question of jurisdiction.

The Lords of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council rendered a lengthy judgment dealing almost exclusively with the seventh question and sustaining the legislation referred to therein.

The judgment stated further that the argument upholding the Ontario Local Option Act contained a sufficient answer to questions one, two, five and six, and said also that a provincial legislature had no power to prohibit importation, but had power to prohibit manufacture so carried on as to make its prohibition a merely local matter in the province.

Condensed into summary form the judgment affirmed that a local legislature had absolute power to prohibit any liquor selling or manufacturing transaction that was a provincial matter, or that was completed within the limits of the province.

A careful reading of the decision will convince any unprejudiced inquirer that it affirms that a provincial legislature has power to prohibit any sale in the province, of liquor for consumption in the province.

No legal opinion of any weight has been given opposing this interpretation of the Privy Council finding.

Before the Ontario Government and Legislature had any opportunity to act in pursuance of the Privy Council's decision, Sir Oliver Mowat became Dominion Minister of Justice and Hon. A. S. Hardy took his place in the Ontario Government. Mr. Hardy took the position that the decision of the Privy Council was not definite enough to warrant him in promoting prohibitory legislation. He offered no argument, gave no reason, quoted no authority in support of this bare and indefinite statement, which is at variance with all other careful conclusions that have been made public.

Acting upon the advice of competent lawyers the Governments of Manitoba and Prince Edward Island have introduced and carried through their respective Legislatures measures prohibiting the sale of liquor.

It is not at all likely that Hon. Mr. Ross, himself a level-headed lawyer, will take any other view than that generally taken, of the Privy Council judgment. He is personally a friend of the prohibition cause. He will have the province of Ontario at his back in enacting legislation to the limit of the power which the Provincial Legislature possesses.

THE ALLIANCE CONVENTIONS.

The week beginning July 15th was a busy one with the prohibitionists of Toronto, the chief interest of course centering round the Conventions of Tuesday and Wednesday, at which aggressive action was resolved upon in relation to both the Dominion Parliament and the Provincial Legislatures. Proceedings were practically opened on Sunday afternoon by an unusually large and interesting mass meeting in the Horticultural Pavilion, the principal speaker at which was Rev. J. H. Hector, the well-known Black Knight, just returned from a four years'

tour in the old world. On Monday evening the Alliance Executive met a number of other temperance workers in the W. C. T. U. headquarters and consulted regarding the action to be taken during the two succeeding days.

On Tuesday about four hundred delegates from various parts of the province met in Convention in the Pavilion, heard a stirring address from the President, Rev. W. A. MacKay, D.D., and the Ontario Report of the Executive Committee, presented by Dr. J. J. MacLaren.

Various committees were appointed, a large number of resolutions were presented and referred, and the Convention adjourned to allow of the preparation of reports, the consideration of which was to be the afternoon's work.

The Convention reassembled in the afternoon, even more being present than at the morning session. Some of the reports presented were warmly debated and in some cases were amended. The actual conclusions arrived at may be summed up as follows:

The Dominion Government and Parliament were sternly denounced for their refusal to recognize and respond to the demand of the people as voiced in the Plebiscite of 1898, and the friends of temperance were earnestly urged to organize to secure the election of representatives who could be relied upon to support prohibitory legislation, and also for the purpose of obtaining from the Ontario Legislature a prohibitory law for the province.

While total national prohibition can alone be accepted as a final settlement of the liquor question, it is the duty of prohibitionists in Ontario to unite in a determined effort to secure the immediate enactment of a provincial law similar to those lately passed in Manitoba and Prince Edward Island.

Scientific temperance education should receive more prominence in public school work and any backward step in this direction must be strongly opposed. Canteens have been and are exceedingly mischievous, and the Minister of Militia is to be asked to see to the carrying out of the law prohibiting liquor selling at military camps. The Dominion Government is asked to prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale of cigarettes and the movement for the enfranchisement of women is cordially endorsed.

Very little change was made in the personnel of the officers of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance, Rev. W. A. MacKay, D.D., will be President for the ensuing year and most of his coadjutors will also retain their places.

The action taken at the meeting of the Alliance Council on Wednesday was a good deal on the same line as that approved by the Convention of the preceding day, the report adopted regarding political action going somewhat further than the deliverances of the provincial body. The Council called upon prohibitionists to unite to defeat at the polls the supporters of the Parmelee amendment. The officers of last year were re-elected.

A POLITICAL GOSPEL.

The ballot is the power of God to cast out national evil just as much as the gospel is the power to rescue sinners from everlasting perdition. If Christians have the power by ballot to destroy the saloon, the gambling den, the pool room, and refuse to exercise it, they have just as much denied the faith as if they refused to use the gospel in winning souls to Christ.—Christian Standard.

"By lookin' in de microscope," said Plodding Peter, "you learns dat every time you drinks water you puts a bunch o' wild an' wigglin' animals in yer stomach." "Yes," said Meandering Mike, "an' if you drinks whisky you has 'em in yer head."—Scottish Reformer.

IMPORTANT.

TORONTO, 1900.

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.

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