

THE CAMP FIRE.

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NOTES OF NEWS.

ABOUT THE GREAT LIQUOR CONFLICT.

The number of licenses issued in the Province of Ontario for the year ending May 1st, 1899 was eighty less than the number issued during the preceding license year.

The License Inspector for East Simcoe, Ont., is pushing enforcement work with much vigor. On February 16th, he succeeded in securing convictions in Orillia against M. J. Daly and T. H. Doncaster for having gambling machines on their licensed premises, and against James Haw and R. R. Cunningham for selling liquor during prohibited hours.

The *Religious Intelligencer*, of Fredericton, N.B., recently stated that Mr. F. J. Summerhayes of Toronto has been engaged by the organized liquor party of the Province of Ontario, to travel through the Province endeavoring to unite the friends of the traffic in a campaign to secure the election of men known to be opposed to prohibition.

A great banquet was recently tendered to Mr. W. J. Bryan, the famous Democratic leader, in the city of Dallas, Texas. There were present 1200 guests and no intoxicating liquor was furnished. The *Alliance News*, of Great Britain, reports forty-one mayors of English towns and cities who are known to be total abstinents.

The *Westminster Gazette* states that 5,000 of the English soldiers now serving in South Africa, are members of the Army Temperance Association. Lord Methuen is a member of the Council of this body, and Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener are enthusiastic advocates of temperance among the rank and file of the army.

An incident of the South African war was the wrecking of the British soldiers of one of their own trains which was in danger of falling into the hands of the enemy. Twenty-two thousand rations of rum were destroyed by the British guns.

All the Australasian colonies have had Sunday closing of licensed places for some time with the exception of South Australia where Sunday closing was only upon a local vote. This last colony has however, now passed an Act providing for entire Sunday closing.

Some temperance papers have been stating that there are five friends of prohibition in the Toronto City Council. There are really more than double that number who could be relied upon to vote for the total suppression of the liquor traffic.

A sad accident was reported in the city of Toronto last month. On Friday, 23rd, a man who had been drinking heavily for about a week, took an overdose of laudanum at his boarding house, and notwithstanding heroic efforts to resuscitate him, died a short time afterwards. He was thirty-five years of age and leaves a wife and two young children living in Montreal.

The same paper reporting the above catastrophe contained also an account of an awful crime committed in the city of Quebec on February 24th. A policeman named Cases who had been off duty for some days, and drinking heavily, got into a quarrel with his wife. In his drunken madness, he fired at her seven times with a revolver, killing her instantly. The murderer is twenty-eight years of age. The dead woman leaves two little children aged respectively six and eighteen months.

CAMPAIGN WORK.

Messrs. Duncan Marshall and Donald Gillies are campaigning in the northwest part of the Province of Ontario, organizing county and township Prohibition Associations and pushing the work of securing signatures to the 100,000 Voters' League. Toronto daily papers have recently reported the following organizations under the auspices of these gentlemen.

Melancthon Township, organized at Horning's Mills, after a rousing meeting in the Methodist Church. A good many signatures were received to the 100,000 voters' pledges. E. J. Coe, W. Lawrence, W. S. Murdy, and the Rev. Mr. Roach, were appointed a committee to further the work.

Sullivan township organized at Sharon, with a good list of names and a strong committee. Mr. A. Mills, Chairman; Thomas Cruickshanks, Secretary; T. Sutcliffe, W. E. Harper, J. E. Crawford, Executive Committee.

Lucknow Town, had a big meeting under Good Templar auspices. The District Lodge strongly endorsed the Voters' League plan.

Holland township was organized at Holland Centre, at a very strong and enthusiastic public meeting, addressed by Mr. William Hoey, President of Grey County Association; and Mr. M. Auger, ex-M.P.

These organizers report much interest excited and a large number of signatures to the Voters' Pledge. They believe that the work being done will have a great influence in the approaching Dominion elections.

SOWING WILL OATS.

Be on your guard, my friends, and you above all, my younger friends, against and utterly spurn that common and most deadly lie of the devil, that "you may have your fling"—that "youths must be youths"—"you must sow your wild oats." Oh, listen not to the devil's whisper, when he persuades you to gaze at, and think of, and pluck and eat the forbidden fruit, and says: "Ye shall not surely die; ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." All these are the devil's proverbs and devil's lies. Will you have them or will you have God's truth? These lies of his are against the whole experience of the world. Why does he plead with you so earnestly and seductively for just one sin? Why, but because he knows that the fish which will nibble at the hook will be caught by the hook; because he knows that all sins begin with one sin; because he knows that a boy's sin so often means a life's sin, a life's shame, and a life's destruction. Why does he persuade you that you may have your fling? Because he knows that the fling is so often a fling over a precipice; and that when a youth throws loose the reins of his soul's chariot and touches the wild steeds of passion with the spur of indulged appetite, the path is downhillward, and the pace is mad, and the end is headlong death. Why is he so anxious that you should sow your wild oats? Because he knows that if you believe him you will have to reap what you sow. Sow wild oats, and what shall the harvest be? You shall reap wild oats, barren, bitter poison which blight the wholesome soil. You are hungry, he says: gratify your lust, indulge your appetite; sell your birthright; what good shall this birthright do you? Sell it for this red, steaming mess of pottage! Aye, sell it; but then the birthright will be lost, and lost for ever; and your life be maimed, and long years after shall come the great and exceeding bitter cry; and though you may be forgiven at last, you will never in this life recover that lost birthright, though you seek it earnestly with tears.—Dean Farrar.

A GREAT OFFER.

READ CAREFULLY.

You need this paper. You will need it more and more as the prohibition fight gets hotter, and the 100,000 voters begin to get in their work. Read carefully what is said about it in column headed "Important" on page 4.

Although the price of the *CAMP FIRE*—**Twenty-five cents** per year—is very low, we have decided to make a special offer of premiums for subscriptions received during the months of February and March of the present year.

We have secured a line of interesting and attractive books which we propose to present to both old and new subscribers on the plan below set out. Those who are already on our list and send money to take advantage of this offer, may either have another paper sent them, or have their present subscription extended one year.

Each of the books named is among the very best of its class, the matter being selected with much care. Each contains 64 large double-column pages and is neatly bound in attractive paper covers. We will send a copy of any one of these books by itself on receipt of ten cents.

A DOUBLE PREMIUM.

For **Twenty-five cents** we will send *THE CAMP FIRE* for one year and any two books selected from the list.

THE WHOLE SET.

For **Fifty cents** we will send *THE CAMP FIRE* for one year and all six books.

A CLUB PLAN.

For **One Dollar** sent by any person for himself and three others, we will mail as above to each of the other three persons *THE CAMP FIRE* for a year and any two selected books, and will also mail to the sender of the money, *THE CAMP FIRE* for a year and **all six** of the books.

LIST OF PREMIUMS.

- 1. The Model Book of Dialogues.** A large and valuable collection of dialogues, dramatic and comic, suitable for public and private entertainments.
- 2. Famous Dialect Recitations.** A compendium of the most popular recitations in American, negro, German and other dialects. The cream of fifty of the ordinary recitation books. One of the best collections published.
- 3. Modern Entertainments.** A description of numerous forms of entertainment for evening companies, which have proved very successful everywhere, meeting the views of those who want to provide for evening parties without cards or dancing.
- 4. Fifteen Complete Novelettes.** A collection in one book of Novelettes by fifteen of the most famous authors of Europe and America. Extremely interesting in manner and diversified in style.
- 5. Famous Comic Recitations.** An entirely new book containing 110 of the best humorous recitations, as presented by the most famous elocutionists of the day.

6. A Cart Load of Fun. A lively book just published, containing 166 funny stories, anecdotes and jokes, by the most famous humorists of the age. A sure cure for the blues.

NOTE CAREFULLY.

This offer stands good only a short time. Those who are wise will avail themselves of it at once. It will positively close on March 31st. Address,

THE CAMP FIRE,
52 Confederation Life Bldg, Toronto.

AMERICAN CHRISTIANITY.

"There is an awful fuss made about a Cannibal eatin' a man now and then, makin' a good plain stew of him, or a roast, and that is the end of it; they eat up his flesh, but they don't make no pretensions to fry up his soul; they leave that free and pure, and it goes right up to heaven.

"But here in our Christian land, in city and country, this great man-eatin' trade costs the country over a billion dollars a year, and devours one hundred and twenty thousand men each year, and destroys the soul and mind first, before it tackles the body.

"They go as far ahead of Cannibals in this wickedness as eternity is longer than time.

"And the Government, this great beneficent Government that looks down with pity on uncivilized races—the Government of the United States sells and rents this man-eater and soul-destroyer at so much a year.

"If I had my way," sez I, a gittin' madder and madder the more I thought on't. "If I had my way, I'd bring out a hull drove of Cannibals and Hottentots, etc., and let 'em camp round Uncle Sam a spell, and try to reform him."

"And the first thing I would have 'em make that old man do would be to empty out his pockets, run 'em right inside out and empty out all the accursed gains he had got from this shameful traffic, and then I'd have them Cannibals jest trot that old man right 'round to every saloon and rum-hole he had rented and wuz a partner in the proceeds and make him lay to and empty out every barrel and hoghead of whisky and beer and cider and make him do the luggin' and liftin' his own self.

"And then I'd let them Hottentots drive him 'round a spell to all the houses of infamy in which he wuz in partnership, and I'd make him haul some matches out of his pockets and set fire to 'em and burn 'em all down, every one of 'em.

"And then I'd let the old man set down and rest a spell and let them heathens instruct him and teach him a spell their way of man-eatin'. And I'll bet after a while they could get the old man up to their level, so if he sot out to kill a man he would jest kill him, and not destroy his soul first. For he hain't upon a level with 'em now, sez I, a lookin' firm and decided at my partner.

"And he sez, 'I shouldn't think you would last to talk so about Uncle Sam; you have always pretended to like him—you would never bear to hear a word agin him.'

"Wall, sez I, 'it is because I like him that I want him to do right. Do you spozz a mother don't like a child when she spansk him for temper, or blisters him for croup, or gives him wormwood for worms?'

"I love that old man and wish him awful well, and when I see him so noble and sot up in lots of things, it jest makes me mad as a hen to see him so awful mean and little to others."—Samantha at the World's Fair.

Christians cannot manufacture, sell, or use ardent spirits without sin and infamy.—Nathaniel Hewitt, D.D.