

The Camp Fire.

A. MONTHLY JOURNAL OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE PROHIBITION CAUSE.

Edited by F. S. SPENCE

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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, 1901

DRINK CONSUMPTION IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Statistical tables recently published by the British Board of Trade give interesting information concerning the production and consumption of intoxicating liquors. The figures quoted are in most cases for the year 1900, but returns concerning some countries have only been received for 1899. In the consumption of wine, France leads all other nations, using more than twenty-five gallons per head per annum, while the United Kingdom surpasses all other great nations in the consumption of beer. The Southern German States, however, surpass Great Britain in this particular. Bavaria drinking fifty-four gallons per capita.

In nearly all cases there has been an increased per capita consumption in recent years. The quantities consumed annually per capita, in gallons, by four great nations are as follows:—

	Wine.	Beer.	Spirits
United Kingdom	.39	31.70	1.12
United States	.33	13.50	1.06
France	25.10	6.20	2.02
Germany	1.15	27.50	1.91

DOMINION W. C. T. U.

The annual meeting of the Dominion Women's Christian Temperance Union held at Montreal last month, was a gathering of very great interest, presided over by Mrs. A. O. Rutherford. All the sessions were well attended and characterized by much earnestness and enthusiasm. A feature of the convention was a masterly address delivered by Mrs. Leonora Lake, Vice President of the Catholic Total Abstinence Union of America, who spoke to great mass meetings in the St. James Street Methodist Church and the Victoria Armory Hall. In these she made earnest appeals for co-operation in the warfare of the women against the drink habit and the liquor traffic.

Reports by the Superintendents of different departments were exhaustive and encouraging. The continued lawless sale of liquor in militia canteens was strongly denounced. The Gothenburg system of liquor traffic control came in for a good deal of denunciation and special attention was given to the matters of scientific temperance teaching, the anti-cigarette movement and the effort to secure the franchise for women.

The principal officers elected for the coming year were the following: President, Mrs. Rutherford, Toronto; vice-president, Miss Dougall, Montreal; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Bascom, Toronto; recording secretary, Mrs. McLachlan, Montreal; treasurer, Mrs. Odell, Ottawa.

IN KANSAS.

Prohibition enforcement is being pushed in Kansas. An investigation made by Mr. T. E. Stevens, of Topeka, shows that there are ninety-two cities in the State in which there are no joints and only little and occasional boot-legging. In a few cities sale goes on with the connivance of the local officers, but in most cases where prohibition is not thoroughly enforced, the lawlessness is carried on surreptitiously and under very precarious conditions.

NOTES OF NEWS

ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF OUR CAUSE.

WHAT OUR FRIENDS AND FOES ARE DOING

A SOBER CITY COUNCIL.

No fewer than thirty-six, out of the seventy-five, members who were recently elected to Glasgow City Council are personal abstainers.

GERMANY'S DRINK BILL.

Recent German statistics indicate an enormous increase in the consumption of strong drink. English papers have reported the speech of the chairman at a meeting recently held at Breslau, who stated that the German Empire now spends £150,000,000 per year on drink, and only £600,000,000 on food. The total per capita consumption of liquor of all kinds is equal to about ten quarts of pure alcohol. This is an average for the whole population. There must be a tremendous consumption by some individuals.

BOGUS REFORM.

The New Voice of Chicago vigorously exposes the absurd statement that the civic administration of Chicago has made any important change in the fearful conditions of immorality that exist in that city. The New Voice points out that all the change made is simply the moving of some of the worst dens of infamy to other localities and states that in three blocks of the city there are now sixty-two saloons, some of them with the vilest accompaniments, being in excess of the number in the same locality before.

WANTS IT LOADED.

At the meeting of the Montreal Licensed Victuallers' Association held on Wednesday, Dec. 4th, an address was delivered by Mr. L. A. Wilson on the situation resulting from the Privy Council decision. Mr. Wilson is willing to have the question of prohibition decided by legislation, subject to a vote of the people, provided it is enacted that the law must not come into operation unless voted for by a majority of the electors on the voters' list. It is not likely that any government would assent to such a ridiculously unjust proposition.

EXPENDITURE ON DRINK AND FOR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES.

Mr. Andrew Morris, of the United Kingdom Alliance, has prepared a very interesting statement relating to the drink expenditure of Great Britain and comparing the same with the total amount of money devoted to religious work. The drink bill of the United Kingdom for 1900 is estimated at £160,891,718, while careful calculations show that the total revenue of all the religious bodies amounts to only about £25,000,000. It will thus be seen that the national drink bill is six times as great as the sum raised for all religious purposes.

A MAYOR GONE WRONG

A good deal of excitement has been stirred up over the conviction of the Mayor of Ottawa for buying liquor after hours. No doubt the action taken was the result of petty spite against his worship, who, however, should not have been in the position of being open to such an attack. There is a sad lack of respect for government when the chief magistrate of a community seems to feel no compunction about violating law himself and inducing others to do it as well. The conviction of Mr. Morris unseats him from the mayoralty and disqualifies him for re-election for two years.

NO TEMPERANCE TEACHING

While nearly every Province of Canada rejoices in the practical operation of legislation providing for scientific temperance teaching in public schools, it is strange to notice that such instruction is not even permitted in public schools of Great Britain. A communication was lately received by the Liverpool School Board from the National Board of Education, stating that the Board cannot permit of temperance lectures being

given as a subject of secular education, and that such lectures cannot, therefore, be given during school hours in any public elementary school.

IN MAINE.

Frank Ford, a Portland saloon-keeper, who has been driven out of business by the vigorous enforcement of the prohibitory law, has tried a new line of business. Pretending to be able to bribe the officers of the law, he persuaded ten other would-be sellers to pay him seventy-five dollars each per month, promising them protection for raids in return for this payment. His trick was found out by the enforcing officers, who raided the ten joints and succeeded in arresting six of the keepers, with evidence of their offence. The jointists are now wild with Ford for the way in which they have been cheated.

PROGRESS IN QUEBEC.

Quebec prohibitionists are much pleased over the decision of the Provincial Government that no more wholesale or bottlers' licenses should be granted in prohibitory municipalities. This statement was made to a large and influential delegation that waited upon the Government on November 25th. Its importance will be understood when it is remembered that there are nearly 600 municipalities in the Province of Quebec in which no licenses are granted, and that recently commissioners had claimed authority to issue bottlers' licenses under the Provincial law to take effect in these municipalities.

MUST PAY THE BILL.

The licence law of South Dakota prohibits the sale of liquor to inebriates, and holds liquor sellers liable for damage resulting from violation of the law. A drunkard named Garrigan at Deer Rapids recently committed suicide, while intoxicated. His widow entered suit against the liquor dealers who had supplied him with drink. One case has been tried and Mrs. Garrigan has been awarded \$1,800 damages against saloon keeper Samuel Kennedy.

NOVA SCOTIA S OF T.

The fifty-fourth annual session of Nova Scotia Grand Division Sons of Temperance held recently at Halifax, was well attended and full of interest. The decision of the Privy Council had not been received when the Grand Division met, so that no action was taken to secure the benefits of the power thereby declared to exist in Provincial Legislatures. The Grand Division, however, declared emphatically in favor of all practical, aggressive, measures and called for co-operation in the Alliance movement to secure an enlargement of the scope of the Canada Temperance Act and the removal of defects which made that measure difficult of enforcement where it is in operation.

A STRONG STATEMENT.

January 26th, 1902, is temperance Sunday with the English Churches of Great Britain. The Bishop of Liverpool has addressed a letter to his clergy, calling upon them to take advantage of this opportunity to make a special crusade against the liquor traffic. He says: "The public conscience is becoming more and more awkward to the guilt, the shame, and the misery of the sin of drunkenness. On all sides, judges, magistrates, members of Parliament, coroners, medical men, and ministers of religion are lifting up their voice against it. The National Church, which is bound to resist every national evil, and to encourage every social reform, must take the lead in this momentous matter, and must help to mould the public opinion of the country in favor of temperance. Supineness on her part means fatal neglect of duty, and swift and just punishment in the near future."

ONTARIO SONS IN SESSION.

The fifty-third annual session of the Ontario Grand Division Sons of Temperance was held at Brampton on December 4th and 5th. The attendance was unusually large, and the proceedings were of intense interest. The encouraging report of the Grand Scribe showed a substantial increase in membership. Among

other resolutions adopted, was a series of strong statements regarding the prohibition cause, expressing regret that no general legislation was likely to follow the Dominion Plebiscite, rejoicing in the Privy Council decision that Provinces had the right to prohibit liquor selling within their territorial limits and calling for a fulfilment of the Provincial Government pledge to enact legislation for Ontario similar to that which was passed by the Manitoba Legislature and has now been confirmed by the highest judicial tribunal of the realm.

LEGISLATION IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The annual report of the United Kingdom Alliance Executive Committee contains a great deal of interesting information regarding the past year's history of the prohibition reform in Great Britain. Among other interesting matter is a detailed list of 23 bills which were introduced into the House of Commons, and seven which were introduced into the House of Lords during last session of Parliament, affecting the traffic in intoxicating liquor. Of the three of these bills which became law, one was the Revenue Bill; another was for the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquor to children, and a third was for the continuance of expiring laws which extended the act preventing liquor selling on Sunday in Ireland. This vast amount of attempted legislation is strong evidence of the earnest desire for some better legislation to prevent the evils that result from legalized liquor selling.

A PROHIBITION CONSTITUTION.

At its last session the Northwest Territories' Legislature adopted a resolution in favor of government control of the liquor traffic. Many people think this action very strange in view of the fact that in the Dominion Plebiscite the Territories declared for prohibition by a vote of 6,238 to 2,824, thus recording a net majority of 3,414 for prohibition out of a total vote of 9,062. It is expected that a Province or Provinces will speedily be established for a large part of the territory now under a temporary form of Government, and the Alberta Plaindealer contends forcibly for the submission of the question of Provincial prohibition to the electors before the Dominion Parliament passes the Act establishing Provincial institutions, so that, if the people so desire, prohibition may be embodied in the Dominion legislation and thus become a part of the new Provincial constitution.

TEMPERANCE IN THE BRITISH ARMY

A comparison of the statistics affecting the longevity of abstainers and non-abstainers which several insurance societies furnish, is sometimes objected to on the ground that the other conditions of life, apart from abstinence, may be a powerful factor in determining the health and consequent longevity of the members. There is something in the objection; yet the same conclusions are obtained under circumstances entirely free from the objection raised. There can be no fairer trial than that which arises in the daily life of the soldiers in the British army. The men have the same duties to perform, the same hours, the same food, the same exposure, etc., and the only difference is that some are abstainers and that some are not. What are the facts as to the health of these two sections of the regiment? The average admission to hospital of members of seven regiments of the British army in India give the following wonderful differences. The average number of admissions, omitting decimals, of abstainers and non-abstainers was as follows:—

Regiment.	Abstainers.	Non-Abstain.
No. 1	33	96
No. 2	37	47
No. 3	84	126
No. 4	86	152
No. 5	39	72
No. 6	34	88
No. 7	30	68

It will thus be seen that in the seven regiments the average admissions into hospitals were 49 among abstainers, and 92 among non-abstainers.