

# THE CAMP FIRE

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## AROUND THE WORLD.

The *Christian World* makes the gratifying announcement that one in every six of the Royal Navy is now a total abstainer, and that one-half of the boys in the training ship are pledged.

On Saturday, January 7th a drunken man was arrested in Montreal suffering severely from a heavy debauch, from the effects of which he died in the police cells. His age was twenty-four.

Near Winnipeg, Man., two Indians who had been drinking heavily were burned to death in their wig-wam on January 1st. It is believed that their helpless and drunken condition was the cause of the accident.

The temperance cause suffered a serious loss on January 2nd in the death of Mr. James Baylis, late Treasurer of the Quebec Alliance, and one of the most zealous and enthusiastic prohibitionists of the province.

A bill providing for the re-submission of prohibition to a vote of the people was overwhelmingly defeated in the Kansas House of Representatives. It is not likely that this splendid Act will ever be repealed.

In the city of Galesburg, Ill., on petition of a large number of influential citizens, the Council has decided to submit the question of licenses to a popular vote, and on February 14th, the electors will decide whether prohibition or license is to prevail hereafter.

There is a bill before the United States Congress providing for the repeal of the prohibitory law at present in force in the Territory of Alaska, and substituting for it a license law in which the fee is fixed at \$500. Rev. W. F. Crafts is at Washington working hard against the proposed change.

At Yamaska, Que., on January 8th, a violent quarrel occurred between a twelve year old boy and his father, both of them being badly intoxicated. In the fight the child was struck a terrible blow on the head with a heavy bottle, inflicting such injuries that it is almost impossible for him to recover.

The liquor forces laid heavy siege to the Vermont Legislature which has recently adjourned. They claimed to have control of sufficient members to repeal the prohibitory law, but they were badly beaten. A bill in favor of license, and a bill for a vote on the repeal of prohibition were both ignominiously defeated.

It is announced that the British Columbia Government has decided to entirely prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquor in the mining district of Atlin. Commissioner Graham who has been sent to this Territory with very extensive jurisdiction, has expressed his opinion that it is easier to keep out liquor than to keep up jails.

The United Temperance Prize Competitions Committee, of England, issued 3,000 free silver medals during the past year, to local temperance, religious and other organizations. In each case the award was made to the best essayist, vocalist or speaker in a public competition. The same good work will be pushed on during the present year.

At the recent meeting of ladies held in Hampstead, Eng., Canon Wilberforce called attention to the recent enormous increase in drunkenness. He said that the Registrar General's reports showed that among men deaths from intemperance during thirty years, had increased by fifty-eight per cent, and deaths among women by one hundred per cent.

## ORGANIZATION.

It is expected that the prohibitionists in the different parts of Canada will keep up the electoral district and county organizations which were so effective in the recent campaign. There is much hard, earnest work ahead of us in the near future. The Prohibition question is a political one in Canada to an extent that it has not hitherto been.

The details of any legislation to be enacted will be of the utmost importance. These details will be settled by members of Parliament whose action will be largely influenced by the attitude of their constituents. The battle will not be won when a prohibitory law is enacted. The work of enforcement must follow the work of legislation. The fight has only begun.

It is desirable that there should be not merely a union of prohibition forces in each county or constituency, but that there should be in every locality a definite organization that can when needful, rally round it the united support of all the churches, temperance societies and other bodies that are opposed to the liquor traffic.

Such an organization will not be a rival to any existing society. It is rather the legislative committee of the whole, not holding weekly meetings but having ready, officers and an executive committee, and forming a nucleus round which all our forces will rally when the time comes for work. It will also provide regularly appointed officers upon whom will rest the responsibility for initiating action when necessary.

Many communications have already come to the Alliance Office asking for rules or constitution for local organization. It will be easy for experienced temperance workers in any place to draft a scheme that will suit the necessities of their own locality. For the aid of those who desire suggestions the following draft is submitted, being one that was widely used in the plebiscite campaign as well as in other contests in different parts of the Dominion.

### SUGGESTED CONSTITUTION FOR LOCAL LEAGUES.

(NOTE.—The words printed in italics are to be changed to suit the necessities or views of the workers in different localities.)

#### 1. NAME.

This organization shall be known as the *Waterville Prohibition League*.

#### 2. OBJECTS.

The object of the *League* shall be to call forth and direct an enlightened public opinion to procure the total suppression of the traffic in intoxicating beverages.

#### 3. METHODS.

With this object in view the *League* shall work for the adoption and enforcement of all available prohibitions and limitations of the liquor traffic, and the election to all legislative and executive positions of representatives who are known, avowed and reliable supporters of the principle and methods of the *League*, and the declaration through the ballot box of the people's desire for total prohibition.

#### 4. MEMBERSHIP.

Persons of good moral character who reside or vote in the municipality shall be eligible for membership.

Persons desiring to join the *League* may be proposed at any regular meeting, and a two-third vote will be necessary to elect them. They shall then become members on signing the following:

#### Declaration.

We, the undersigned, approve of the objects and methods of the *Waterville Prohibition League*, and agree to work together in promotion of the same in accordance with the constitution of the said *League*.

#### 5. FEES.

The membership fee shall be *twenty-five* cents per year, payable in advance.

#### 6. OFFICERS.

The officers of this Society shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. They shall be elected yearly at the annual meeting, and shall hold office for one year, and until their successors are elected.

#### 7. COMMITTEES.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers named and *nine* other persons elected at the same time. This committee shall meet at the call of the President and Secretary.

Other standing or special committees may be appointed from time to time as the *League* may deem necessary or advisable.

#### 8 MEETINGS.

The annual meeting of the *League* will be held the *First Tuesday* of the month of *October*. Other meetings will be held at the call of the Executive Committee. *Nine* members shall form a quorum for the transaction of business.

If at the annual meeting of the *League* there are not present sufficient members to form a quorum, then the next meeting at which there are present enough members to form a quorum shall be considered the annual meeting;

#### 9. BY-LAWS.

The *League* may enact any By-Laws or adopt any order of business deemed necessary for the carrying out of its objects or the transaction of its business.

#### 10. AMENDMENTS.

These rules shall be amended only by a two-third vote of the members present at a regularly called meeting of the Society.

## MORAL EVIL AND LEGISLATION.

The purpose of the Prohibitionists is not to make men moral, but to place the government on the side of morality instead of on the side of immorality. The sale of alcoholic liquor is a nuisance; it is the business of the government to suppress nuisances. It is a constant menace to peace and order; it is the government's business (recognized as such on election days and other occasions) to remove all such menaces. It is a constant and inevitable breeder of crime; it is the government's duty to remove notorious causes of crime, as well as to dispose of the results of those causes. It is a constant cause of increased taxation; it is the government's duty to protect property from the imposition of needless and useless burdens. Finally, it is a business in direct contradiction to the purposes of government, and its work is a perpetual danger to the success of republican institutions, dependent, as they are, upon the virtue and intelligence of the citizens. For all these reasons, political and economical as well as moral, we urge that the government, so far as its power and influence extend, shall

be placed on the right side instead of on the wrong side; shall refuse to countenance and protect the public traffic in liquor, its barter and sale; shall, in other words, assume the same attitude toward alcoholic poisons that it assumes toward other poisons— forbid its sale except for medicinal purposes.

Whether or not this would result immediately in the extirpation of the moral evils incident to the liquor traffic, is another question. We have no idea that it would. But it would add a tremendous influence to the right side and remove one from the wrong side.

Put this question to a man who is splitting hairs over the subject: Could you conscientiously run a saloon yourself? and you begin to undermine his objections at once. Why, on moral grounds, should a man refuse? Can any reason for his refusal be given that would not be an equally good reason for his refusal, as a citizen, to participate in sustaining the saloon and sharing in its guilty gains? It does not seem to us that there can be. Every man who would have conscientious scruples against going behind a bar and serving out liquor ought to have conscientious scruples against voting to license and authorize any one else to do it, and against remaining a member of any organization, social or political, a club or a party, that makes itself responsible for such a business.—*The New Voice*.

## FEDERATION.

The next step in reform work seems to be federation. The Methodist church of Canada has furnished a valuable precedent in appointing a permanent national committee on moral reform. The Christian Citizenship Convention, which met in Washington recently, and in which were represented twenty-one reform bodies, voted to constitute the signers of the call and the speakers a *pro tempore* National Federation of reforms to hold another convention, in which such organization should be more fully matured. Best of all, as a step to be initiated, six denominations of Wisconsin, at their regular state meetings for 1898, each appointed an official delegate to federate the churches of that state for reform work, which was done in convention on November 17. The state societies invited to join with them include the W.C.T.U., the Anti-Saloon League, the Sunday Rest Association and the Good Templars; also church denominations which have not acted officially, including the Roman Catholics. Pending an official local federation, let any church or society invite all other organizations devoted wholly or in part to moral reforms to unite in a study of reform problems. A more exact knowledge of evils and of practical remedies is the first essential to social betterment.—*Union Signal*.

## DRIVEN OUT.

Thirty-three liquor-dealers are fugitives in New York State from Vermont, where they were in danger of trial and imprisonment for pursuing that traffic. Governor Black refuses to honor a requisition from the Vermont Governor, on the ground that liquor selling is not a crime in New York. Judge Thompson, of the Supreme Court of Vermont, holding county court in Rutland county, has arranged to keep the court in continuous session until next March. The effect of this will be to keep the fugitives from returning to their homes unless they are prepared to take the risk of imprisonment.