

# THE CAMP FIRE.

A Monthly Record and Advocate of the Temperance Reform.

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## BOTH SIDES.

WHAT OUR FRIENDS AND FOES ARE DOING.

NOTES OF NEWS FROM THE FIGHTING LINE.

### What it Costs.

Dr. Dawson Burns has prepared his usual annual statement of the liquor bills of England, Ireland and Scotland. He estimates that the total outlay upon drink is 162,163,474 pounds sterling, being an increase of 7,682,540 pounds over the drink bill of 1898.

### One of Many.

A melancholy case was reported to the police in Toronto on Sunday, April 5th. Mrs. Kate Ruby, a woman of about forty-five years of age, of very dissolute habits, was found dead in her home on Pearl St. beside a jug half full of intoxicating liquor. It was believed that she died of alcohol poisoning.

### A Very Good Work.

The report of the British Army Temperance Association for 1898 shows that during that year, the Association in India has 18,663 members, all of whom were soldiers. The total number of soldiers outside the Association was 48,842. The punishment for insubordination among the members of the Association were 741 and among the non-members 4,509.

### A Wise Ruler.

The Emperor Menelek, of Abyssinia, has issued a decree prohibiting the importation of distilled spirits into his country from Europe. This is in striking contrast with the action of the European rulers of African territory which derive large revenues from duties on intoxicating liquors, which liquors are working fearful ruin among the native population.

### A Failure.

The *New Voice* calls attention to the utter failure of the famous Raines High License Law of New York State. Special attention is given to the city of Syracuse in which representatives of *The Voice* visited sixteen saloons on Sunday and found all open and selling liquor freely. Two of them belonged to city Aldermen. In a number of the saloons illegal gambling machines were in full operation.

### Prince Edward Island.

The Charlottetown, P.E.I., *Guardian* which for some time has been advocating the enactment of a prohibitory law for the Province of Prince Edward Island, says in a recent issue: "It is now the boast of the Manitoba prohibitionists that their Province will carry the banner and lead the procession for Provincial Prohibition. We shall always feel that Prince Edward Island ought to have taken and held that place, but failing that we shall still hope that the lesson of events in Manitoba will not be lost upon our public men here, and that if not first in the race the Island may still be a very close second."

### Prohibition Works.

The city of Salem, Mass., publishes a report of the arrests for drunkenness made in the year 1899, during which time prohibition was in operation. The number is 270. In 1898 under license, the number of arrests for drunkenness was 1,147.

A statement is also made regarding the city of Waltham which is also under prohibition. The total arrests for drunkenness under prohibition in 1898-9 was 443. The total number of arrests under license for 1895-6 was 1,629.

### Getting Worse.

The Leeds *Mercury* recently discussed the great increase of the drink habit on the European continent, mentioning the case of a German youth who won a wager by drinking seventy five large glasses of beer at a sitting. It also states that the French are now regarded as being more addicted to alcohol than either German, Dutch or English. Out of 1,000 patients examined in a Paris hospital, seventy per cent of the men and thirty-one per cent of the women were practically hopeless victims of inebriety.

### Per Capita Consumption.

A British parliamentary paper compiled by Sir Courtney Boyle shows the production and consumption of alcoholic beverages in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, United States and British Colonies from 1885 to 1898. Canada stands at the head of the list in point of sobriety. Leaving out fermented liquors and taking spirits alone, it is found that France and Germany consume nearly two gallons per head of the population, the United Kingdom and the United States about one gallon per head, and Canada less than seven-tenths of a gallon.

### The Gothenburg System.

Among the startling statements reported by Mr. W. E. Johnson as the result of his recent investigation of the Company System in Sweden and Norway, are the following: Since the establishment of the Companies, the number of paupers per 1,000 of the population has increased fifty per cent. The number of convictions for drunkenness has nearly doubled, the cases of delirium tremens have more than trebled. Mr. Johnson gives the number of arrests for drinking in the city of Gothenburg for 1898 as 6,883, the population was 129,151.

### Rowdyism Rampant.

The Town Council of Summerside, P.E.I., has lately taken vigorous measures to secure the enforcement of the Canada Temperance Act to the satisfaction of order loving citizens. The would-be liquor sellers have resented this action by smashing valuable windows in a place of business occupied by some of the most active friends of the temperance cause. It is to be hoped that the Council which refused to permit lawbreaking in liquor selling will be able to detect and punish the scoundrels who resort to such treacherous and revengeful methods of showing their disappointment.

### Liquor Men Win.

A vigorous fight has just been concluded in the riding of East Simcoe between the friends of the temperance cause and the Board of License Commissioners. The question at issue was the granting of a second license to take effect in village of Hillsdale with a population of 400. A strong deputation of prominent residents of the neighborhood urged the Commissioners to refrain from unnecessarily increasing the number of places permitted to sell liquor, but their efforts were unavailing. At a time when licenses are being diminished in obedience to public opinion, it is regrettable to find Commissioners who will use their position to secure an extension of the liquor business.

### A Good Convention.

The Prince Edward Island Branch of the Dominion Alliance held its annual meeting at Charlottetown on April 12th, presided over by Mr. J. K. Ross. Encouraging reports were presented relating to the enforcement of the Scott Act in different parts of the Province. Strongly worded resolutions were adopted declaring in favor of total national prohibition as the most effectual

remedy for the drink evil, disapproving of all legal protection for the traffic, calling upon Parliament to enact prohibition for the provinces that voted in favor of it, demanding repeal of the law licensing liquor selling in Charlottetown, and urging the enactment of provincial prohibition. John Anderson, of Kensington was elected President, A. W. Tanton, of Charlottetown, Secretary, and A. W. Sterns, Treasurer.

### PROHIBITION IN PARLIAMENT.

On Monday, April 23rd the long expected prohibition debate was opened in the Dominion Parliament by Mr. F. B. Flint, who moved the resolution of which he had given notice. Mr. Flint stated that the motion was made at the request of the Dominion Alliance, and made a strong argument in favor of the reasonable proposal that prohibition should be enacted for those provinces which had given very large majorities in its favor.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. A. C. Bell of Prince Edward Island who endorsed the proposal as a reasonable compromise. He warned the Government not to ignore the situation, as he felt confident the electorate would hold their representatives to account for any failure to carry out the implied promise which had been given. He believed that inaction would result in turning many supporters of the Government into opponents.

Mr. F. McClure moved an amendment declaring that Parliament was prepared to promote legislation prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicants for beverage purposes. He favored prohibition for the whole Dominion as against Mr. Flint's plan for the places which had voted in favor of it. He charged the Government with having failed to do its duty, but considered that the opposition had been equally guilty. He did not think the Dominion Alliance represented public opinion in the line it advocated, and was certain that the people of the Maritime Provinces would not support Mr. Flint's proposal.

Dr. T. Christie stated that in his opinion it was imperative, that some policy should be formulated to carry out the will of the people as expressed at the polls by a large majority in favor of prohibition in every province but one. He believed that prohibition would prove itself so successful that Quebec would see the advantage of that policy and fall into line, thus securing prohibition throughout the whole Dominion.

Mr. T. D. Craig believed that the plan of Mr. Flint's resolution would make matters worse that they are at present, and that legislation such as was proposed could never be enforced. He said that the proposal was a plan to get the government out of a hole. He made a long argument to prove that the resolution was a political movement in the interests of the Liberal party.

Mr. R. Holmes declared himself in favor of the total prohibition of the liquor traffic.

Dr. P. McDonald supported the Flint resolution. He did not think that the time had come for the enactment of total prohibition, but believed the traffic ought to be prohibited where the people so desired.

Mr. George Taylor read a resolution passed by a temperance society in his constituency criticising the Government's policy. He stated that the Dominion Alliance was run in the Government interest.

Mr. G. W. Ganong followed up Mr. Taylor's line of argument stating that Mr. Flint was acting as an apologist for the Government and that the resolution was a farce.

Mr. C. H. Parmelee argued that temperance legislation had gone in Canada, fully as fast as public opinion. He stated that the vote in Quebec had been honest and above board, and was more nearly

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an expression of the real public opinion than was the result in any other province. He went into the question of percentages of votes polled to show that there was not a strong enough public opinion in favor of prohibition to secure the enforcement of a thorough going law. In conclusion he moved an amendment stating that for the reasons which he had set out, a prohibitory law should not be enacted at present.

Mr. A. H. Moore made a strong attack upon the Government, which he said had deceived its own followers, and declared his intention of voting, if at all, in favor of Mr. McClure's amendment.

Mr. James McMullen declared his adherence to the Flint resolution which he believed was reasonable and right.

Mr. F. Oliver also favored the Flint resolution and stated that he believed that the question of prohibition was one that could be much more effectively dealt with on provincial lines.

Mr. John Charlton believed in prohibition, but did not consider that the majority in the plebiscite was large enough to warrant legislation. He feared that a law enacted now would be a dead letter and bring disaster to the temperance cause.

Dr. J. G. Rutherford declared himself a practical prohibitionist. He favored the policy of giving the provinces the legislation which the electors had voted for, and stated that he would support the Flint resolution.

Mr. George Casey believed that the Government was justified in refusing to introduce a prohibitory law in view of the small vote polled in the plebiscite. He declared himself a supporter of Mr. Parmelee's amendment.

Mr. D. Henderson represented a county (Halton) which was sound on the prohibition question. He had personally been a supporter of prohibition and was prepared to vote for a prohibitory law.

Mr. J. Godbout moved the adjournment of the debate. Mr. Flint objected to this course as likely to shelve the matter. Mr. Foster urged the Government to promise that an opportunity would be afforded for a thorough discussion of the questions and a division upon them. In reply, the Premier promised to favorably consider the advisability of having the question definitely dealt with during the present session of Parliament.