

THE CAMP FIRE.

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Every one who receives this paper is respectfully requested to read every part of it carefully. It is a journal that no Canadian temperance worker can afford to be without. The subscription price is almost insignificant. In the impending campaign for better legislation in Ontario it will be of intense interest and great value.

DRUNKENNESS IN LONDON.

The sixty-sixth Annual Report of the London, (Eng.) City Mission is in itself a tremendous argument in favor of temperance and prohibition. Among the strong statements contained in the forcible document are the following:—

“Drunkenness is the chief evil which stands in the way of moral and religious progress. Were this hydra-headed monster slain, the misery and sorrow experienced by the poor and industrial classes would, to a large extent, disappear. It is the conviction of not a few of those who are in a position to judge, that nine-tenths of the poverty, crime and vice are traceable to this one besetting sin. Many thousands of men and women are daily sacrificing character, home comforts, health, and present and eternal happiness through yielding to a craving desire for intoxicating liquors.

Whatever the improvement of the people may be in other respects, it would seem indubitable that their drinking habits are growing. The Churches supported by Christian and Temperance Societies, have made strenuous efforts to stem the advancing tide, and with considerable success. Many thousands of drunkards are yearly reclaimed, and tens of thousands of the young men are protected from danger by joining Bands of Hope; yet the evil grows notwithstanding.

The manufacture of drunkards proceeds more rapidly than their reclamation, and according to the report of the Commissioner of Police, the number of persons apprehended for drunkenness and for drunken and disorderly conduct during 1899, in the streets of London, was no less than 56,066, or 8,469 per 1,000 of the population—a greater proportion than have been arrested since the year 1853.

The Committee regret to add that, as has been the case during the past few years, the missionaries in many districts are unanimous in their testimony that this increase is more observable amongst women than amongst men, and that in the weaker sex the effect of indulgence is far more serious in its consequences. A missionary writes: ‘In thirty minutes I saw seventy-four persons enter a public-house in my district. Of these, sixty-five were women, most of whom had children with them.’”

THE FIGHT IN FRANCE.

The fight against drunkenness in France is beset with difficulties. We draw attention to two of them, as it is not probably understood by our readers under what conditions the temperance worker finds himself.

First, then, there is practically free trade in strong drink in France. Since the year 1881, all restriction concerning

the trade in alcoholic drink has been removed, and now there is no more difficulty in retailing all kinds of intoxicants than there is in selling milk or lemonade, so that we find drink-shops of all kinds increasing in number with fearful rapidity.

Not only do the number of wineshops, restaurants and cabarets of all descriptions abound, but the green-grocer, the coal-seller, and the chemist, even, retail ardent spirits and made-up wines of various kinds; all poisons under disguised names. For women who do not care to be seen entering a wine-shop or cafe, the milk and butter sellers obligingly provide a little ‘bar,’ where, behind a protecting screen, the housewife or servant can discreetly take her ‘petit verre’ without attracting attention!

Secondly, private distilling is allowed, under certain conditions. That is, every one who owns any land can distil, for personal use, thirty litres (quarts) of alcohol annually, from wine and cider, or from plums, cherries, etc. This is called the privilege of ‘bouilleurs de cru.’ Needless to say, that the thirty quarts ‘for personal use’ are largely exceeded, and thus there is a great quantity of alcohol annually distilled, paying no duty, and ignored by the customs.

To effect a reform in the spread of drunkenness, therefore, this privilege must be abolished. But . . . those holding the privilege, and they count by hundreds of thousands, are electors! and the hundreds of thousands who are manufacturing and retailing alcohol are also electors! And seeing that there is now in France a drinking place for every twenty electors it is easy to see that the prospects of temperance work are not cheering.

The following table showing the amount of alcohol consumed in the principal countries of Europe, America, and in Canada, has been compiled by calculating the quantity of alcohol contained in wine, beer, cider, and in the various distilled drinks used, and adding these together. It is evident that the result thus obtained is only approximate.

	Litres per head at 100
1. France	14.
2. Belgium	10.05
3. Germany	10.05
4. Great Britain	9.25
5. Denmark	8.25
6. Switzerland	7.05
7. Italy	6.60
8. Holland	6.25
9. United States	6.10
10. Russia	6.
11. Sweden	4.50
12. Norway	3.
13. Canada	2.

—MCALL MISSIONS QUARTERLY.

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

NOTES OF NEWS CONCERNING OUR CAUSE.

An Inebriate Home.

General Booth of the Salvation Army has purchased an extensive building in Essex County, Eng., in which inebriates are to be cared for and medically treated under the British Inebriates' Act. He expects to have this great undertaking in operation in a very short time.

Well Done, Baptists!

At a recent meeting of the British Baptist's Total Abstinence Society, a report was submitted showing that the membership now includes 1,853 Baptist clergymen, and that of the theological students in the nine Baptist Colleges, numbering 201, all are reported as being total abstainers.

Always Some Poison.

The British Commission appointed to inquire into the use of arsenic in brewing, reported that with the use of certain materials now employed in the brewing business, the presence of some arsenic is unavoidable. A recommendation will probably be made that a standard test be established, defining the quantity of arsenic which is to be recorded as unlawful.

Murdered Through Drink.

Evidence brought out at a coroner's inquest at Albany, N.Y., goes to show that the soldiers employed in the maintaining of order during the late street car strikes in that city, were at times in a disgraceful condition of intoxication, and that the death of the citizen who was shot by soldiers resulted from this shameful condition of the men who committed the murder.

Successful Enforcement.

Reports from Portland, Me., continue to give evidence of the effectiveness of law enforcement under Sheriff Pearson's administration. The law-breakers who strive to carry on the liquor selling business are driven to strong and sometimes disgusting methods of concealing their stocks. In one case the liquor was kept in bottles in a cellar so disgustingly dirty that an attempt to search it made the officials deathly sick.

Drinking Did it

Dr. J. B. Skeen, Medical Superintendent of the Kirkland Asylum of the Lunark and Govan Lunacy District, says in his recent annual report that of recent admissions to the asylum, alcoholism accounts for twenty out of seventy-seven cases in which the cause was ascertained. Of course, it must be remembered that these figures do not include cases of insanity caused by troubles that are directly attributable to strong drink. They merely refer to cases in which drinking was the direct cause of the insanity.

Sound Doctrine.

The Annual Convention of the Baptist body in the Maritime Provinces, held at Moncton in August, adopted a very strong report on the temperance question. The principal recommendations approved were for amendment of the

Canada Temperance Act, the pledging of voters to withhold votes from men who would not support temperance legislation, the taking by temperance men of a more active part in political affairs and an extension of the work of education and agitation of pastors and laymen.

No More Bar Maids.

The Bengal Government has issued orders making it a condition in regard to all licenses for hotels and drinking saloons that no women shall be employed in connection with the bars in any capacity. Some discretion is to be left to the Commissioner of Police with regard to bar maids that have been brought out from England to act in that capacity, and some of them may be allowed to retain their position till the time of their agreement has expired. The employment of all other bar maids is to end immediately.

A Good Move.

In Great Britain much good seems to have resulted from the establishment by County Councils of reformatories for habitual drunkards under the Inebriates' Act. One of the difficulties met with in the management of these institutions is that a small percentage of the patients are so exceedingly difficult of management that their conduct interferes with the discipline of the homes. The London County Council has memorialized the Government to establish State Reformatories for these cases, and the Home Secretary has stated that accommodation for them will shortly be ready.

Wonderful Progress.

We have noticed already the splendid record made last year by the Independent Order of Rechabites. The following table, compiled by the High Secretary, shows the growth of this wonderfully successful temperance society, taking the statistics of membership at intervals of ten years for the last thirty years.

Year	Adults	Juveniles	Totals
1871	17,715	5,504	23,219
1881	35,500	18,724	54,224
1891	97,563	58,470	146,033
1901	168,780	190,257	269,037

Methodists and Temperance.

A discussion upon temperance was probably the most stirring debate that took place during the great Methodist Ecumenical Conference in City Road Chapel, London, Eng., last week. One of the liveliest speeches was that of Rev. Dr. A. B. Leonard, of New York, whose stirring remarks made strikingly manifest the difference between the position of the Methodist churches of North America and those of Great Britain.

Dr. Leonard said that the church which he represented laid it down that the complete local prohibition of strong drink was the first duty of civil government. He was a little surprised that their Wesleyan friends on this side of the water were debating the question as to whether a liquor dealer could hold office in the church. The mere raising of such a question as that in America would be regarded as a very strange procedure. They had gone far beyond that. They struck at the very root of the whole matter, and said that no man should be a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church who drank liquor or manufactured or sold it. The drink habit and the drink traffic were Siamese twins, and could not be separated without the destruction of both. To effectually close the saloon in America on Sundays they must abolish it altogether. The saloon in his country was the hotbed of political corruption, and the politician avoided the temperance crusade.