

The Camp Fire.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF
THE PROHIBITION CAUSE.

Edited by F. S. SPENCE
ADDRESS - TORONTO, ONT.

Subscription, TWENTY-FIVE CENTS a Year.

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, JUNE, 1898

THE WAY THEY FIGHT.

There has been placed in the hands of the Editor of the CAMP FIRE a copy of a circular dated at Walkerville, printed on a letter-heading advertising the famous Hiram Walker & Sons' distillery. It was addressed to a prominent benevolent society that is doing a great and useful work, and which has received some financial aid from the firm of H. Walker & Sons. It is reasonable to assume that copies of this document have been sent to many other similar organizations. Omitting the extensive letter-heading, with its great list of liquor agencies, the circular reads as follows:

Walkerville, April 2nd, 1898.

Dear Sir,—The impending vote on the question of total prohibition brings us face to face with the possible destruction of our business. Should the Plebiscite favor such a radical measure all our resources will be required for self-defence.

Under these circumstances it is but natural and prudent that we should husband our resources as long as the danger threatens. Therefore, we feel compelled to discontinue entirely, for the time being, the subscriptions which we have been accustomed to give to numerous charitable and other objects throughout the Dominion.

We take this step with sincere regret, and only from the conviction that we are menaced as never before with the confiscation of all that we possess.

Yours very truly,

Hiram Walker & Sons, Limited.

No comment on this remarkable document is needed. It throws a strong light upon the character and methods of the liquor traffic, and simply emphasises many of the charges that have been made and proved against that heartless, lawless and debauching institution.

ONE THING NOW.

Without entering at all into the merits of the agitation against Lady Henry Somerset's occupying the position of President of the World's W.C.T.U., which agitation is troubling our earnest White Ribbon friends in some parts of the country, we respectfully submit for their consideration one important fact.

We are in the heat of a fight. The bugle has been sounded for an immediate advance. Our forces are rapidly taking their places in battle formation. There is no time for expenditure of energy on anything that is not of essential importance in the imminent struggle. Even if it be admitted, for the sake of argument, that one important position in the army might be better filled, we must still

face the fact that no friend of the cause would for a moment think of stopping to deal with such an issue while the enemy's fire is upon us and the field is ringing with our battle cry.

The Plebiscite is on. Other questions, other issues must be dealt with at some other time. No true soldier will to-day be found anywhere except behind the banner of authorized leadership, or doing anything else than his or her utmost to win a victory over the common foe. When this crisis is past, when we have won or lost, when the immediate desperate struggle at close quarters is over, then we may pause to review our organization and methods. If there are explanations or charges to be made the time for them will then have come; but we cannot now afford to have a page of paper, a cent of outlay, or an hour of thought spent on anything that could to any extent divide our forces, divert the attention of our workers or weaken the mutual confidence and zeal of our great army. Such action would be so absolutely advantageous to our foes, and so harmful to our cause, that we have no fear that anything of the sort will take place among the loyal women who have been our best advisors, our bravest fighters, and our most self-sacrificing supporters, in every battle that we have fought.

ABSOLUTE WASTE.

When we quote the estimate of the Royal Commission that \$30,879,854 is actually paid by the consumers for liquor, and claim that the country as a whole is also to that extent a loser, we are sometimes met by the shortsighted statement that this money is not destroyed, that it remains, circulates, that though some are poorer others are richer, and the general welfare is not impaired.

It takes no keen knowledge of economics to demolish this absurdity. The liquor consumers have toiled for the production of the wealth which their money represents. If they pay that money for clothing, food, houses, fuel or other necessities or luxuries they receive value for their money. The producers of these articles have the cash, the consumers have the goods, and the community possesses the wealth represented by both, or double the amount which the purchasers have invested.

If on the other hand the money is spent in drinking; while the liquor vendors may have the amount of money named, the liquor consumers have *absolutely nothing* to show for their investment, and there is in the possession of consumers and dealers, on the whole, only one-half the wealth that existed when the money was otherwise invested.

Money cannot be spent upon strong drink without being as much wasted, as absolutely destroyed, as if that amount of money or goods were buried forever in the bottom of the sea, or as if the money were spent in purchasing articles of value and committing them to the flames.

EDUCATION.

It is to be sincerely hoped that prohibition workers will not lose sight of the fact that the present conflict gives us a magnificent opportunity of educating public opinion.

Even if polling arrangements in any place are so perfect that every vote favorable to our cause will be brought out, still we must agitate. Even those who are not with us, many who are indifferent, will at this time of excitement give to the temperance cause attention and thought that they have

never spent upon it before. Every meeting, every sermon, every leaflet is doubled in power and effect to-day. Good seed will find lodgment during this contest that will bear fruit long after the fight is over.

It is in times like these that men grow socially, intellectually and morally. The advanced position of public opinion in Canada is largely because we have had so many hand-to-hand conflicts with the enemy, so many local option campaigns, so many license reduction struggles, plebiscites and other events that centered public thought upon this great theme. The opportunity is given us again. Let us be true to it, and whether we win or lose, the Plebiscite will leave us stronger far than it found us, and therefore definitely nearer the absolutely certain overthrow of the liquor traffic.

THE JULY CONVENTIONS.

The annual meeting of the Council of the Dominion Alliance will open in Toronto, at 10 a.m. on July 6th next. It will be an occasion of unusual interest, and it is hoped that every province of the Dominion will be represented. At the 1897 Council meeting there were present delegates from twenty-three provincial temperance organizations, church conferences, synods, etc. The meeting was certainly the most representative, from a national standpoint, that has ever been held. We earnestly urge our friends in every Provincial W.C.T.U., in every Good Templar Grand Lodge, every Sons of Temperance Grand Division, every Royal Templar Grand Council, every Church Conference, Synod, Union or other great body to see that representatives are appointed.

Even in cases where it is impossible for representatives to attend the general meeting of the Council they ought to be chosen. It may be practicable to arrange in many cases local conferences of these workers in addition to the general central meeting. The Alliance plan, which includes every religious and temperance body, is a remarkably wise and comprehensive one. It makes it impracticable for any section to have more than rightful influence, and it gives all an opportunity to share in consultation over plans and methods.

The Plebiscite campaign will be upon us. Developments will have taken place that we shall need to carefully consider. Exigencies will probably have arisen that will demand all the energy and wisdom, we can unite in meeting them. Let us have a convention even larger and better than that of 1897.

On the day before the Council meeting the prohibitionists of Ontario will hold their annual convention in the Horticultural Pavilion, in Toronto. Council delegates will be cordially welcomed to this convention. It will be a mighty rally. Although it is yet a long way off, the names of hundreds of delegates have been sent in to the Secretary, and its success is assured. Don't miss this meeting.

THE LITERATURE CAMPAIGN.

Never before in the history of our country was the work of circulating literature taken hold of with the energy that is being manifested in the present contest. The fight is only begun, yet already some parts of the country have been well carpeted with printed facts and arguments that will make the work to come easier and more successful.

The quantity of literature printed in the campaign leaflet series of the Alliance alone has already amounted

to over three million pages, and the demand for it is expected to be very much greater. In this splendid series there are now twenty-four documents, each dealing with some special phase of the prohibition question, or some particular feature of the liquor traffic peril, prepared with special reference to this struggle. A fund has been formed from which a large part of the expense of printing is paid, and the literature is supplied to those who will use it at prices far below cost.

The Dominion W.C.T.U. Literature Department, with headquarters at 58 Elm Street, Toronto, is also busy. Our White Ribbon friends are in a position to furnish our workers with much valuable ammunition, and in many cases these workers are taking advantage of this capital opportunity.

This is right. Let us keep at it. Agitation and education must be the watchwords of the campaign. Literature circulation is one of the most powerful weapons that can be used.

BRITISH WHITE-RIBBONERS.

The annual meeting of the British Women's Temperance Association was opened in the Queen's Hall, London on May 9th, Lady Henry Somerset presiding. A great evening mass meeting was held, addressed by many famous speakers. Seven hundred delegates took part in the council meeting the following day.

The report of the Hon. Secy. Miss Agnes Slack told of 3,000 public meetings, as many more held in drawing rooms and cottages, and the securing of 6,111 signature to the pledge. Lady Henry delivered a strong address in favor of prohibition by direct veto, and also in support of total abstinence as the basis of temperance work. A resolution asking her to continue to hold the office of President was adopted, 300 branches having proposed her for re-election.

CAMPAIGN EQUIPMENT.

The *Vanguard*, all numbers issued, in neat cloth binding, is the most important Canadian contribution yet made to the literature of the temperance and prohibition reform, containing **over 650 pages** full of invaluable arguments, facts and statistics, all reliable, fresh and good, fully and carefully indexed.

The *People vs. The Liquor Traffic*, a set of lectures by the late Hon. J. B. Finch, is one of the most forcible and comprehensive arguments for Prohibition ever made. Special Canadian edition, **240 pages**. Fine cloth binding, price 40 cents.

The *Camp Fire* is a neat four-page monthly campaign journal, specially published for campaign work. It summarizes the latest news about the prohibition reform, and presents an array of live, pithy articles and brief statements of important and helpful facts and incidents. Subscription, 25 cents per year.

The two great books above named, will be sent postage pre-paid, and also THE CAMP FIRE to December, 1898 inclusive, to any person sending at once **ONE DOLLAR** to F. S. Spence, 52 Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

With these three sources of information, any pulpit, press or platform worker, will be *fully equipped* for the great plebiscite campaign.

The number of books available for the purpose named is limited. First come, first served. Don't miss the opportunity.