

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, FEBRUARY, 1901

PROHIBITION PETITIONS.

All who have on hand signed petitions to the Ontario Legislature, are earnestly requested to send them at once to the Alliance Secretary.

The Legislature is about commencing the business of the Session and it is specially desirable that all petitions should be presented at an early date.

If any petitions have not yet been completed, those who have them are specially requested to see that they are signed and sent in without delay.

GOOD WORK.

A vigorous campaign for the enforcement of the Scott Act has been inaugurated at New Glasgow, N. S. A mass meeting was held in St. James Church on the evening of January 11th, at which a Committee of representatives from the different churches of the town was appointed to take steps towards the employment of a special inspector to prosecute liquor sellers. The Rev. H. R. Grant offered to take the position without any salary and his earnestness and zeal roused the meeting to a high pitch of enthusiasm. Three hundred and fifty dollars was immediately subscribed to a law enforcing fund. This fund has since been considerably augmented and efforts will be made to put down the law defiance of which the decent people of the town are heartily ashamed.

A CRISIS FOR OUR CAUSE.

The Ontario Legislature is summoned to meet on February 6th. The question of liquor legislation is sure to be taken up. At last session the Government promised a measure for the consolidation of the inconsistent and defective patch work that makes up the present license law. Many petitions will be presented praying for a measure of prohibition on the lines already acted upon by Manitoba and Prince Edward Island.

No intimation has yet been given as to the intention of the Government in regard to the petitions to be presented. No doubt the liquor party, now unusually well organized and strong, will do its utmost to prevent any further progress. The Legislature must, however, face the stern fact that the people are overwhelmingly in favor of prohibition. Great majorities recorded in two plebiscites have made this clear. The Premier is a pronounced friend of the temperance cause, an officer of the Dominion Alliance, a P.M.W.P. of the National Division of the Sons of Temperance. Other mem-

bers of the Government are also friendly to this great reform. There is good reason to hope for the action which certainly ought to be taken.

It is a time for earnest effort on the part of all patriotic and progressive citizens. Nothing must be left undone to give the members of the House the impression that the Christian sentiment of the Province will be with them in an honest discharge of their manifest duty, and that the right-thinking voters in every constituency will stand by the men who in this crisis will stand fearlessly up for the right and do their best to wipe from our statute books the dark blot of the legislation of the unholy traffic in strong drink.

GREAT BRITAIN'S DRINK BILL.

The latest British Parliamentary Return relating to the liquor traffic shows that for the year 1900 there were issued in England, Ireland and Scotland a total of 172,101 retail liquor licenses, besides a number of so called occasional licenses issued for the short periods.

The total amount of spirits that paid duty for the fiscal year ending March 31st last, was 48,981,934 gallons. The total quantity of beer on which duty was collected was 37,090,986 barrels. The total gross revenue from the liquor traffic was 42,452,729 pounds sterling.

RUM'S WORK.

The Canadian Royal Templar for January publishes a sweeping record of nearly a dozen fatalities resulting from drink, some of them attended by circumstances of the saddest kind.

In one week's record of reported casualties through drink, the English Alliance News tells of five cases resulting in death, generally with accessories of heart rending character.

It is easy to set out the figures representing this fearful destruction and degradation. The figures however, really give no idea of what lies behind them. They convey no adequate information as to the terrible sorrow, deplorable disgrace, misery, shame and sin connected with every case enumerated.

How long will a so-called Christian civilization tolerate license, and encourage an evil that for ruinous results has no parallel in the history of heathen barbarism.

SALOON SMASHING.

A good deal of excitement is being stirred up in the Western States over the campaign inaugurated by Mrs. Carrie Nation at Wichita, Kan. The movement seems to be contagious, and, either through shamefacedness on account of the toleration of the illegal liquor evil, or for some other reason, the authorities have done little to check its growth. Mrs. Nation has been arrested several times, but so far has always been released.

It looks as if the law-enforcing authorities feared to have the question of their dereliction of duty considered by the courts, and also disliked to be placed in the position of using the machinery of the law to defend the institution that exists and operates in opposition to the law.

What the outcome will be is impossible to predict. Women in other cities have taken to following Mrs. Nation's example. In some cases male friends stand by and encourage their action. So far the saloon keepers have not done much in the way of physical resistance, although Mrs. Nation was slightly hurt on one or two occasions. If the action taken stirs apathetic officials into an attempt at the honest discharge of their duty the result must be beneficial whether the methods are to be commended or condemned.

TRUE TO PRINCIPLE.

Louis Albert Banks tells, in the Union Signal, of a Poughkeepsie business man, a widow's son, who started as a confectioner. He prospered in business, and became also a sincere Christian. By and by his principles were tested:

"One of his friends, who was one of the richest young men in the community and the best customer he had, came into his shop and ordered ten pounds of brandy drops. The young confectioner did not make these, but he ordered them from New York by express. Before they came, however, his conscience began to trouble him. Was he doing right in having a hand in selling these brandy candies? He knew that the young man who had ordered them would give them out among the young men and the young women of his acquaintance, and the result might be that more than one would get their first taste of intoxicating drink in that way, and no one could tell what sad result would come of it. On the other hand, if he refused to accommodate his customer, he would, no doubt, lose his friendship and his trade, and only drive him to someone else who would procure them for him. He could not sleep that night, and the more he thought about it, the more thoroughly convinced he became that it was not a Christian thing to have part in any way in putting temptation in the way of another. Having come to this conclusion, he acted with promptness and firmness. When the brandy drops came he immediately expressed them back to the wholesale firm in New York, and when the young man came around after them he frankly told him what he had done, and why. As he expected, the young man was very angry and full of contempt for him on account of what he called his 'fanatical notion.'

"That was the parting of the ways for these two young men. The poor young confectioner that stood by his principles has grown to be a wealthy and honored citizen, while the rich young tippler has long since gone to a dishonored grave, eaten up by his sinful lusts and appetites as Herod was eaten by worms.

"Our young hero maintained the same attitude as his business enlarged and broadened. He became after a while a caterer, and on his business cards through all the years, he has kept the plain and simple statement that not only would no wines and liquors be furnished by him, but he will not permit his servants to serve at a feast or dinner where they are used. He has many times lost hundreds and thousands of dollars by this fidelity to principle, but it has never tempted him to swerve for a moment, and, perhaps in the long run he has gained by it, even financially. His splendid fidelity to principle has been a great object lesson for good to all who have known him, and has helped by example and influence to banish the punch bowl and the wine glass from many a wedding feast and public dinner in that part of the country.

When the great Poughkeepsie railway bridge was nearing completion, a big dinner was given to the railway men of the country at that place. Our friend, as the leading caterer of the region, was secured for the occasion. But as the time drew near and he learned they intended to use wines, he refused absolutely to have anything to do with it, and so steadfastly did he abide by his purpose, that the wines were banished.

Who can tell how wide the influence for good such a business man spreads through the community? Like Peter's healing shadow, on whomsoever the influence of such a man falls, its effect is to strengthen him in purity and righteousness of life.—'Safeguard.'

A MIGHTY BARREL.

"Lit-Bits," in answer to a correspondent who asked for some idea as to the quantity of beer drunk throughout the world every year, said:—"If 'Anti-Beer' can picture a barrel 330 yards in diameter and twice as high as St. Paul's Cathedral, he will have some idea of the size of the world's annual beer barrel. The beer in the barrel would form a lake 6 feet deep, 3½ miles long, and a mile wide, and would allow of a distribution of two and three-fifths gallons to every man, woman, and child throughout the earth. The cost to the consumers is at the rate of nearly \$125,000 for every hour of every night and day."

IMPORTANT.

TORONTO, 1901.

DEAR FRIEND,—

You are respectfully requested to carefully examine **The Camp Fire**, a neat four-page monthly Prohibition paper, full of bright, pointed, convenient facts and arguments; containing also a valuable summary of the latest news about our cause. It is just what is needed to inspire workers and make votes.

The victory won in the plebiscite was only the opening of a campaign in which the liquor traffic will do its utmost to block, delay, and if possible prevent our securing the enactment and enforcement of prohibitory law. We have plenty of hard fighting ahead of us. We must keep posted and equipped, knowing all that is being done by our friends and foes, and sophistry and misrepresentation that will be advanced.

The Camp Fire will be one of the best aids you can have in the struggle. It will contain nothing but what you need. Every number ought to be preserved. You cannot afford to be without it, and the subscription price is only nominal, **Twenty-five cents per year.**

While a necessity to every prohibition worker the **The Camp Fire** will also be of special value for distribution. Literature won the plebiscite victory. We must keep up the educating work. Printed matter tells. It does its work continuously, silently, fearlessly and No form of literature is so generally read and so potential as the up-to-date periodical. It comes with the force and interest of newness and life. For this reason the form of a monthly journal has been selected.

This journal will be in every respect reliable and readable. Every article will be short, good and forcible, containing nothing sectional, sectarian or partizan. The literature of the old world and the new world will be ransacked for the most helpful and effective material. The price is very low.

Such literature will convince many a man whom his neighbors cannot convince. It will talk to him quietly, in his own home, in his leisure moments, when he can listen uninterruptedly, when he cannot talk back and when the personality of the talker cannot interfere with the effect of the talk.

It will ply him with facts, arguments and appeals, that will influence, instruct and benefit him. It will set him thinking. This is half the battle. Its wide circulation will swell the victory that we are about to win. This is its object.

Your help is asked in this great work. **Every society** should subscribe for and distribute hundreds of copies. This is the easiest and surest plan of making prohibition votes. Look at the terms:

Twenty copies will be sent to any one address every month for six months, for ONE DOLLAR, payable in advance

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F. S. SPENCE,
52 Confederation Life Building,
Toronto.