

# 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, MAY, 1897.

## A STRAIGHT VOTE ON A STRAIGHT ISSUE.

There have been recently reported, in some newspapers, suggestions to the effect that it is possible that in the approaching plebiscite the direct question of whether or not the electors are in favor of total prohibition may be in some way complicated by attaching to it or connecting with it some other matters. It is suggested that prohibition would involve a loss of revenue to the Dominion, some plan of raising this revenue should be devised and the opinion of the electors ascertained as to prohibition and this revenue plan.

This proposition is so absurd as hardly to merit serious consideration. There are various sources of revenue and various methods of taxation. The Dominion Parliament will consider these from time to time, and will take action in relation to them according to the necessities of the time and the views of a majority of the members of Parliament. This must be done whether prohibition is adopted or the present system retained, and no matter what fiscal system or principles Parliament may approve. A change in our fiscal policy might affect one source of revenue and necessitate heavier taxation on another, or vice versa. The whole matter is one with which Parliament always does and always must deal directly, whether we have prosperity or adversity, peace or war, drunkenness or sobriety. Parliament cannot evade this fact and cannot tie its hands by asking the people to vote to-day upon some method of raising some uncertain portion of the national revenue at some unspecified future time.

Moreover the prohibition question is not conditioned upon the revenue question. Parliament has already made this clear. The House of Commons, by unanimous vote, has affirmed that prohibitory legislation is right, and must be enacted as soon as public opinion "will sustain" it. Successive Finance Ministers have declared that the revenue question is not a difficulty that should delay the enactment of prohibitory law, and that the finances of the country can readily be adjusted to any change that may be brought about by such law. The prohibition question is one to be settled by itself, and not to be entangled with other unnecessary questions.

Electors have varying opinions upon the revenue question as well as upon the prohibition question. Some of them object to one system of taxation, some to another. Identifying prohibition with some special system of taxation would be inviting persons who do not believe in that particular method of revenue raising to become enemies of the combined question, even

though they were not hostile to prohibition. It would be manifestly a method of preventing, instead of promoting, a fair expression of public opinion.

Such action would be looked upon by many thousands of earnest men as a serious failure on the part of Parliament to carry out the policy to which the present Government is pledged. That Government was placed in power by the electors after having given a pledge to submit the prohibition question to the people. Had the pledge been in reference to any such conditioned submission as is now suggested, the attitude and action of thousands of prohibition electors would have been different. They look to the Government to squarely fulfil the promise which was accepted simply and fully as a candid avowal of an intention to take a plebiscite on prohibition, the public distinctly and definitely having in mind from past experience, an idea of what such a plebiscite would be. Manitoba, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, all have given practical definitions of the expression "prohibition plebiscite." That is what the Government, in all fairness and honesty, is pledged to submit. We cannot believe that a Government so situated will so ignore public confidence, or so trifle with a solemn obligation, as to do anything else than what the pledge given must be fairly understood to mean and involve.

## AN ILLEGAL SALOON.

The House of Commons has done well by suppressing the sale of intoxicating liquor within that part of the Parliament Buildings under its control. Unfortunately however, the sale is still continued on the Senate side.

So far as we have been able to learn, there is no Act of the Dominion Parliament, there is no Act of the Ontario Legislature, there is no legislation of any kind in force, giving any sanction to this improper practice. The fact is simply that on the Senate side of the House there is run an unlicensed bar that ought to be suppressed, under the sanction of Dominion Legislators, the Provincial Liquor Law is violated and the license and police authorities ignore the flagrant and inexcusable violation.

The same condition of affairs existed until recently in the House of Parliament of Great Britain. On Thursday, January 21st, of the present year, after being pressed for an opinion regarding the matter, the Attorney General said: "I have carefully looked into the law and I have come to the conclusion that the sale of intoxicating liquors as at present carried on in the precincts of the House is not in accordance with the law."

Before this deliverance was made there existed in the minds of some members of Parliament, the idea that they possessed some authority that was above and beyond statutory law, that for some undefined reason they had a right to do what they chose within the precincts of the Parliament Buildings. The statement above quoted shows the utter absurdity of this talk, and leaves our Senators at Ottawa without a shadow of excuse for the continuance of their unlawful liquor selling.

## LEGISLATION IN ONTARIO.

Last month we referred to the Bill then before the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario for the amendment of the Liquor License Act. When first introduced, this measure was a severe disappointment to all who expected progressive legislation during the present session of the Ontario

Legislature. So overwhelming was the protest against its feebleness and inefficiency that it was practically withdrawn by the Government, and for it was substituted a better measure.

The most important clause of the new bill was that giving Municipal Councils power to limit the hours during which liquor may be sold in licensed places. This clause was probably of more real value than all the rest of the provisions of the Bill put together. It was the clause that was looked upon as really progressive legislation, and round it was centered nearly all the interest of the discussion of the measure. The liquor traffic had a strong lobby and made desperate efforts to secure the defeat of the clause.

In Committee of the Whole this important section was defeated by a large vote. The members of the Government who were in the House at the time of the division, voted in favor of the clause as did also the men who were looked upon as temperance leaders on the opposition side. The main argument used by those opposed to the proposition was that it would introduce the temperance question into municipal politics and thereby lead the liquor traffic to attempt to secure more influence in Municipal Councils. On this plea men who are professedly friendly to the temperance cause voted against the proposition. In doing so they took the liquor side of the controversy and placed themselves squarely in opposition to what was certainly useful temperance legislation, and squarely on the side of those members openly and avowedly hostile to our cause.

## OUR FOUNDATION.

The prohibition movement seeks to abolish the sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes. It is logically based upon the doctrine that abstinence from the use of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes is wise and beneficial. If total abstinence is wrong, total prohibition is not right.

The actions and customs of the people are the best and most effective expressions of public sentiment. People who believe in total abstinence ought to be prohibitionists. People who believe in prohibition ought to be abstainers. If there are some persons who will not adopt both these sound principles then it is better for them to uphold one than to uphold neither. But consistency ought to impel all who stand on one plank to see the wisdom and rightness of the whole platform. As a rule total abstainers are prohibitionists.

If the doctrine of total abstinence is not accepted and acted upon by a large section of the public, the cause of prohibition will make very slow progress. The arguments in favor of total abstinence logically carry those who accept them on to the more advanced position. We can therefore most materially aid the prohibition cause by the practice and advocacy of personal abstinence. For reasons that will readily suggest themselves to every thinker, the abstainer is safer, more useful and more progressive in the great fight against the drink evil, than he would be if he indulged, however moderately.

We need a stronger, wider, more persistent and insistent advocacy of this cardinal foundation principle of total abstinence. We need the more consistent carrying out of a practice that has been the protection, the salvation, the elevation of hundreds of thousands who have been threatened with the evils that intemperance brings.

In our wise, earnest, continuous struggle for law that will educate and

save, let us not lose sight of the simple, certain, easily secured and effective method, through which a large measure of success may be immediately secured.

## CLIPPINGS.

A big part of the license fees has to be paid by poor women at the wash tub.—*Prohibition News*

Many a boy and man has gotten a position because he did not smoke cigarettes or pipes, but we have yet to hear of the first one that got a position because he smoked, chewed or drank and gambled.—*Corner Stone*.

Alcohol is a poison; drinking it is suicide; risking it is sin; selling it is a sugar coated form of robbery and of murder; and licensing it is the strongest evidence yet of general depravity. There is no crankiness about such a statement, either. The man who doubles up to dodge it is the crank.—*Hampshire Times*.

The brutal "Your money or your life" threat of the highwayman has become the insolent "Your money and your life" demand of the saloon-keeper.—*Temperance Herald*.

When the liquor men tell you that "prohibition won't prohibit," it is a notice in advance that they will not respect the law of the nation; that their traffic is too lawless to submit to constituted authority. Can such persons be considered loyal citizens?—*Citizen*.

If men will engage in this destructive traffic, if they will stoop to degrade their reason and reap the wages of iniquity, let them no longer have the law-book as a pillow, nor quiet conscience with the opiate of a court license.—*Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen*

A liquor dealer, who had made considerable wealth, had his portrait painted by an artist of fame. His many friends admired the picture, and said it was perfection. One day the wife of a too good customer was called in by way of favor to see the portrait. She said that it was 'vera guid,' but considered that it lacked one thing to make it perfect. 'If his han,' she said, 'had been in oor John's pocket instead o' his ain it wad hae been much truer to life.'—*The Scottish Reformer*.

Here is a vice perfectly preventable stalking among us which produces evils more deadly, because more continuous, than war, famine, and pestilence combined, and yet we are so cold, so neutral, selfish, immoral, and quiescent as to make no serious or united effort to grapple with that intolerable curse. . . . We must be at the last gasp of national honor; we must be in the final paralysis of national selfishness, if we can tolerate the fact that this vice producing evils so deadly and so preventable, is to stalk among us.—*Archdeacon F. W. Farrar*.

Nursed on nature's rotten juices  
Rot of barley, rot of corn.  
That's where alcohol is born;  
To his rotten nature true,  
To rot is all that he can do  
Rotten men and rotten boys  
Rotten hopes and rotten joys,  
Rotten fame and reputation;  
Rotten politics in the nation!  
Rotten ballots, rotten laws,  
Parties with a rotten cause;  
Nursed on nature's rotten juices,  
Rot is all that he produces  
—*Westerly Tribune*.

**DOMINION W. C. T. U.**  
LITERATURE DEPOSITORY,  
58 ELM STREET, - TORONTO.

A large and well assorted stock of leaflets on hand, for use of temperance workers and members of W. C. T. Unions. Temperance literature for distribution in Sunday Schools, on Juvenile Work, Sabbath Observance, Systematic Giving, etc., etc., always in stock. Orders by mail promptly attended to. MRS. BASCOM,  
Manager.

Ripans Tabules.  
Ripans Tabules cure nausea.  
Ripans Tabules: at druggists.  
Ripans Tabules cure dizziness.  
Ripans Tabules cure headache.  
Ripans Tabules cure dyspepsia.