

THE CAMP FIRE.

A Monthly Record and Advocate of the Temperance Reform.

VOL. VII. No. 2.

TORONTO, ONT. AUGUST, 1900.

25 CENTS PER YEAR

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 great impending campaign for prohibition in Ontario it will be of intense interest and great value.

AN APPEAL.

Every friend of moral reform in the Province of Ontario is earnestly requested to come to the help of the Dominion Alliance in the campaign for provincial prohibition, decided upon at the Convention of July 17th.

Another crisis has come to us in the history of our cause. The example of Manitoba and Prince Edward Island shows us a wide open door for an immediate advance. The head of the Government of this progressive province is a stalwart friend of the prohibition cause. He has the power to nearly wipe out the liquor traffic. He has behind him the strongly expressed desire of the people for an advance. We must take advantage of this great opportunity.

Within a short time further information will be placed in the hands of our workers, together with plans for action and advice as to the steps that are needful to be taken. The work to be done will require effort and organization. The latter may be begun at once. A prohibition committee should be formed in connection with every temperance society in the province, so that these agencies will be ready when the time for action comes.

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AROUND THE WORLD.

NOTES OF NEWS FROM MANY LANDS.

A Temperance Press Agency.

That indefatigable temperance worker Councillor Joseph Malins, R.W.G.C.F. of London England, has established a free agency for the collection and supply of news concerning the great cause. A number of the following come from this source.

Yet the Government Refuses.

Upwards of 3,530 petitions have been presented to the present session of the British Parliament in support of the Bill to prohibit the serving of intoxicants to children under sixteen years of age, one petition from Cardiff measuring 385 yards, and bearing 50,086 signatures.

Progress in Germany.

In Germany the anti spirit movement did not develop into abstinence Societies, and such bodies have been very rare; but the *Duetscher Gut Templar* now reports 260 German Good Templar Branches, with 10,200 members—an increase of 2,825 in the year.

A Great Good Work.

During the last eleven years the scientific lecturers of the United Kingdom Band of Hope Union have given 34,167 temperance lectures in schools, at which 3,838,525 scholars and 127,072 teachers have been present, and 1,728,181—or forty per cent—of the children have furnished written reports of the lectures thus heard.

A Warning.

Dr. Whitecombe, Medical Superintendent of the Birmingham Lunatic Asylum, in his annual report says:—“Among causes, intemperance in drink shows 112 cases in 1899—as against 115 in 1898, and hereditary predisposition was found to exist in a large proportion. It does not appear to be generally recognized that where this family taint is present the injurious effects of alcohol are much more powerful, and that where there is any hereditary tendency to this disease total abstinence is the greatest preventative.”

A Wise General.

Sergt. Menzies, of the Gordon Highlanders Good Templar Lodge, writing from Ladysmith, says:—“We had no difficulty on the rum question. We applied through our commanding officer to General Sir George White for a ration of tea and sugar in lieu, and it was granted at once, and a Field Force order to the effect that all total abstainers in the garrison could have tea and sugar in lieu of rum was published, which was the best lift we have had, by placing temptation beyond reach of the weaker brothers.”

Lord Wolseley's Advice.

The great Commander-in-Chief of the British armies Field Marshal Lord Wolseley in addressing the boys of the Duke of York's School a few days ago, after impressing on them the necessity of absolute obedience, specially advised them to join the Service with a strict determination to adhere to Temperance principles. “Personally,” he said, “I should prefer that you become total abstainers. The curse of our Army and our race is drink, and those who are teetotalers have a great advantage over those who are not.”

Australian Success.

A triennial Local Option Vote has been taken by the Colony of New South Wales in the suburban and country municipalities, and in almost all cases the poll was against the increase of publicans' licenses and against allowing any to be transferred from one locality to another.

A Local Option Poll was taken on May 19th, for North Adelaide (South Australia), on applications for increase of publicans' licenses, wine licenses and grocers' licenses. The Temperance party won all along the line, and there can be no new licenses granted during the next three years. On the same day, in Central Adelaide, two Temperance candidates were elected to the Upper House of Assembly, against two publicans' nominees.

Intemperate Soldiers.

Among the Generals who are officers of the British Army Temperance Association are the following:—Lord Wolseley, Sir Geo. White, Lord Methuen, Sir Charles Warren, J. Kelly-Kenny, Sir W. F. Gatacre, Sir R. H. Buller. Among the Vice-Presidents of the Association are 73 of the leading Generals of the British Army. The Association has been remarkably successful in India where Lord Roberts worked hard for its promotion. The latest returns show the membership in India as being 18,663, while the British soldiers in India who are non-members number 48,842. For the year 1898 the record showed among the abstainers total convictions by court marshal of 777 and among the non-members of 1,777. Taking the offences and summary punishments the total abstainers showed fewer than 40 per thousand of the force, while non-members showed over 92 per thousand. General Roberts' strong views on the temperance question are well-known and are referred to in Rudyard Kipling's famous poem in the following stanza:—

“E's a little down on drink
Chaplain Bobs;
But it keeps us outer Clunk—
Don't it, Bob?
So we will not complain
Tho' 'e's water on the brain,
If 'e leads us straight again—
Blue-light Bob.”

WHOLESOME BEER.

Much is being said of the healthfulness of beer, and the use of that drink is strongly advocated by certain parties because it is pure and genuine. Yet it would seem, from various advertisements, that there must be a lot of stuff used that hardly supports this view. Here are one or two such advertisements, and we leave the reader to form his own conclusions as to the value of the material produced. One of these advertisements in the Inland Revenue Year Book for 1897 runs thus:

“Carameline, for flavor, a most important point in stout production. Two hundred weight of this article is sufficient for every fifty barrels of wort in copper. Brewers wishing to increase their black beer trade should not fail to give carameline a trial. It is a thoroughly reliable article, easy of manipulation, giving black beers a lasting, luscious flavor and palatfulness, and a rich brown head.”

Another advertisement appearing in the “Brewer's Almanack” for 1898, of brewing requisites, includes, finings, sulphurous acid, bisulphites, isinglass, hydrosulphites of magnesia, potassium and sodium, sulphate of lime, heading powder and bicarbonates of potassium and sodium. —N. T. Advocate.

PROVINCIAL POWER.

On April 7th, 1898, Hon. David Mills, Minister of Justice for the Dominion of Canada, wrote a letter to the Premier of Prince Edward Island in which he said:

“There is nothing to prevent any province prohibiting the sale of intoxicants for consumption as a beverage within the limits of the province if so disposed.”

SHALL WE HAVE IT.

At the present crisis, when the people of Ontario are demanding legislation for which they twice recorded overwhelming majorities, it may be interesting to many to read the following extracts from a speech made by Hon. G. W. Ross in the Toronto Horticultural Pavilion on October 4th, 1897.

“It is said we have no guarantee that if public opinion is favorable to prohibition, even if the Ontario Legislature has the power, that it will pass a prohibitory liquor law. You have no guarantee? What guarantee do you want? The contract between a representative and the electors is not a contract between two parties of equal status, but it is a contract between master and servant. You are the master, the Legislature is the servant. Did you ever hear of a Legislature that refused to bow to public opinion? Such Legislatures are known by their epitaphs, not by their legislation.”

“You want guarantees from the Legislature! You want the Legislature to open the door while you have the key in your own possession! You want the Legislature to sign a bond not to trespass on your property, while you hold a title to it in fee simple. The Legislature can have no permanent opinion of its own. A few individuals may endeavor to control it, and sometimes do control it for a time, but just so sure as the superior force of the allied armies of Wellington and Blucher crushed Napoleon at Waterloo, so sure will every Legislature that resists public opinion be itself obliged by and by to obey the mandate of the people, or be relegated to a position of retirement where its opinions will be as harmless as the rhapsodies of Napoleon at St. Helena. The people of this country are supreme, and when their will is decisively expressed, Legislatures dare not offer opposition even if they would.”