

# THE CAMP FIRE.

A Monthly Record and Advocate of The Temperance Reform.

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## NOTES OF NEWS.

### THE FIGHT AGAINST DRINK THE WORLD OVER.

#### CANADIAN.

A general election is to be held in the North-West Territories in November, and a plebiscite is to be taken on the question of prohibition.

The Royal Commission has not been heard from for a long time. The oft-promised report is still delayed. No one offers any explanation.

Quebec Provincial W.C.T.U. meets at Point St. Charles, Montreal, on Oct. 2nd. Ontario Provincial W.C.T.U. meets at Cornwall on Oct. 30th.

The City of Charlottetown is enforcing the Scott Act vigorously. Many and heavy fines are teaching the liquor sellers that the law is a fact, and that law-breaking is a serious matter.

The Ontario W.C.T.U. ranks suffered a heavy loss on September 3rd in the loss of Mrs. Sara M. Fawcett, one of the most earnest, devoted and beloved of our white ribbon workers.

A new and attractive temperance story entitled, "At Last," is in preparation by Mrs. Maria Elsie Lauder. It will probably be ready for publication in a few weeks.

The famous Sohmer Park proprietors in Montreal are making another desperate effort to have Sunday liquor-selling legalized on their premises. They have given notice of application to the Legislature for the enactment of a law authorizing them to sell beer not containing more than four per cent. of alcohol, on every day of the year.

Hon. Wilfrid Laurier has been questioned at several places during his political tour as to his position on the liquor question. He has stated that his party purposes taking a Dominion plebiscite and acting upon the decision of the people thus gained.

The general conference of the Methodist Church just closed adopted a very strongly worded temperance report, in which were the following clauses:—

That the liquor traffic cannot be legalized without sin.

That it is the duty of the civil government to prohibit the trade in intoxicating drinks.

That the candidate of no party who refuses to publicly commit himself to the destruction of the liquor traffic at the earliest possible moment should have the support of Christian electors.

#### GENERAL.

Over two millions and a half of children are members of the Band of Hope Union of England.

Alcoholic insanity is twice as common now in France, the land of light wines, as it was fifteen years ago.

Rev. Dr. Chas. S. Thompson, of New York City, in a recent sermon stated that "one brewer in New York has 600 chattel mortgages on saloons."

The per capita consumption of liquor in the United States in 1893 was eighteen gallons.

The Republican party won the state election lately in Maine by a majority of about 38,000. Prohibition was a plank of the party's platform.

The New Zealand House of Representatives has abolished the sale of liquor in the Parliament refreshment room.

In the School of Reform at Westborough, Mass., all the boys committed have been tobacco users, and nothing else gave the master so much trouble.

Iowa church assemblies are passing ringing resolutions against the Mulct law, and pledging their members to vote for the prohibition of the liquor traffic.

Jerusalem, the Holy City, has 135 saloons, whose license fees go to Constantinople. An application has been made to establish a brewery within its walls, but refused.

Rev. Joel Jewell of Troy, Pa., is in his ninety-second year, still hale and hearty, preaches, reads without glasses, and takes long walks. He has been a teetotaler for sixty-eight years.

An exchange tells us that Mississippi has now only four counties not under prohibition. It has a population about as large as Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. The whole country between Virginia and Rio Grande, having a population of about 15,000,000, is rapidly suppressing the liquor business.

The Swiss Blue Cross Total Abstinence Association, organized in 1877, has now about 12,000 members. It is said that one-third of these are reformed drunkards.

A clause of the Swiss Federal Constitution provides that one-tenth of the duty collected on spirits shall be appropriated to teaching the people the evils of drunkenness.

The *Pacific Medical Journal* expresses the opinion that the hereditary evils of beer-drinking exceed those which result from the use of distilled spirits. "First, because the habit is constant and without paroxysmal interruptions which admit of some recuperation; second, because beer-drinking is practiced by both sexes more generally than spirit-drinking; and thirdly, because the animalizing tendency of the habit is more uniformly developed, thus authorizing the presumption that the vicious results are more generally transmitted."

The *Chicago Lever* says:—"Wisconsin has a prohibition horse. At Spring Galley a very small matter turned the city elections and closed thirteen saloons. Two license voters were working across the river, and in returning on the afternoon of election day, their one horse, when in the middle of the stream, stopped, and nothing would move him. When too late to reach the polls, the old horse started up out of the river for town. No license won by one majority. The horse did it."

The *Indianapolis Journal* calculates from the increase of insanity reported for the nine months past by the secretary of the Board of State Charities, that "an average of one person becomes insane in the state every ten hours, day and night, seven days in the week." Also that there has been "one person convicted of crime and sent to the penitentiary every eight hours, day and night, Sundays included, during the nine months." Carroll D. Wright says:—"Ninety-two per cent. of our crime is the result of intoxicating liquors." Lord Shaftesbury estimates that "fully six-tenths of all the cases of insanity arise from habits of intemperance."

### The Serpent's Trail.

A delicate wife was kicked to death by a drunken husband at Harrison, N.J., on August 28. A mother, 72 years of age, was kicked to death by a drunken son at Philadelphia on September 2. . . . In New York on August 23, a drunken man flung a lighted lamp at his wife, and the poor woman was burned to death. . . . At West Albert Lea, Minn., a drunken man fired six shots into his wife's body.

At Long Island City, N.Y., on September 13, a drink-crazed man emptied a shot gun into his wife. . . . At Reading, Pa., on August 13, another shot his wife dead and tried to kill himself. . . . At Brooklyn, N.Y., on September 11, a drunken father threw his five-year-old daughter out of an upstairs window. . . . At Lancaster, Pa., on August 12, a drunken engineer shot the principal of Duke Street High School. . . . At Duncanville, Pa., two men, 60 years of age, fought fiercely with knife and pistol while drunk. . . . At Hamlet, Ind., on August 26, one man was killed and three badly injured in a drunken row. . . . The above are some of the fearful occurrences recorded by the *New York Voice* in its issue of September 20.

## OUR PORTRAIT GALLERY.



W. F. BROCKENSHIRE.

Our readers will be pleased to have the above excellent picture of the present Grand Counsellor of the Grand Lodge of Canada. Brother W. F. Brockenshire is one of the old reliables of the Good Templar Order and the temperance cause. For many years he has worked earnestly and effectively in his own quiet and unassuming fashion to help forward Good Templary and build up a strong prohibition sentiment in his locality.

He lives in the town of Wingham where he carries on a photographic business on a large scale. Not very long ago he suffered a heavy loss through fire, but courageously opened up again in a short time with even better equipments than before, and now has a large patronage that is well deserved. Brother Brockenshire has the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens in a large degree. On different occasions they have elected him a member of the Town Council, last year honoring him with an unopposed election for Deputy Reeve. He also holds a Commission as Justice of the Peace and is looked upon as a gentleman of keen discernment and high sense of justice and honor.

It is hardly needful for us to add that Brother Brockenshire is an out and out prohibitionist, believing in the sound doctrine that the only right and effective legislative method of dealing with the liquor traffic is to be found in a law prohibiting the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating beverages.

## A CATHOLIC VIEW.

At the Catholic temperance congress held in Chicago recently, Father Maddock of Winona said that of the effectiveness of prohibition in suppressing intemperance there could be no honest difference of opinion. "Where no liquor is to be had," he said, "men will not drink. The reformed drunkard is always in danger of returning to his cups while the saloon stands invitingly open on every corner. But close those saloons, and he cannot fall. It is the duty of every good Catholic to work with might and main for the enactment of prohibitory laws. But he should not cease his efforts there. The only benefit of this legislation comes from its enforcement, and officers sworn to execute the law should be compelled to do their duty."—*The Constitution*.

## THE GRAND TEMPLARS LETTER.

Brothers and Sisters.

One of the oldest grievances of the rank and file of the Order against the Grand Lodge has been the apparent lack of interest of the latter in the individual subordinate lodge.

The lack of a means of communication has been the real evil, and it is hoped the Camp Fire will meet the want. It is hoped the members will take hold, remembering it is their paper, and help the Grand Executive to make it a success. I shall try to say a few words each month and trust each member will take them personally as addressed to himself. When in my talks you find any thing with which you disagree do not hesitate to reply, pointing out wherein we differ and advocating your own view of the matter. I am always pleased to hear from individual members and too many cannot write. I trust to make this year the turning point for our Order in our jurisdiction, and I look confidently to the rank and file of my army to help enable me to accomplish my aim. I invite correspondence from all who have any plan which will be of use in campaign.

Yours in the bonds of the Order.  
J. D. ANDREWS.

## ROTTED OFF BY BEER.

This is a fact that the total abstainer may show to the beer-drinker when ever occasion offers. The attention of the New York hospital surgeons has been called to the big number of bartenders that have lost several fingers from both hands within the past few years. The first case was that of an employee of a Bowery concert hall. Three of the fingers of his right hand and two of his left were rotted away when he called at Bellevue one day and begged the doctors to explain the reason. He said that his business was to draw beer for the thousands who visited the garden nightly. The man was in perfect health otherwise, and it took the young doctors quite a time to arrive at any conclusion. But they did finally, and it neatly took the beer man's breath away when they did.

"Your fingers have been rotted off," they said, "by the beer which you have handled."

Other cases of a similar nature came rapidly after this one, and to-day the physicians estimate there is an army of employees of saloons whose fingers are being ruined by the same cause. The acid and rosin in the beer are said to be responsible.

The head bartender of a well-known down town saloon says he knows a number of cases where beer drawers have, in addition to losing several of the fingers of both hands, lost the use of both members. "Beer will rot iron, I believe," he added. "I know, and every bartender knows, that it is impossible to keep a good pair of shoes behind the bar. Beer will rot leather as rapidly almost as acid will eat into iron. If I were a temperance orator, I'd ask what must beer do to men's stomachs if it eats away men's fingers and their shoe leather. I'm here to sell it, but I won't drink it, not much."

## A CURSE.

Before God and man, before the church and the world, I impeach intemperance. I charge it as the cause of almost all the poverty, and almost all the crime, and almost all the ignorance, and almost all the irreligion that disgrace and afflict the land. I do in my conscience believe that these intoxicating stimulants have sunk into predation more men and women than found a grave in the deluge which swept over the highest hillsides engulfing the world, of which but eight were saved. As compared with other vices, it may be said of this "Satan has slain his thousands, but this David his tens of thousands."—*Dr. Chalmers*.