

# THE CAMP FIRE.

A Monthly Record and Advocate of the Temperance Reform.

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## NOTES OF NEWS

### PROGRESS OF THE CEASELESS STRUGGLE.

*Items of Interest from many Fields.*

#### One Sample.

In a drunken row near a restaurant in Montreal, on February 12th, Louis Robert was struck to the ground, and an examination showed that he had sustained a fracture of the skull. He died in a few days.

#### Yukon Liquor.

A press dispatch states that the Government has decided upon charging a special duty of two dollars per gallon upon all liquor imported into the Yukon Territory. It is to be hoped that this report is premature and that the Government will see its way to the wiser policy of totally prohibiting such importation.

#### Preparing for the Fight.

It is stated that the liquor traffickers have already raised a fund of a million dollars to be used in fighting the prohibitionists in the coming Plebiscite campaign. They will need it all. There are forces at work on the other side that money cannot overcome. The conscience of Canada cannot be bought, nor can many millions stay the progress of this great reform which will triumph whether we win or lose in the coming fight.

#### Quebec Royal Templars.

The Grand Council of Quebec R. T. of T. held its annual session at Montreal on February 22nd and 23rd. Reports showed a falling off in membership, but recorded much good done. A feature of the meeting was an earnest address on Good Citizenship, by Mr. Sol Cutter, who was elected Grand Councillor. A. B. Parker, of Montreal, is Grand Secretary. Strong resolutions were adopted opposing the granting of permits for the sale of liquor in the Yukon District, and protesting against the complication of prohibition with direct taxation or any other issue in the coming Plebiscite.

#### Quebec Alliance.

*Getting Ready for the Plebiscite.*

The annual meeting of the Quebec Branch of the Dominion Alliance was held in the Montreal Y.M.C.A. Building on February 14th, presided over by Mr. J. R. Dougall. The principal work of the convention was preparation for the coming plebiscite campaign. Strong resolutions were passed in regard to political action, protesting against any complication of other issues with prohibition in the Plebiscite, and urging the Government to protect the Yukon District from the liquor traffic. The principal officers were re-elected, a strong list of Vice-Presidents and a large general committee being appointed. Mr. J. R. Dougall is again President, Mr. J. H. Carson Secretary, and Mr. W. R. Ross Treasurer. Representatives were present from a great number of churches and temperance societies.

#### Ontario Royal Templars.

There was a big turn-out of earnest workers at the annual meeting of Ontario Royal Templars in the City of St. Thomas on February 15th and 16th. The reports presented were very encouraging, showing a slight increase in membership during the past year, and telling of much practical work done for the building up of the temperance cause. The chief speaker at the annual public meeting was the Hon. S. C. Biggs, of Toronto, whose utterances were warmly received. Complication of the prohibition question with any

other in the Plebiscite was emphatically denounced. The campaign to keep liquor out of the Yukon District was cordially endorsed. Plans were laid for further work. The Templar Publishing Company was endorsed. Delegates were elected to the Dominion Alliance. Mr. F. Buchanan, of Toronto, was elected Grand Councillor, and Dr. C. V. Emory, of Hamilton, Grand Secretary.

#### Who Paid this Money.

During the year 1897 twenty-one brewers died in Great Britain, leaving gross personal estates aggregating £3,171,000, an average of £150,000 each. The total of twenty-three estates left by the wine and spirit trade aggregated £1,943,800, an average of £84,517 each.

#### Against all Regulation.

Lady Henry Somerset has written a letter to Lord George Hamilton, expressing her regret that a former letter had been taken by moral reform friends as an avowal of her acceptance of the view that state regulation of social evil was sometimes necessary. In view of this opinion she formally withdrew the suggestions that she had made regarding the matter some time ago, and declared her hostility to any form of such regulation. This will, no doubt, end the dissatisfaction that has existed among W. C. T. U. workers regarding Lady Henry's position on this question.

#### Brewers Urging.

A deputation of brewers waited a few days ago upon the Dominion Government at Ottawa to discuss certain matters relating to the coming Plebiscite. Among those present were Messrs. O'Keefe and Davies of Toronto, Labatt of London, McCarthy of Prescott, and Dawes of Montreal. At their request the meeting was a private one and no report of what occurred was given to the press. Regarding the present situation the Licensed Victuallers' Gazette says: "Evidently the Government is beginning to understand that it would be like perpetrating a fraud upon the people of the Dominion, to put the simple question, *Are you in favor of Prohibition?* and not enlighten them what the result would be, and there is little fear now that the public will not know entirely what they are voting for."

#### College Drinking.

The New York Voice is keeping up a hot campaign against the drinking practices and facilities of American college towns. After exposing the encouragement of the traffic by the management of the great University at Princeton, they turned their attention to New Haven, where Yale University is located, showing that in that town of 81,298 population there are 415 saloons, one to each 51 of the population, and that some of them are largely patronized by students. They have now turned their attention to Ithaca, where Cornell University is located, giving startling descriptions of the vice and debauchery there prevailing. These vigorous attacks have stirred up public opinion in strong protest against the conditions which are thus tolerated and encouraged in educational centres where their effects upon students are incalculably evil.

#### Monopoly in Russia.

A press despatch from St. Petersburg, dated Jan. 8th, says that "In view of the impending introduction of a State monopoly of the sale of spirituous liquors, by which about 12,000 persons will be thrown out of employment, while many licensed victuallers will be ruined, the Russian authorities fearing that the consequent large addition to the ranks of the unemployed may give rise to disturbances, have decided that all persons in the capital who may find themselves deprived of their livelihood by the projected meas-

ure shall be sent back by railway, free of cost, to their native places. It is, however, apprehended that these people, accustomed as they have been to town life, will no longer be able to accommodate themselves to the conditions of rural existence, or engage in agriculture in the country, where they will only form an unwelcome surplus population, and disturb the present conditions of social order. With a view to the better preservation of public security, the Prefecture of Police in this city has decided to increase the present police force by 150 men."

#### AXIOMS.

- 1.—All enemies of the liquor traffic must unite.
- 2.—The people must be thoroughly educated to prepare for the enactment and enforcement of prohibition.
- 3.—The law must be guaranteed a thorough trial before being made subject to change or repeal.
- 4.—The issue is not what a man shall eat nor what he shall drink. The law does not say, *Thou shalt not eat diseased meat*,—but *Thou shalt not sell, nor keep it for sale*. The law does not say *thou shalt not read obscene literature*, but bans it as it does diseased meat. The coming law will put the most destructive of all poisons under the same ban.
- 5.—Trade is a social institution and society has the right to destroy it if its effects are deleterious.—*Forward.*

#### WEIGHTY FRAGMENTS.

There is one dreadful evil over-spreading the whole land . . . the evil of intemperance . . . which is perhaps doing greater injury than any other cause which could be named in this age.—*Archbishop Tait.*

That, considering the sin and sorrow caused by drunkenness, we think it inexpedient that Christians should use intoxicating liquor as a beverage; and promise to abstain from its use; and believing its common sale to be offensive to God, and most injurious to the country, will do all in our power to bring it to an end.—*Pledge issued in the names of the Revs. Charles Garrett and Thomas Champness.*

The common sale of intoxicating liquors is a crime against the nation. The license system is treason against the State. It is more: it is the typical crime of the universe—which consists in seeking one's own pleasure or one's own profit with absolute indifference to the cost of the pleasure or profit to other people.—*Rev. C. F. Aked.*

Of course you cannot make men moral by law; but you can stop men from doing things which foster immorality in the community. You cannot stop them from privately tempting others, but you can stop them from putting great public temptations in men's way . . . I want the strong suppression of all institutions, which flourish by making gain of vice.—*Rev. Brooke Hereford, D.D.*

**Intemperance still continues to be one of the chief hindrances to religion in the great mass of our people. There are many excellent societies engaged in the conflict with it, but they need steady and resolute perseverance to effect any serious improvement. It is important to lay stress on the essential condition of permanent success in this work—namely, that it should be taken up in a religious spirit as part of Christian devotion to the Lord.—*English Bishops Encyclical, August, 1897.***

**IMPORTANT! READ IT ALL!**

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