

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, JANUARY, 1900

ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION.

The prohibitionists are organized for electoral action in N. Simcoe, S. Simcoe, N. Grey, E. Grey, N. Wellington, C. Wellington, Leeds, Oxford, and some other constituencies. Mr. Duncan Marshall the Alliance organizer, is in the field working hard, and securing good results.

To make our influence felt at the coming election, and to secure the best results from the 100,000 Voters' Plan which is being vigorously pushed in many localities, it is absolutely necessary that our friends in each riding should meet to consult and plan their campaign. The present is a favorable opportunity. The Dominion Alliance Executive Committee will be glad to give full information regarding methods of work. All who are interested, are requested to correspond with the Secretary at the earliest opportunity

LOCAL OPTION.

Several Ontario municipalities adopted prohibitory by-laws, under the local option system, on January 1st. These by-laws will come into operation on the 1st of May. There is yet time to secure voting in many other places, so as to have prohibition become operative on the expiration of the licenses at present in operation.

No doubt the earnest attention of the friends of the temperance cause has in some places secured the election of municipal councils favorable to prohibition. In such cases there should be no trouble in securing the adoption of the legislation mentioned. The prohibition thus obtainable is complete and will be found exceedingly beneficial.

Any desired information regarding this matter may be obtained from the Secretary of the Dominion Alliance. We earnestly recommend this useful line of work to our friends in every part of Ontario.

MANITOBA.

The Greenway Government has resigned. Hon. Hugh J. Macdonald has formed a new Cabinet, and the administration of affairs in the prairie Province is now in the hands of the Conservative party. Prohibitionists throughout the Dominion are anxiously waiting for the new Premier's announcement of plan of

action to carry out the prohibition policy adopted by his party at its Provincial Convention last year.

The strong deliverances made by that Convention make the Conservative party, so far as Manitoba is concerned, a prohibition party. A courageous and consistent working out of that policy will entrench the party firmly in the good will of Manitoba in which Province public sentiment is overwhelmingly opposed to any toleration of the liquor traffic.

PROHIBITION IN PARLIAMENT.

The House of Commons will meet for business on February 1st. No doubt the prohibition question will come up for consideration at an early date. Friends of temperance in different localities will act wisely, therefore, in interviewing their respective representatives as speedily as possible, urging them to insist upon Parliament's carrying out the will of the people as expressed in the Plebiscite of September 29th, 1898.

The people of Canada are in favor of prohibition. This has been shown most unmistakably. The common sense of the people has repudiated the attempt to evade the issue on the plea that the vote was too small to make it a fair expression of public opinion. It certainly was an expression of opinion as far as it was polled, and we have a right to take it as a fair expression of the opinion unpolled.

Counting the unpolled votes on the side of the liquor traffic is a method of dealing with them so unfair and so partial that we cannot wonder at the impatience with which it was received and the indignation which has been expressed against the Government by nearly every representative temperance body in the Dominion.

We sincerely hope that the sound sense of the members of the House of Commons will refuse to endorse the unjust conclusion of the Government, and will speedily find a way of carrying out the will of the people as expressed at the polls.

PLEDGING CANDIDATES.

Communications have been received from a number of friends who desire to have framed for them, such a pledge as they think parliamentary candidates ought to be asked to sign, so as to have them committed to the support of prohibition in Parliament if elected.

The question of pledging is a serious one. As a rule, the man who needs to be pledged will not be a very effective representative of prohibition sentiment. Our cause will be best served by those who have a record of friendship for our cause, and who will stand up for it as a matter of principle, not merely because of an anti-election promise. Where a pledge is desirable, however, the object aimed at may be secured by presenting to the candidate the political platform adopted by the Alliance Convention of last summer, and asking his acceptance of it. This platform is as follows:

1. That, in view of the substantial majority in favor of prohibition, of all the votes polled throughout the Dominion in the recent Plebiscite, including an overwhelming majority in all the Provinces but one, and a large portion of all the possible votes in those Provinces, this Council desires to express its strong dissatisfaction at the failure of the Government to take steps to give effect to the will of the people, as expressed at the polls.

2. That this Council re-affirms that nothing short of the total prohibition of the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors, for beverage purposes throughout the Dominion, can be accepted as a settlement of the liquor question, that such prohibition is the right and only effectual remedy for the

evils of intemperance, and must be steadily pressed for until obtained.

3. That, in view of the majority for prohibition in the whole Dominion, and the large vote and great majority recorded in favor of prohibition in six Provinces and the North-West Territories, the least measure of immediate legislation that could be looked upon as reasonable for the Government to offer, would be such as would secure the entire prohibition of the liquor traffic in and into these Provinces and Territories, notwithstanding any temporary delay in the application of such a law to the Province of Quebec on account of the adverse vote in that Province.

4. That such legislation ought to be enacted by the Dominion Parliament, which alone can prohibit the sending of intoxicating liquor into prohibition Provinces from places in which prohibition is not in operation.

5. That failure to enact at least this measure of prohibition must be considered inexcusable disregard and defiance of the strong moral sentiment of the electorate so emphatically expressed in the Plebiscite.

6. That prohibitionists ought to oppose any Government, any party or any candidate that will refuse to recognize and respond to the demand of the people, to at least the extent of such legislation.

THE DEVIL'S HIGHWAY.

A man or woman sitting down, or standing up if you like, to drink wine or other stimulant, always starts on the way that leads through four stages towards an easy, realizable destination. Stage one is that gentle stimulation called moderate excitement or support. Stage two is "elevation"—whatever that may mean. It is not elevation of character, of that I am satisfied. Stage three is confusion of mind, action and deed—with sad want of elevation. Stage four is complete concatenation of circumstances; the journey completed, with the traveller lying down, absolutely prostrated in mind and body. The destination is reached, and found to be—a human being, dead drunk and incapable.

I repeat, whenever a person begins to take any portion of alcohol, he starts on that journey; starts just as distinctly with the first drop swallowed as he would start with the first step he would put forward in a walk from the pure region of Hampstead Heath into the outfall of that Babylonish sewage which greets the smiling Thames at Barking Creek.

The knotty question then is this, ought a person to start on that remarkable journey of alcoholic progress at all? Should he try any stage? Everyone says, "Venture not on the last three stages on any account;" but some say, "Live and go happy, day by day, through the first; walk the first fourth of the way and you will be better for it. It is nice exercise; it makes your heart light; it refreshes your mind; it quickens your secretions; it assists your digestion. The wisest men of all ages have daily walked this stage on the alcoholic highway towards the point of concatenation of circumstances. In this fourth stage of the way, with an occasional venture a little further when the companionship was good, they have given the world its wit, its humor, its poetry, its greatness. Suppose they have lived a little shorter time for the exercise; they have done more work in the shorter time than they would have done in a longer time under duller circumstances! so that the advantage, on the whole, is with this moderate indulgence in alcohol. Indulgence just a fourth of the way on towards danger; never further, except on rarest occasions; and then certainly not quite half-way—to the foot of Mount Elevation at furthest; and no further—for the sake of mind and body alike."

This, in plain language, is the argument of the moderate school of thought. It is met point blank by the abstaining school which calls out with all its sympathetic might: "Take not a step on that highway! It is the devil's highway! It is the grand model of his engineering skill; it is wide, it is open, it is straight, it is smooth; it is filled with jolly companions every one; it is fenced with pleasures, it is rich with historical reminiscences; but there is this peculiarity about it, that there is not an inch of it, nor a hair-breadth of it, safe. Therefore, keep off it altogether. It is the Devil's Highway." —Mr. R. W. Richardson, M.D.

IMPORTANT.

TORONTO, 1899.

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 last year 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.

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