

# The Camp Fire.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL  
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF  
THE PROHIBITION CAUSE.

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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, NOVEMBER, 1895.

## GOOD TEMPLAR SEMI-JUBILEE IN IRELAND.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the planting of Good Templary in Ireland has just been celebrated by a series of services and meetings. Special sermons were preached at Antrim, Armagh, Belfast, Coleraine, Cork, Dublin, Dungannon, Castlederg, Lisburn, Larne, Londonderry, and Portadown, and week-day demonstrations were held in these and other towns, addressed by Irish Grand Lodge and other officers, and fraternal deputations were present from England and Scotland, consisting of Bro. Councillor Malins, R.W.G.Co., G.C.T. of England, and Sis. Mrs. McKinnon, R.W.G.V.T. (Dumfries), and Bro. Rev. D. MacKellar, G.Co., of Scotland. Among the Irish members taking part were Bros. Rev. J. W. M'Laughlin, G.Chap., Rev. James Cregan, G.Co., Rev. W. H. Robinson, Rev. W. J. Macaulay, B.A., P.G.C.T., Rev. A. McKinlay, Rev. C. D. Crookshanks, Rev. W. Gatchell, D.D., Rev. W. Florence, Rev. F. Robinson, Rev. S. Harding, P.G.S.J.T., W. R. Semple, G.Sec., and the Chairman of the Irish Congregational Union, and Rev. John Pyper, the first G.C.T. of Ireland. The Scotch deputation addressed meetings in various parts for a week, and Bro. Councillor Malins also addressed the great meeting at Londonderry on October 21, and the reception and demonstration in Belfast on October 25, when Bro. Rev. John Pyper presided. It was reported that there were now over 175,000 members in the United Kingdom in over 3,500 adult lodges and juvenile temples, meeting weekly.—*Exchange.*

## PROHIBITION IN NEW ZEALAND.

We have received a copy of a bill dealing with the liquor traffic, which has passed the House of Representatives in the Parliament of New Zealand and goes to the Legislative Council. Friends of Temperance are hopeful of its final passage. Some of its prominent features will be of interest to our readers. It is provided that at each general election for the House of Representatives in the colony, there shall be submitted to the electors the question of how the liquor traffic is to be afterwards dealt with. A ballot is prepared by marking which, each voter indicates which of three courses he desires followed:—(1) A continuance of the existing number of licenses; (2) A reduction in the number of licenses; (3) The abolition of all licenses in the electoral district; (4) The abolition of all licenses in the colony.

If a majority of the votes cast are favourable to a continuance of the existing licenses, the number of licenses remains as before, subject to

the ordinary provisions of the License Act.

If a majority of ballots are in favour of a reduction of licenses, then a reduction shall be made by the license Committee of not less than ten per cent, nor more than twenty-five per cent of the number of existing licenses, provided that some reduction must always be made. If three-fifths of the ballots are in favor of no license being issued in the district, this decision shall govern the Licensing Committee.

If three-fifths of the ballots are in favor of prohibition in the colony, then prohibition shall go into force not sooner than one year after the voting.

The bill of course contains a good deal of detail in reference to voting, the machinery for carrying out the law etc. Voters may mark their ballots in favour of three out of four of the propositions, so that in every election prohibitionists have a good opportunity of making some definite progress in suppressing the liquor traffic.

The decision of the voters holds good until the next general election, provided that such general election is held more than two years after the preceding. Otherwise the decision of the preceding election remains in force till the second general elections thereafter. Mr. Walker of the New Zealand Alliance, has expressed his expectation that the measure will pass the Upper House without mutilation. It passed its third reading in the House of Representatives by a unanimous vote.

## MEDICAL OPINION.

The Royal Commission upon the Liquor Traffic sent out a series of questions to medical men in Canada, making enquiry regarding certain phases of the liquor question. Answers were received from 1457. These answers were classified by the Commission and the results published in a table in the report. The questions were not probably exactly such as a prohibitionist would have framed. So far as they go however, they elicit a good deal of interesting information. Subjoined we give the question in full, following each one by the classification made by the Commission of the replies received.

**Question 1.** Is it your practice to prescribe alcohol in any of its forms—spirituous or fermented?

(a) For persons in health.  
(b) For sick persons.

Answers. Affirmative	(a)	86
	(b)	1,311
Negative	(a)	1,319
	(b)	73
Replies indefinite	(a)	13
	(b)	68
No reply	(a)	30
	(b)	5

**Question 2.** In your opinion, has the practice of prescribing alcohol increased or decreased of late years?

Answers. Increased	227
Decreased	923
No change	143
Indefinite replies	120
No reply	18

**Question 3.** In your opinion, could any substitute for alcohol be used which would be equally effective?

Answers. Affirmative	292
Negative	1,095
Replies indefinite	57
No reply	13

**Question 4.** Can you state approximately, what percentage of the cases you attend may be attributed to the use of spirituous or fermented liquors?

Answers. Under 10%	623
10% to 20%	89
20% to 50%	38
Over 50%	10
Replies indefinite	480
No reply	208

**Question 5.** In your opinion, and making allowance for the intemperate classes, would the general health of the population be improved by total abstinence from the use of intoxicating beverages?

Answers. Affirmative	1,008
Negative	287
Replies indefinite	81
No reply	18

**Question 6.** In your opinion, is the use of intoxicating beverages, in moderation, injurious to health and to an active condition to the mind and body?

Answers. Affirmative	901
Negative	430
Indefinite replies	95
No reply	22

**Question 7.** In your opinion, and judging from your experience, what percentage of deaths is attributable to the use of intoxicating beverages?

(a) Directly.  
(b) Indirectly

Answers. Under 10%	(a)	431
	(b)	373
10% to 20%	(a)	55
	(b)	81
20% to 50%	(a)	19
	(b)	50
Over 50%	(a)	6
	(b)	9
Replies indefinite	(a)	632
	(b)	925
No reply	(a)	314
	(b)	307

**Question 8.** In your opinion, does the use of intoxicating beverages increase the number of insane persons?

Answers. Affirmative	1,052
Negative	228
Replies indefinite	124
No reply	53

## DRINK CAUSED MORTALITY.

(FROM MINORITY ROYAL COMMISSION REPORT.)

The proportion of deaths directly and indirectly due to intemperance it is, of course, impossible accurately to estimate. Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson, the eminent English Physician, gives his views on this point in the following terms:—

"It is difficult to calculate the precise mortality from alcohol, because we have never yet fully diagnosed all the evils leading to disease and death which spring from it. For example, up to this time we have not added the mortality due to alcoholic paralysis in the large computations from which our results have been drawn. Some years ago, from the best data I could obtain, I estimated that in England and Wales the mortality from alcohol was 50,000 per annum, an estimate fairly confirmed by other observers who have made enquires of an important and dependent character. Admitting its correctness, this estimate makes the mortality from alcohol to be about one-tenth of the whole mortality."

Dr. Norman Kerr, a distinguished English physician, has made an exhaustive study of this question and published the same in a work entitled "Mortality of Intemperance." He tells that he commenced the investigation with the avowed object of demonstrating and exposing the utter falsity of the tee-total assertion that 60,000 drunkards die every year in the United Kingdom. From his statement the following is taken:—"It has been my painful duty to compute the mortality from inebriety within our borders, and the estimate which, after careful inquiry, I was enabled to lay before several scientific and learned societies was pronounced 'moderate' and 'within the truth' and has never been seriously disputed. There is, first, the number of deaths occurring annually in the United Kingdom from personal alcoholic inebriety, which I reckon at 40,000."

The late Sir Andrew Clark, physician to the Queen, said:—"I do not desire to make out a strong case. I am speaking solemnly and carefully in the presence of truth, and I tell you I am considerably within the mark when I say to you that in going the rounds of my hospital wards to-day, seven out of every ten owed their illness to alcohol."

Speaking out of the experience of twenty-five years, during which he had to inquire into the habits in relation to the health of 10,000 people a year, he said that he had found alcohol to be "not only a not helper of work, but a certain hinderer to work." That out of every hundred patients under his charge in the London hospital "70 per cent of them owed their ill-health to alcohol;" and that "more than three-fourths of the disorders in what we call fashionable life arise from the use of this very drug."

In 1800 a very interesting investigation was made made in the United States. The editors of two medical journals, having wide acquaintance among leading men of the profession, were requested to select a number of prominent medical authorities in various parts of the country, to whom was submitted a series of questions framed so as to obtain their opinions as to the extent to which alcohol was a cause of the cases of disease which they were called upon to deal with, and also the per centage of deaths from such diseases which might fairly be attributed to alcohol. Taking the answers received and making from them a careful estimate, applied to all the mortality of the country, it is seen that the case is not overestimated when the deaths each year attributed to drink in the United States are placed at 80,000 or 100,000. This would be, say, 10 to 12 per cent of the whole mortality.

The total number of deaths recorded in Canada in 1891 was 67,688. Ten per cent of that number would be 6,768. It is probable, however, that the death rate through intemperance in Canada is less than in other countries named, inasmuch as the consumption of alcohol is comparatively small. In an address made in the House of Commons, in 1874, Hon. G. W. Ross, who had made a special study of the statistics of intemperance, estimated the annual loss of life in Canada through the liquor traffic at 4,000. In 1885 the Hon. George E. Foster, in a speech in Parliament, took 3,000 deaths per year as the number which might be safely set down as due to this cause.

This, in view of the facts already set forth, must be regarded as a moderate estimate. And yet it is an alarming contribution to the price paid for the continuance of the liquor traffic.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The journal of the session of the Grand Lodge of Western Australia held in April is just received. It is rather late to report the session as news, yet as we did not receive a synopsis of the report at the time we think our readers will be glad to hear from them, even if it is late. The session was held at Perth; it was their fourteenth annual session, and was well attended. The reports show a membership of 932 in seventeen lodges. Their largest lodge, "Rock of Safety," has 118 members.

## ICELAND.

The Grand Lodge of Iceland was organized in 1880, and has met annually ever since. This is only a small jurisdiction but they report twenty-three lodges with a membership of 1,517, a gain of 155 members during the past year. They also report fifteen temples with a membership of 428. The three days' session was held in Good Templars' Hall, Reykjavik, was well attended and interesting.

## CALIFORNIA.

The thirty-sixth annual session of the Grand Lodge of California has just closed its labours (Oct. 7th). It was a most enthusiastic and harmonious session, and we are firm in the belief that we have builded well for the future, and that the next twelve months will see a distinct advancement in the work of Good Templary in this state.