

THE CAMP FIRE.

A Monthly Record and Advocate of The Temperance Reform.

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A NEW PLAN OF WISE WORK FOR RICH RESULTS.

BY W.C.T.U.'S—YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES—TEMPERANCE ORGANIZATIONS—AND CHRISTIAN WORKERS GENERALLY.

[We carried prohibition in Maine by sowing the land knee-deep with literature.—NEAL DOW.]

THE CAMP FIRE is a carefully prepared budget of the latest and soundest campaign literature, bright and telling sketches and poems, and a summary of recent temperance news, put in the taking form of a monthly journal.

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HOW LICENSE WORKS.

A special despatch to the Voice from Salem, Mass., shows the great change made in the criminal record of that city by the change from prohibition to license. In 1894, from May 1st to November 1st, under prohibition there were 354 arrests, 213 of them being for drunkenness. From May 1st to November 1st of 1895, under license, there were 1,081 arrests, 784 of them for drunkenness.

IMPORTANT ITEMS.

A Citizen's League has been formed in Charlottetown for the enforcement of the Scott Act. Hon. D. Farquharson is President, and D. Shurman, Secretary. The League has already a large membership.

From Quebec comes the encouraging news that the Missisquoi County Alliance has decided to bring on a vote on the Scott Act as early as possible. About 1,000 signatures to the petition for the submission of the Act have already been secured.

The Ontario Court of Appeal has given an important decision affirming the right of the Provincial Government to compel brewers and distillers to obtain provincial licenses to sell liquor by wholesale notwithstanding the authority given them by the Dominion Parliament to manufacture such liquors.

SCOTT ACT ENFORCEMENT.

King's County, N. B. has been under the operation of the Scott Act for a long time. The report of the Inspector for the past year showed that 62 cases of violation of the law were before the courts. In 58 of them convictions were secured. The amount of fines imposed was \$2000, and the amount collected \$1700. Eight offenders were committed to jail. The report contained other statements showing that the Act was being made a great success.

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On Wednesday, Feb. 12th, Mr. T. B. Flint moved a prohibition resolution in the House of Commons. It is in the following terms:—"That in the opinion of this House the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors except for medicinal, sacramental and mechanical purposes, should be prohibited by law."

In speaking to his resolution Mr. Flint referred to the unfair way in which he had been side-tracked a year ago by a resolution deferring it until the courts had decided the jurisdiction question. He showed clearly that there was no doubt as to the jurisdiction of the Dominion Parliament, and urged that the question be treated upon its merits. He reviewed the history of prohibitory action in the House of Commons, and adduced strong evidence of the desire of the public for effective legislation. The question was not disposed of and under the rules of the House will come up for consideration again.

ALCOHOL NOT A FOOD.

I am recording a matter of history—of personal history—on this question when I say that I for one had no thought of alcohol except as a food. I thought it warmed us. I thought it gave additional strength. I thought it enabled us to endure mental and bodily fatigue. I thought it cheered the heart, and lifted up the mind into greater activity.

But it so happened that I was asked to study the action of alcohol along with the whole series of chemical bodies and to investigate their bearing in relation to each other. And so I took alcohol from the shelf of my laboratory, as I might any other drug or chemical there, and I asked it, in the course of experiments extending over a long period, "What do you do?" I asked it, "Do you warm the animal body when you are taken into it?" The answer came invariably, "I do not, except in a mere flush of surface excitement. There is in fact, no warming, but, on the contrary, an effect of cooling and chilling the body."

Then I turn round to it in another direction, and ask it, "Do you give muscular strength?" I test it by the most rigid analysis and experiment I can adopt, I test muscular power under the influence of it in various forms and degrees, and its reply is "I give no muscular strength." I turn to

its effects upon the organs of the body, and find that while it expedites the heart's action it reduces tonicity; and turning to the nervous system I find the same reply—that is to say, I find the nervous system more quickly worn out under the influence of this agent than if none of it is taken at all.

I ask it, "Can you build up any of the tissues of the body?" The answer again in the negative—"I build nothing. If I do anything I add fatty matter to the body; but that is a destructive agent, piercing the tissues, destroying their powers, and making them less active in their work."

Finally, I sum it all up. I find it to be an agent that gives no strength, that reduces the tone of the blood-vessels and heart, that reduces the nervous power, that builds up no tissues, can be of no use to me or any other animal as a substance for food. On that side of the question my mind is made up—that this agent, in the most moderate quantity, is perfectly useless for any of the conditions of life which men are subjected, except under the most exceptional conditions, which none but skilled observers declare. — Sir B. W. Richardson, M. D.

ROTTED OFF BY BEER.

This is not a temperance treatise, but it has a bit of fact in it that the total abstainer may show to the beer-drinker whenever occasion offers, says the *New York Mail and Express*.

The attention of the New York hospital surgeons has been called to a large number of bar-tenders that have lost several fingers of both hands within the past few years.

The first case was that of an employee of a Bowery concert-hall. Three 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 his duty was to draw beer for the thousands who visited the gardens nightly.

The man was in perfect health otherwise, and it took the young doctors quite a time to arrive at a conclusion. But they did finally, and it nearly took the beer man's breath away when they did.

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

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

The head bar-tender of a well-known saloon says he knows a number of cases where beer-drawers have, in addition to losing several fingers of both hands, lost the use of both members.

"Beer will rot iron, I believe," he added. "I know, and every bar-tender knows, that it is impossible to keep a good pair of shoes behind the bar. Beer will rot leather almost as rapidly as acid will eat iron. If I were a temperance orator, I'd ask what must beer do to men's stomachs if it eat away men's fingers and shoe leather. I'm here to sell it, but I won't drink it, not much." — *National Temperance Advocate*.

IMPORTANT LEGISLATION.

The United States Congress has before it a couple of important measures dealing with the matter of Federal permits for the sale of liquor.

As our readers are aware, the laws against selling liquor without a permit from the National Government are very severe. In prohibition States and also in license States, persons who propose to violate the State Law generally take out Federal permits to escape the severer penalties.

A bill is before the Senate, and another before the House, providing that Federal permits shall not be issued to persons who are not authorized by

State law to carry on the liquor traffic. The enactment of such a measure will be a great step in advance and a material aid to the temperance cause. The measure is strongly favored by representatives from prohibition and local option States and others who see the justice of it.

READ, CATHOLICS, READ.

What is it that keeps the Irish people in these low social conditions? The saloon. Thither goes the money earned by the sweat of their brows. Thence do men issue, broken down in health and strength, to swell the list of idlers and paupers. Our disgrace and our misfortune in America is the number of Irish saloon keepers. — *Archbishop Ireland*.

I impeach the liquor traffic of high crimes and misdemeanors. It is mere mockery to ask us to put down drunkenness by moral and righteous means. — *Cardinal Manning*.

The saloon is the recruiting office of the devil, of blasphemy and of infidelity. It is the duty, therefore, of all who love God and the Church to oppose the influence of the saloon. — *Father Burns*.

We know that intemperance has wrought evil in the liberties of our country and in the politics of our country. Oh, the meanness of our politics that will be led by the grog selling element! — *Father Elliott*.

We who labor so hard to rid our mother country of landlords and landlord iniquity ought not to become slaves of the rum lord and bow to the iniquity of intemperance. — *Father Conaty*.

Let no man say he is safe enough, that he has no occasion to take the pledge. I have seen the stars of the heavens fall and the cedars of Lebanon laid low. The pledge which I ask you and others to take does not enslave it makes free. Temperance brings blessings in both hands—blessings for time and blessings for eternity. — *Father Mathew*.

We do not believe that the church should leave the field entirely alone to the saloon keeper to champion our laws. We believe that as long as the saloon dares, with brazen frontonery, to demoralize our politics that the church, with uprightness, with a clear and serene countenance, should enter the political arena to purify it. — *Father Cleary*.

Any American citizen who says it is impossible for us to put down those evils, to enforce the laws that are upon the statute books against the liquor interests, I would say to him he ought to abdicate. We are able to do it. — *Archbishop Elder*.

GOOD SAMARITAN.

And it came to pass as a certain man journeyed from the cradle to the grave he fell among saloon keepers, who robbed him of his money, ruined his good name, destroyed his reason and knocked him out worse than dead. A moderate drinker came that way, and when he saw him he said:—"He is but a dog; they served him right. Let him die; he is a curse to his family." And also a license voter came that way, and when he saw him he said:—"The brute! Put a ball and chain on his leg and work him on the streets." And a fanatic teetotaler came that way, and when he saw him he had compassion on him and raised him up, assisted him to his home and ministered to his wants and the wants of his family; got him to sign the pledge and started him on his journey in comfort and happiness. Whom, think you, was the greater friend to humanity—the saloon keeper, the moderate drinker, the license voter or the fanatic teetotaler? — *Rev. A. J. Gordon, D. D.*

The City of Lynn, Mass., has a similar record. Under prohibition, the number of arrests in the same six months was 1,190, the arrests for drunkenness being 623. In 1895 for the same period, the number of arrests was 2,401, 1,890 being for drunkenness.