

THE CAMP FIRE.

A Monthly Record and Advocate of the Temperance Reform.

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Every one who receives this paper is respectfully requested to read every part of it carefully. It is a journal that no Canadian temperance worker can afford to be without. The subscription price is almost insignificant. In the great impending campaign for prohibition in Ontario it will be of intense interest and great value.

ABSTINENCE AND LIFE INSURANCE.

From time to time an object lesson on the advantages of total abstinence is given in the reports of the various life insurance societies. The most recent is furnished by the Sceptre Life Association, in its report for the year 1899. Of the 579 policies issued, 402 were on the lives of total abstainers, or upwards of 69 per cent.; of these latter 244, or over 60 per cent., were life abstainers. The claims for death during the year, as compared with those which actually occurred, have been as follows: In the general section the expected deaths were 140, the actual deaths were 86, percentage 61.43; in the Temperance section the expected deaths were 94, the actual deaths were 47, percentage 50. And to show that this favourable mortality has not been confined to the past year, we present the following table, covering a period of 15 years in each of the sections named:—

GENERAL SECTION.			
	Expected.	Actual.	Percentage.
1884-88	466	368	79.00
1889-93	564	466	82.62
1894-98	628	498	79.30
Total	1,658	1,332	80.34
TEMPERANCE SECTION.			
	Expected.	Actual.	Percentage.
1884-88	195	110	56.41
1889-93	312	184	58.97
1894-98	419	228	54.42
Total	926	522	56.37

—Exchange.

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FACTS AND FIGURES.

A Pressing Problem.

It is stated that in a recent interview with a friend, Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, Colonial Secretary for Great Britain, stated that one of the great questions he would feel called upon to grapple with in the near future, was the temperance question.

A National "Spree."

President Loubet, head of the French Republic, banqueted the Mayors of France at Paris on the 25th of September last. The reports of this great gathering state that 30,000 bottles of wine were drunk, besides a great deal of other intoxicating liquor, and that the banquet was with many of the guests, the beginning of a debauch which lasted for many days.

Britain's Bill for "Booze."

A statement carefully prepared by Rev. Dawson Burns, D.D., gives the cost of intoxicating liquors in the United Kingdom for 1899 as being £162,163,474 sterling.

Taking the amount of alcohol estimated as contained in the different kinds of liquors used, we get the total consumption of alcohol as 94,902,882 gallons, equal to 2.34 gallons per head of the population. The consumption of drink was greater than in any time during the last twenty years.

A Leader Gone.

British temperance reformers are mourning the death of Rev. Charles Garrett, of Liverpool, one of the most famous English champions of the great reform. Mr. Garrett had a worldwide reputation. He was a prominent figure at the annual Alliance meetings and was recognized as the leader of the temperance forces in the Wesleyan Conference. For many years he edited the Methodist Temperance Magazine and it was mainly through his efforts that the Methodist Recorder was started. He was esteemed and beloved by all who knew him, as a faithful pastor, an eloquent preacher, an earnest philanthropist, a wise patriot, and a tireless worker for the welfare of humanity.

Legislation in Switzerland.

The temperance cause seems to be making progress in Switzerland. A recent issue of the Journal de Geneve has an article in which the question of restrictive legislation is discussed. In the Canton of Zurich there were in 1896, 869 dealers in liquor. In 1899 the number had increased to 1,318. Consumption of liquor by women and children has assumed alarming dimensions. A Government Commission dealing with financial questions, has presented to the Grand Council a resolution requesting the Government to consider the proposed reform. Among the restrictions contemplated are increase of license fees, prohibition of sale of liquor in provision shops, and restriction of the number of licenses.

Prohibition Works.

The city of Waltham, Mass., makes the following showing in arrests for drunkenness for three years of prohibition and the two preceding years under license.

1895	License	747
1896	License	82
1897	Prohibition	311
1898	Prohibition	262
1899	Prohibition	181

Previous to 1895 the city was under prohibition.

Another Example.

The city of Peabody in Massachusetts also gives an object lesson in the respective results of license and prohibition. This city voted for prohibition for 1897

and 1899, but was under license in the intervening year of 1898. The arrests for drunkenness and the total arrests for these years, are given in the following table:

	Total Arrests.	Arrests for Drunkenness.
1897 Prohibition	190	65
1898 License	2,141	907
1899 Prohibition	178	75

An Awful Record.

The Royal Templar for October, contains no fewer than six sad records of Canadian fatalities, directly traceable to intoxicating liquor. Among them were the death of Isaiah Warner at Toronto, the result of a quarrel at the Humber tavern; the murder of Charles Bostoeck at Nelson B.C., by a drunken companion; the killing of Elvi Baril, of Sophie, Que., who was pounded to death by boon companions in a drunken brawl; the death at Toronto of Fred Barnes through excessive drinking; a similar fatality to Dr. Arnold, of Stanley, N.B.; and the murder of a young girl by George Arthur Pearson, of Hamilton, who had been freely using strong drink for some time prior to his unexplainable crime.

POINTS IN FAVOUR OF ALCOHOL AND THEIR REFUTATION.

Dr. Bionfait, a Paris physician, examined point by point the various objections to total abstinence:—

1. Is alcohol a digestive? No; its ingestion produces a passing excitation, interrupts the proper action of the muscles of the stomach, because alcohol acts as an anæsthetic after having irritated the walls of the stomach, and it drives the blood to the skin and so hinders the action of the gastric juice.
2. Is alcohol an appetiser? No; it produces an excitation of the stomach which causes a sensation taken for hunger.
3. Is alcohol a food? No; it does not correspond to the definition of a food, and the heat that it seems to produce does not serve as an actual warmth.
4. Is alcohol heating? No; it causes a flow of blood to the skin and a lowering of temperature.
5. Is alcohol a stimulant? In no case, either physical or intellectual.
6. Is alcohol a protector against contagion? No; it predisposes the body to contagion.
7. Can we live without alcohol? This idea that we cannot live without alcohol is a prejudice that numerous facts contradict.
8. Is alcohol good for children? It should never be given to children.
9. Does alcohol increase longevity? According to reliable statistics alcohol diminishes longevity.—The Family Doctor.

A LAW NEEDED.

Mr. Foster speaks about prohibition in tones very far removed from those in which he used to denounce the license system and demand prohibition before he became a legislator and a responsible minister and a party leader. He now thinks much of the energy of temperance people is put into seeking prohibition which might be better spent in developing a temperance sentiment.

We quite agree with him in the view that the only real thing is temperance sentiment, and the struggle for a law would be largely wasted work if temperance sentiment were not developed and to be developed by it. It has, we think, however, been the feeling of most temperance men that almost the only way open to them of promoting the education of the people is to demand action of some sort at their hands; and what other or more logical action can be demanded than prohibitory law?

The chief value of the struggle for prohibitory law is the education of the

people. The chief value of such a law, if attained, would be as an educating force. Can Mr. Foster tell us how else or how more logically we can go about the end we have in view, namely, to get a people convinced that the traffic is a national iniquity, and that to license men to carry it on for their profit is a national crime.

Mr. Foster says all we have to do to secure prohibition is to send convinced temperance men to parliament. We have sent there many such, possibly a majority, of whom Mr. Foster was one of the most brilliant and capable, as well as one of the most convinced, but where do their convictions go to when they get to Ottawa?—Montreal Witness.

ALCOHOL, ITS ORIGIN AND ITS USES.

In an instructive lecture by Walter N. Edwards, F. C. S., on "Alcohol in Everything," reported in the *Alliance News*, we read:—

"It is the alcohol derived from sugar, known as ethyl alcohol, that is the alcohol of commerce, and the one that is found in strong drinks, and it is this one that we ask men and women to abstain from. The other alcohols are not likely to come into use, as they are all more or less nauseous. Of the whole alcohol family, ethyl alcohol seems to be the only one that is acceptable for common use, but whilst it commands the palate of vast multitudes of men and women, it is none the less injurious in the insidious and gradual harm that it works. We may be quite certain of this, that the whole of the ordinary foods of man as supplied by nature are free from alcohol. Neither in the air, the water, nor the grain and fruits can it be found. At the same time its production from food stuffs is the result of the law which governs all decomposition and decay.

PRODUCTION OF ALCOHOL.

"It does not matter where, so long as the proper conditions are present, there alcohol will be found. For instance in the making of bread it is a common practice to put yeast into the dough in order to make it rise. The rising of the dough is due to the formation of carbonic acid gas, which in its endeavour to escape, blows spaces in the mass of dough. If carbonic gas is formed, it is chemically certain that alcohol has in this case also been formed. The yeast in the dough acts in exactly the same way as yeast in the fermenting tun of the brewer. It attacks the sugar, decomposing it into alcohol and carbonic acid gas. Alcohol cannot, however, be found in properly baked bread, for although it is present in the dough, the heat of the oven is sufficiently great to drive off a quantity of the water from the dough in the form of steam, and in this water all the alcohol is carried off, so that the bread as consumed is entirely free from its presence.

THE LESSON TO BE LEARNED

from the whole study is that alcohol is not present in wholesome foods; that it can be produced from any fruit containing either starch or sugar; that chemical changes are absolutely necessary to its production; that these changes entirely destroy the substance from which the sugar or starch is obtained, as far as its food quality is concerned; and that the alcohol produced has very different properties from the substance from which it is obtained.

"It may be that alcohol has great and wonderful uses, and that its production is necessary to supply the needs of science, art, and commerce, but that fact does not warrant its use as an article of food, nor does it alter the fact that whilst alcohol has a wide sphere of usefulness outside of the human body, it is not difficult to prove that it is always and invariably mischievous when taken within."