

# The Camp Fire.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL  
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALY 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, AUGUST, 1897.

## DIRECT TAXATION.

Sometimes the liquor men make a tactical mistake. They did it when they permitted their agent Mr. Haverston, to ask the Dominion Government to put the question of direct taxation into the plebiscite ballot. This audacious proposal immediately roused such a storm of protest as made it clear that it would be very impolitic for the Government to entertain the impertinent suggestion. The direct taxation ballot project has been killed and we have to thank the champion of the liquor traffic for stirring up the agitation that so completely overwhelmed the absurd idea.

In this event there is a warning. The liquor men are afraid of the coming vote. They are afraid of the people. They dread the result of a fair ballot. They will do all they can to prevent the free expression of public opinion. Taught by the blunder of their solicitor, they will probably work further schemes in a quieter fashion. We must be more than ever on our guard. Our cause is safe in a fair fight. We must watch carefully against any surreptitious efforts of our wily opponents to handicap us by the form or conditions of the vote which is shortly to be taken.

## ORGANIZATION.

The great Convention at Toronto of last month, may fairly be looked upon as the starting point of the Dominion Plebiscite campaign. For the next few months the watchword of our workers must be organization. It is absolutely necessary that we should have plans laid, local leaders chosen, and all preliminaries put in shape at the earliest possible opportunity.

It is now certain that the Dominion Parliament will meet very early in 1898 and that the Plebiscite will receive its attention shortly after the opening of the session. In probably six or seven months we shall know exactly the lines on which the battle is to be fought. Let us have our forces ready so that the campaign may be commenced at almost an hour's notice.

Steps are being taken to secure the organization of every part of the Dominion. If any locality has been overlooked, the friends therein should meet and make their own preparations without delay. Full information regarding methods of work will be promptly and cheerfully furnished at any time by the Secretary of the Dominion Alliance.

## LITERATURE.

The coming campaign will be to a large extent, a literature campaign. More than ever the printed page is becoming the effective weapon in all public agitation. The liquor party will do all that is possible on this line. We must meet them with weapons as effective as their own.

The Dominion Alliance Convention recommended the Executive to give special attention to this important matter, and no doubt that committee will soon be prepared with a plan that will commend itself to the approval of our workers. Meantime we should take advantage of the means already at our disposal and see that such useful literature as can be procured, has a wide circulation. Special attention is respectfully called to the plan of circulating the CAMP FIRE to be found in another column of this paper.

## ELECTORAL ACTION.

By the unanimous vote of a thoroughly representative body of leading prohibitionists from different parts of the Dominion of Canada, the following resolution was adopted.

"That we strongly urge that prohibitionist electors who have party affiliations, be present in the local caucuses of their parties, in order to secure such prohibitionist representation in the county nominating conventions, as shall secure known and avowed prohibitionist candidates for Parliament."

We rejoice in this substantial, commonsense deliverance. It is the declaration of a policy that if fairly carried out, will give prohibitionists more influence and power than could be secured on any other line of electoral action. It is so clear in its wording, its intention is so plain, and it is manifestly so wise in plan and so certain to be effective in results if fairly carried out, that there is little need to do more than call attention to it and earnestly urge our friends to see it carried forward into practical operation.

## CHARLOTTETOWN.

We regret very much the temporary disappointment that our friends in Charlottetown are suffering. They are learning in a hard school the necessity of eternal vigilance in the prohibition warfare. They are finding out that to achieve success we must so use our political power as to be recognized, considered and influential in every department of politics and government.

If the Prince Edward Island administration had been animated by an earnest desire to do all it could for the maintenance of the Scott Act, there would not have been the contiguity of the two elections that worked such disadvantage to our cause. If the Charlottetown electors had made Scott Act enforcement the first consideration in their municipal elections the liquor traffic would long ago have been cramped within such limits that it would not have been able to organize and carry on its recent campaign against what is good and elevating and beneficial in every way. We must recognize that only by eternal vigilance can we hold against our unscrupulous foes any point of advantage that we may gain. Those who led the fight in Charlottetown made heroic efforts and deserve all the credit that can be given them. They are wise in preparing already for the next campaign, and if they keep up the spirit that now animates them they are certain to win a mighty victory when the next contest comes on.

## PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION.

The Toronto Convention decided to make an appeal to the Ontario Legislature at its approaching session, for further restrictive legislation. In view of the generally expressed opinion that last year we asked for too many things instead of concentrating our attention upon a few radical and very important measures, the Convention specified two important improvements in the law which it was resolved to press for.

One of these measures is the giving power to the voters in any polling subdivision, to prevent the renewal of a license already in operation in such subdivision. Nearly every other province has this power. Some have it in such form that the liquor party must have a decided numerical advantage over the temperance electorate in order to ensure permission for it to continue. We are asking for something much less radical, namely, the right of a simple majority to suppress a cause of ruin and disaster.

The other change in the law to be asked for is the placing in the hands of the people power to limit the hours during which liquor may be sold. It is a recognized principle in our license system that the people of a locality should have some control over the traffic in that locality. They are however, at present debarred from any voice as to the hours during which the liquor business may be carried on. The proposition that local sentiment should further limit hours of sale is eminently reasonable and ought to commend itself to the approval of the Legislature.

Our friends all over the province are cordially requested to consider these important matters and do what they can to show that public opinion will approve the moderate and desirable changes proposed.

## BOTH SIDES

The money paid for one glass of beer would pay for one loaf of bread.

The money paid for one glass of whisky would pay for three pounds of apples.

The money paid for two glasses of beer would pay for a peck of potatoes.

The money paid for two glasses of whisky would pay for one pound of coffee.

The money paid for three glasses of beer would pay for a quarter pound of tea.

The money paid for four glasses of beer would pay for two dozen eggs.

The money paid for four glasses of whisky would pay for two pounds of butter.

The money paid in one month for two glasses of beer a day would pay for a ton of coal.

The money paid in one month for two glasses of whisky a day would pay for a suit of clothes.—*Irish Templar.*

## A WELL-KEPT DIARY.

Not long ago, in Europe, a man died at the age of seventy-three, who began at the age of seventeen to keep a diary, which he continued to keep for fifty-two years. It is now published and is a most striking commentary on the life of a mere worldling. His life was not consecrated to a high ideal. In the book he left he states that in fifty-two years he had smoked 628,715 cigars, of which he had received 43,692 as presents, while for the remaining 585,023 he had paid about \$10,433. In fifty-two years, according to his book-keeping, he had drunk 28,786 glasses of beer, and 26,085 glasses of spirits, for which he spent \$5,350.

The diary closes with these words: "I have tried all things; I have seen many; I have accomplished nothing." A stronger sermon could not be preached than to put this testimony against that of the missionary apostle, Paul: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day" (2 Tim. iv. 7-8).

—*National Temperance Advocate.*

## CAMPAIGN LITERATURE.

TORONTO, 1897.

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 in the plebiscite campaign to inspire workers and make votes.

The contest upon which we are entering, will be largely a literature campaign. Printed matter tells. It does its work continuously, silently, fearlessly and well. 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.

This journal will be in every respect reliable and readable. Every article will be short, good and forcible, containing nothing sectional, sectarian or partizan. The literature of the old world and the new world will be ransacked for the most helpful and effective material. The price is very low.

Such literature will convince many a man whom his neighbors cannot convince. It will talk to him quietly, in his own home, in his leisure moments, when he can listen uninterrupted, when he cannot talk back and when the personality of the talker cannot interfere with the effect of the talk.

It will ply him with facts, arguments and appeals, that will influence, instruct and benefit him. It will set him thinking. This is half the battle. Its wide circulation will swell the victory that we are about to win. This is its object.

Your help is asked in this great work. Every society should subscribe for and distribute hundreds of copies. This is the easiest and surest plan of making prohibition votes. Look at the terms:

**Twenty copies will be sent to any one address every month for six months, for ONE DOLLAR, payable in advance.**

On no other plan can a small investment be made to produce so much of educative result. One hundred and twenty copies may be placed in as many homes, and have more than HALF A THOUSAND readers. One dollar will cover this placing of the claims of our cause before five hundred people. Ten dollars may reach FIVE THOUSAND. WILL YOU HELP US?

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