

# THE CAMP FIRE.

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## ITEMS OF INTEREST

ABOUT THE GREAT CURSE AND THE GREAT REFORM.

### CANADIAN.

#### A SAD ENDING.

A press despatch dated February 5th, tells of the sudden and sad death of a financial agent at St. George, Ont., who had been drinking very heavily for some time. He leaves a large family.

#### SENT TO JAIL.

At Barrie, Ont. on Feb. 8th, a man named Livingstone was sentenced to jail for six months and was also fined \$100 for manufacturing whiskey unlawfully. Is the License Law a failure?

#### DRINK AND DEATH.

A telegram from Ashcroft, B.C. tells a sad story of the death of a Toronto man who was seized with delirium tremens in that far off place, rushed into the woods and remained there until he was so badly frozen that his death speedily followed.

#### A NEW COUNTY W.C.T.U.

Mrs. May R. Thorley of London, Provincial President of the W.C.T.U., recently visited Cayuga where she succeeded in organizing a county W.C.T.U. The newly formed body at once resolved to hold a general county convention to make arrangements for campaign work in the coming plebiscite.

#### MAKING THEM PAY.

The town of Summerside, P.E.I., reports a net revenue after payment of local expenses of \$799.84 for 1896, from fines imposed for violation of the Canada Temperance Act. This looks as if there was a good deal of law violation, but it is also evidence that the authorities are making vigorous efforts to have the law carried out.

#### ONTARIO WINS AGAIN.

The Privy Council of Great Britain has dismissed the appeal of the Brewers and Malsters Association against the Ontario Government. The Brewers objected to pay license for the privilege of selling liquor in Ontario, claiming that their Dominion License was sufficient authority. The Privy Council sustains the contention that they must be authorized by the Provincial Government to enable them to sell their product.

#### THE SCOTT ACT WORKS.

The Charlottetown P.E.I. Guardian made an enquiry recently into the jail population of the city. There were at the time 28 prisoners under arrest. Twenty of these were convicted violators of the Scott Act. This looks as if prohibition were being enforced and also makes it appear that the presence in the jail of the would-be liquor sellers, was accompanied by an absence of the class offenders that usually are found in such places when the liquor sellers are out loose.

There is an effort being made to induce the City Council to employ, as a permanent officer to enforce the Scott Act, a man who has recently been very successful in making cases against offenders under the auspices of a private prosecuting organization of temperance workers.

#### NO COMPROMISE.

The City Council of Halifax appointed a temperance committee some time ago to confer with representatives of temperance societies regarding amendments to the liquor license law. The temperance societies refused to attend the meeting stating that they were opposed to any kind of license legislation and therefore could not consider amendments to the law. It is expected that a bill for provincial prohibition will be introduced into the Legislature when it assembles.

#### PLUCKY PROHIBITIONISTS.

The Municipal Council in the township of Beverley being asked to submit a by-law under local option legislation, offered to submit the measure provided the friends of the temperance cause would deposit sufficient money to pay the cost of the election, the money to be returned in case prohibition carried, and to be retained if the by-law were defeated. The undaunted prohibitionists have complied with this unreasonable request and are preparing for a campaign in which they anticipate a big victory.

#### A STRONG APPEAL.

Grand Worthy Patriarch, J. M. Walton, of the Ontario Sons of Temperance, has addressed a circular to the subordinate Divisions of his jurisdiction. This document contains a stirring appeal to workers in view of the approaching campaign, couched in the following terms:—

Brethren, the time is momentous. By a new process a test is to be made to gauge the temperance sentiment of the nation. Soon every citizen will be called upon to pronounce for or against the continuance of the liquor traffic under legal sanction. For fifty years the work has been carried on at great sacrifice. Now the fate of our cause for a generation is to be decided. Be up and doing! Let every man be found in his place! From every Division room window throughout the land, let the light as a watch fire glow! With speech and pen, and the influence of example, let every Son of Temperance strive for the triumph of our cause, and sound battle cry, "for God and home, and the native land."

#### A TIMELY WARNING.

We cordially commend to our readers the following official forecast of the probable outcome of the approaching plebiscite which is at the same time a wise warning as to what we may expect to follow. We shall be helped to the best results in the approaching conflict if we enter it with a full realization of what it involves. Every word of these paragraphs ought to be weighed. They are taken from the January issue of *Forward*, the official organ of the Nova Scotia Sons of Temperance. "We are to have a Dominion Plebiscite. The results we hope for are an overwhelming affirmation of the principle, followed by adequate legislation to be submitted, not to the popular vote for ratification, but to the test of time and effects. We dare hope and expect that much.

"What then? Do prohibitionists expect to repose on their laurels? Their work has just begun. The enemy's subtle tactics for the subversion of the law will follow. There will be a flood-tide of misrepresentation with which they will seek to vilify the operation of the law, to obscure the benefits, magnify the inconveniences and imperfections unavoidable at first in a law involving such important changes in business and usage as the suppression of the liquor traffic.

"If we have not profited by the lessons of the experience of bitter, persistent, unscrupulous warfare waged wherever such laws operate effectively, if we have not discerned the necessity for eternal vigilance, then success will be succeeded by reverses, and final victory is afar off.

"Make ready for a protracted, desperate war. It is to be no miniature sham-fight. Never in the world's history was there such an array of wealth and influence standing in the pathway as a deadly menace to its civilization, a foe to Government, law and order. Canada for prohibition!"

### FOREIGN.

#### THE PROHIBITION PARTY VOTE.

The official statement of the Prohibition Party vote of the United States shows that 130,493 votes were cast for Levering, the prohibition candidate. The number cast for Bidwell, Prohibition Party candidate in 1892, was 270,710.

#### LIQUOR SELLERS BARRED OUT.

The Grand Lodge of Free Masons of the State of Minnesota, has debarred liquor sellers from members of the Order in its jurisdiction, and has also ordered that persons who are members and who may hereafter sell liquor, be expelled.

#### A TERTOTAL ATHLETE.

Edward Payson Weston, over sixty years of age, recently walked at the New York Ice Skating Palace, 103 miles in twenty-four hours. He attributes his powers of endurance to the careful temperate habits which he has always practiced, never using intoxicating liquors of any kind.

#### HOLDING THEIR OWN.

The different cities and towns of the State of Massachusetts vote every year on the question of license or prohibition. The voting in December last makes no change in the number of license cities. One prohibition city has gone back to license and one license city has changed to prohibition.

#### INTEMPERANCE AND INSANITY.

Mr. Horace G. Waddin, Chief of the Bureau of Labor Statistics for Massachusetts, has recently made a careful investigation covering a year, into the results of the liquor traffic. His report recently published, shows among other things, an enquiry into the cause of lunacy in the cases of 1836 patients in the State Asylum. Of the cases concerning which full information was obtained, Mr. Waddin reports that in over twenty-five per cent the insanity was due to intoxicating liquor, that in fifty-two per cent the intemperate habits of ancestors led to the insanity, and that in nine per cent the intemperance of other parties was to blame for the disaster.

#### THE NEW ZEALAND VOTE.

Some papers not favorable to the temperance cause have been endeavoring to make it appear that prohibition recently received a serious set back in the colony of New Zealand. This statement hardly coincides with the facts of the case. At the general elections in 1894 a poll was taken on the question also of local prohibition. The question submitted was whether or not licenses should be continued in the same number as before, or reduced in number, or entirely abolished. An elector could if he chose, vote for both reduction and no-license or might vote for any of the three proposals. The results of the voting on March 21st, 1894 and on December 4th, 1896 respectively, are shown in the following table:—

	1894	1896
Continue	41,095	130,675
Reduce	15,751	92,272
No-license	48,008	95,826

It will be seen at once that the difference in the results is largely due, to the fact that in 1896 the electors marked their ballots on the liquor question to a much greater extent than they did in 1894. In the later election about three times as many voted for license, and about twice as many for prohibition as in the former case.

### THE WEARY CURSE OF RUM.

We hear, until our hearts grow dumb,  
Of all the ruin wrought by rum;  
Men plead in prayer and speech and song  
Against this endless world-wide wrong,  
While from ten thousand wretched homes  
A ceaseless wail of sorrow comes,  
Where husbands, fathers, children,  
Wives  
Weep o'er dishonored blighted lives,  
Or gather round the hopeless graves  
Where lie entombed rum's ruined slaves—  
A sad, funeral, endless train,  
Who mourns their dead as doubly slain.  
What curse in all this world of woes  
So wide and deep a shadow throws?  
What plague so dire prevades the earth  
As that which has from rum its birth?  
War, famine, pestilence—a train  
Of triple plagues—have never slain,  
Through all the woful ages past,  
A multitude of me; so vast  
As that which makes the total sum  
Of those who've lost their lives by rum.  
Those plagues but steal man's mortal breath,  
This smites him with the "second death";  
Those make the body's grave their goal,  
This kills the body and the soul;  
Those stay where once the victim fell,  
This digs his grave as deep as hell;  
Those leave beyond all harm and loss  
A place for mercy's healing cross,  
This for the man who by it fell  
No object but the drunkard's hell.  
O men who love our human kind!  
Are ye so careless or so blind  
That ye will shield by voice and vote  
This monster at the nation's throat,  
And give him still a stronger hold,  
All for the cursed love of gold?  
O justice! can thou bend thy bow  
From storm-clouds o'er this scene of woe  
And stay thy bolts or smite the wrong  
For human hands too old and strong?  
O Thou who rulest over all!  
And hearest when'er Thy children call,  
Come to our rescue, Father, come,  
And stay this blighting curse of rum?  
—Rev. Joel Swartz, D.D.

### "FIVE MINUTES MORE TO LIVE."

A young man stood before a large audience in the most fearful position a human being could be placed—on the scaffold! The noose had been adjusted around his neck. In a few moments more he would be in eternity. The sheriff took out his watch and said: "If you have anything to say speak now, as you have but five minutes more to live." What awful words for a young man to hear, in full health and vigor!

Shall I tell you his message to the youth about him? He burst into tears, and said with sobbing: "I have to die! I had only one little brother. He had beautiful blue eyes and flaxen hair. How I loved him! I got drunk, the first time. I found my little brother gathering strawberries. I got angry with him, without cause, and killed him with a blow from a rake. I knew nothing about it until I awoke the next day and found myself guarded. They told me, when my little brother was found, his hair was clotted with his blood and brains. Whiskey has done it. It has ruined me. I have only one more word to say to the young people before I go to stand in the presence of my Judge. Never, never, NEVER touch anything that can intoxicate!"

Think what one indulgence in drink may do! This youth was not an habitual drunkard. Shun the deadly cup which steals away your senses before you are aware of it; for you cannot know the dreadful deeds you may commit while under its influence.—*Sunday-School Messenger.*