

# The Camp Fire

A MONTHLY JOURNAL  
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF  
THE PROHIBITION ORDER.

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NOTE.—It is proposed to make "THE CAMP FIRE" 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, JANUARY, 1895.

1894—1895.

We have entered upon a new year that bids fair to be one of great importance in the history of temperance reform.

The year recently ended was one of much excitement, interest and progress.

It saw the great plebiscite endorsement of total prohibition as the right and effective remedy for evils of intemperance.

It witnessed the great provincial prohibition convention, in Toronto, and the national gathering in Montreal.

It recorded the definite pledge of the leader of the Ontario Government to legislate as far as is in his power in the direction of prohibition.

We have reason to thank God for 1891. We have reason for courage in buckling on our armor for the conflict of 1895.

While this is being written the decision of the Supreme Court on the question of jurisdiction is daily expected. That decision will speedily be reviewed by the Imperial Privy Council.

Then we shall have the track clear for an immediate advance. Let every man and every woman be ready for marching orders.

There is as much need for work as ever. The record of our holiday season is a sad one, laden as it is with fearful details of sin and suffering and crime, the result of the deadly drink.

Canada is, in point of temperance, far ahead of other christian countries, but even Canada's position is one that ought to make every patriotic citizen sorrowful and ashamed.

Day by day the deadly traffic is plied in our midst, breaking hearts, blighting prospects, blasting homes, scattering broadcast misery, ruin, vice and crime.

Under the shadows of our stately churches, in both the highways and the byeways of our christian city, beside our vaunted schools and colleges, we find the flaring temptation—under sanction of the law—and we meet the wretched victims of this statute-sanctioned sin.

Is it not time our christian community woke to a full realization of the awful evil which only our familiarity with it permits us to tolerate?

How can we hope or pray for national prosperity while as a nation we license the greatest hindrance to that prosperity and derive a revenue from the degradation and suffering of our own citizens.

This evil cannot be coped with by any single method. Appetite, avarice, prejudice and custom are all arrayed in its behalf. We must work through every available agency.

We must build up sound public sentiment, showing the moral evil of drink, imparting right information as to the nature and character of drink, and teaching the true principles of economy with which the whole drink system is at variance.

We must flood our land with the sound stirring literature that can be so effective to this end.

We must work in those societies that labor for the reclamation of the fallen, and the shielding of the safe.

We must work on all hopeful legislative lines of restriction, never losing sight of the ultimate goal of prohibition.

We must rouse the public conscience, for mere knowledge will never save us.

We must encourage the W. C. T. U. with the mighty home influences it is everywhere exciting.

We must have outspoken faithfulness in the church of God in reference to this crying evil.

We must do all we can in establishing counter attractions to the seductive bar-room.

We must have hopeful homes for those whose will-power has been destroyed.

This many-sided sin must be attacked on many sides.

Only by hard, determined, never-ceasing effort, in reliance upon Almighty assistance can we hope to successfully grapple with the awful "abomination of desolation" that has been set up in our land.

Reader what are you doing to help us? You are one of those on whom rests personal responsibility in the matter.

Will you work in the year that is to come with patience, prudence and zeal for the overthrow of wrong and the establishment of right?

Or will you be among those who "came not up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty."

## ORGANIZE.

The duty of the hour is organization. We are approaching a general election for the House of Commons of the Dominion of Canada. The Parliament of Canada has unchallenged power to absolutely prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating beverages. The sentiment of the country is in favor of such legislation. A fair expression of that sentiment in Parliament can only be secured through organization of the prohibition forces.

Over and over conventions assembled have prohibitionists resolved that the liquor traffic should be outlawed, and called upon Parliament to legislate against it. In too many cases they have then gone home and neglected the only kind of action which can force Parliament to recognize and act upon their resolution.

Organization is not difficult. In every locality are men and women who understand all that is necessary to accomplish it. A union of workers may be called a society, an alliance, a league, a club, it matters not what. Neither does it matter much what particular form of organization is adopted. It matters a great deal however, whether or not some action is taken to unify and utilize prohibition sentiment.

What we want is a union of right purposed citizens who, regardless of party exigencies, will make pro-

hibition the first consideration in every exercise of their franchise. Much has been done in this direction, much is being done. The fetters of party bondage are being broken by many brave women and men. We are moving, though too slowly. Let us look at the great work to be done, the possibility of doing it, the glorious results that it would bring, and then rally at once for the coming conflict.

A series of questions has been framed and been sent out as suggestive of inquiries to be addressed to parliamentary candidates for the purpose of ascertaining their position on the prohibition question. We reprint these questions for the use of those who wish to use them. There should be no constituency in which candidates are not placed on record in regard to this matter. The questions are as follows:

1. Are you in favor of the prohibition of the liquor traffic?
2. If elected to the House of Commons will you support and vote for a prohibitory law?
3. Will you co-operate with the other members of Parliament who favor prohibition, to secure the introduction and enactment of such legislation at the earliest possible opportunity?

The following plan of action is suggested. (1). A convention of the sound prohibitionists of every constituency. (2). The securing from every candidate of a definite declaration of his position on the prohibition question. (3). United action to secure the defeat of all liquor favoring candidates and the return of sound prohibitionists. (4). The nomination and support of independent candidates when there is not an avowed and reliable prohibitionist otherwise in the field.

## THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

The resolution of the Dominion Parliament calling for the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the liquor traffic was adopted in 1891. The Commission was appointed in 1892. Nearly three years have gone by since the appointment. The Commission is now at work busily finishing up its report, which is expected to be ready for Parliament at the approaching session.

It will be an immense report, in a number of volumes, containing perhaps nearly 10,000 pages. Much of the matter it contains is utterly useless. It will, however, embody a great deal of evidence and information of incalculable value.

The evidence and information most useful and reliable will be carefully sifted out, summarized and put in convenient form. Articles containing this information will be a prominent feature during 1895 of THE VANGUARD, mentioned in the important announcement on page one of this paper. We hope also to draw upon that report for sundry valuable items of information that will be published from time to time in THE CAMP FIRE.

Every temperance worker ought to be a regular subscriber to both VANGUARD and CAMP FIRE.

## THE JURISDICTION QUESTION.

The disputed point of the extent of the power of Provincial Legislatures in dealing with the liquor traffic is as uncertain as ever.

The Supreme Court has unanimously declared that a province has no right to prohibit the importation or the manufacture of liquor. By a bare majority the same court has held that a province has no right to prohibit the sale.

The question will now go before the Judicial Committee of the Privy

Council of Great Britain, which body is the court of ultimate resort in the British Empire. The decision of that court will be final.

Curiously enough the Supreme Court has declared the Local Option Act of Ontario constitutional, while declaring in a separate opinion that the Legislature has no authority to pass such a law. Each of these decisions was given by a majority of three judges out of five, the five in the one case not being all the same as the five in the other. There are six judges in the Supreme Court. It would seem, therefore, that the court stands equally divided on the question of the authority of the Legislature to prohibit sales of liquor.

The delay and uncertainty will soon be over. In a few months we shall have the question definitely decided. Meantime we need not be idle. On two questions there is no doubt. The Dominion Parliament has absolute power to prohibit the liquor traffic. The Provincial Legislatures have unlimited power to restrict and limit short of actual prohibition. It is our imperative duty to see that men in both Legislature and Parliament fairly represent the temperance sentiment of the community.

These men can be effectively reached only through the ballot box. The lesson is that prohibitionists, to succeed, must live up to their principles in every election contest.

## THERE ARE DOCTORS AND DOCTORS.

Rather more than a year ago, a lady was prevailed upon to sign the total abstinence pledge. She had been in the habit of regularly drinking a little wine daily; so little that she hardly thought that she could not do any good by ceasing to take it. But to her surprise she found the influence of her example, as a pledged abstainer, powerful enough to induce more than a hundred persons to sign as she had done.

After a year of happy work as a total abstainer, she was taken ill, and she sent for her medical man. He found her weak and exhausted and altogether out of sorts, and he asked her what she had been doing with herself to bring her down so low.

She confessed that during the last year she had taken no stimulant of any sort; she had become a teetotaler.

"Ha! I thought as much," exclaimed the doctor, "and I assure you it will not do for you. You must give it up at once. You are just committing suicide. You absolutely require a gentle stimulant. There are constitutions which can do without it, but yours is not one of them. You have always been accustomed to a little, and you must take it, just a glass of bitter beer with your luncheon and a little wine at dinner to assimilate your food. It is absolutely necessary to you."

The lady felt very sorrowful, very unwilling to do what would, she knew, more than nullify the effect of all her endeavors during the past year, and would put a complete stop to her excellent work among her poor neighbors.

After earnest, prayerful thought, she decided to take another opinion.

She went up to London to consult Sir Andrew Clark. He examined into her case, and questioned her very carefully, and at last inquired, "Do you take stimulants at all?"

"No," she replied, timidly, "I was in the habit of taking a little, but for the last year I have taken none at all—and—"

"I am glad to hear it. Never touch stimulant of any sort; it is the very worst thing you can take."

"Oh, doctor!" she exclaimed eagerly, "Will you write that down and put your name to it?"

"Very willingly," he replied.

Armed with her precious document, she returned home, and when next she saw her own medical man, she showed it to him.

He took it up and read it, and looked at the signature:

"Ha! Sir Andrew Clark! H'm, yes, he is a great man, and can say these things. We country doctors can't afford it."—*Watchword.*