

THE CAMP FIRE.

A Monthly Record and Advocate of The Temperance Reform.

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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.]

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OUR CAUSE AND OUR CURSE.

SOME LIGHTS AND SHADOWS OF THE STRUGGLE.

His Own Fault.

A curious case was recently tried in Montreal. Phileas Corbell had fallen from the deck of a boat while drunk and was drowned. His heirs sued the Manufacturers Accident Company for \$8000, on two insurance policies. The Court dismissed the action on the ground that the man's death, being due to drink, was not covered by the insurance policies.

Drink And Death.

A terrible fatality occurred near Simcoe Ont., on the night of March 7th. David Cram and his father and brother went home from the town late at night in an intoxicated condition. David seems to have been the worst of the lot and was left by the others to sleep in the barn covered with a horse blanket. Next morning he was found frozen to death.

An Anti-Treating Law.

The House of Representatives of the Legislature of Ohio has passed an Act prohibiting treating. It provides that whoever gives or offers to another person any intoxicating drink in any place where intoxicating liquor is sold shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. The penalty is a fine of from one dollar to twenty dollars.

Whiskey Did It.

A press dispatch says that the body of Thomas Gordon was found on April 7th in Martin's woods on the first concession of Mercier Township, Essex Co., with a whiskey bottle by his side. He had been on a spree when last seen and is supposed to have lain down in that condition and perished. His face was much disfigured by rats. Another addition to the awful record.

Liquor Killed Him.

On Tuesday evening, March 31st, a sad accident occurred at the C.P.R. station in Ottawa. Two young men had been drinking together pretty freely. By mistake both got upon the wrong train. One jumped off, landing safely, his companion attempted to do so, but fell between two cars and four wheels of one of them passed over his legs. He died next afternoon.

A Priest Silenced.

It is stated that Rev. Father Zurcher, the eminent advocate of temperance, who recently spoke in the Horticultural Pavilion in Toronto, has been ordered by his ecclesiastical superiors to keep silent upon the question in consequence of an attack made by him upon the brewing and selling of beer by monks. Archbishop Ryan states that he has issued the order in the interests of temperance. Father Zurcher has resigned the Presidency of the Catholic Temperance Union of Buffalo.

Drink at the Bottom of it.

Arrests have been made of a number of participators in the outrage at Wingham some time ago, which resulted in the death of the unfortunate man who was so cruelly treated. The evidence taken in the preliminary inquiry makes it clear that drink was at the bottom of the tragedy. The mob had loaded themselves up with strong drink in preparation of the action they proposed to take. In fact, they were so badly intoxicated that they seem to have been quarrelling among themselves even while they were carrying out their pre-arranged brutality.

Prevention, Not Cure.

The Toronto Ministerial Association recently dealt with a communication from the Prisoners Aid Association asking for co-operation in an effort to establish an Industrial Home near the city for the cure and treatment of chronic inebriates. The ministers objected to the proposal and refused to co-operate in the scheme, declaring that Government was to blame for the drunkard because of the licensing of the liquor traffic. The proper treatment for the evil was said to be the enacting of a prohibitory law.

Another Fatality.

On March 26th a fearful tragedy was enacted in Toronto. John Finlay, a member of the Body Guards, was returning home from drill late at night with his brother Frank. Both men were badly intoxicated and a quarrel arose between them in the course of which John struck his brother a heavy blow with his scabbard felling him senseless to the ground. Realizing what he had done and filled with alarm, he strove to help the wounded man to his feet and accompanied him for a few hours until he died. He is under arrest. The murdered man leaves a wife and young family.

Royal Templars.

The Dominion Council of the R.T. of T. held its biennial session at Hamilton, commencing Tuesday, March 17th. The Secretary's report showed that the year 1895 closed with 5,859 insurance certificates in force, the net increase for the year having been upwards of 1,000. The death rate was about 7 in 1,000. Benefits paid amounted to \$123,000 surplus on hand \$82,207. The report of the General Manager spoke encouragingly of the progress made in political prohibition sentiment and work. It also advocated organic union of the different temperance orders. The principal officers were re-elected. Very little change was made in the legislation of the order.

Progress in Iceland.

Miss Jessie Ackerman who has lately returned to the United States from a visit to Iceland, has given a newspaper representative much interesting information regarding that far off land. She says that in the whole country there is not a house of ill repute. The moral standard of purity is the same for both sexes. Politically, women are almost on the same level, being allowed to vote at all municipal elections and eligible to most of the offices. The agent of the New York Life Insurance Company is a woman who is also a member of the Atling—the legislative body. There are only three saloons on the island, two of which are at Reykjavik, the capital, which has a

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MRS. BASCOM,
Manager.

Read the offer to Clergymen in first column of Page 3. It will be withdrawn April 30th.

population of 4,000. During Miss Ackerman's stay a Local-Option bill was passed, the petition therefor being signed by 7,000 Icelandic women. A scientific temperance-instruction bill was also passed by the Atling. This body at its last session donated 800 kroner—about \$200—to the I. O. of G. T., which is strongly represented there.

Who is Responsible.

One of our subscribers, Mr. Hugh Spittall, says in a forcible letter: "I notice the shocking account of the tragedy in Brockville in which Uriah Lapointe shot down ten men, as well as other accounts of fearful results of intemperance. Who is responsible for this outrage? Not Lapointe alone, he was crazed with strong drink. Not the dealer who supplied him the liquor, alone, he is licensed to sell. Not the Commissioners who issued the license alone; they are authorized by Government. The Government is certainly responsible. Who is the Government? The Provincial and Dominion voters who have failed to elect the prohibition representatives who would abolish the liquor curse. They are responsible for all the crime and wretchedness of drunken men and women. If your representative does not favor prohibition, nominate and support one who is, and do not complain of evil while you support it. Do not make long prayers to have the curse removed while you mark your ballot to have the curse sustained. Do not be afraid to go out like Christian men and sacrifice partisanship in an effort to relieve the cause of so much misery, sin and crime. Do not profess religion on Sunday and practice crime creation on Monday."

A New License Law.

The State of New York has a new license law in which a radical departure is made from the plans for regulating the liquor traffic that has hitherto been in vogue. Under the new measure local excise powers are abolished and the issue of licenses is placed in the hands of Inspectors appointed by the State Government somewhat on the Ontario plan.

Licenses are increased in price varying from \$800 in New York to \$100, which is the smallest fee to be charged in a rural locality. One third of the fee goes to the state and two-thirds to the county.

Towns are to have local option and may vote upon the question of selling liquor to be drunk on the premises, selling liquor not to be drunk on the premises, selling liquor by druggists or selling liquor by hotel keepers. A majority vote decides in each case.

No license can be issued to take effect within 200 feet of a dwelling or dwellings without the consent of two-thirds of the owners of the dwellings. This does not apply to licenses already issued. No blinds or curtains or unlocked doors are permitted during the hours when sale is not allowed, except such opening of doors as is necessary for lawful purposes. Free lunches are forbidden.

All Clubs and such organizations must take out licenses the same as other liquor establishments. No sale is to be allowed on Sunday nor on election days, nor within 200 yards of a fair ground.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

I consider all spirits bad spirits.—Sir Astley Cooper.

All the crimes on earth do not destroy so many of the human race, nor alienate so much property, as intemperance.—Lord Bacon.

It has been said that greater calamities are inflicted on mankind by intemperance than by the three great scourges, war, pestilence and famine. This is true for us, and it is the measure of our discredit and disgrace.—W. E. Gladstone, Premier of England, 1890.