

# The Camp Fire.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL  
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY 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, 1901

## THE CONVENTIONS.

The Conventions on July 9th and 10th were full of inspiration and encouragement. The representation was good. The spirit of the delegates was earnest. The decisions arrived at were reasonable, logical and wise.

The Dominion Government will be asked to so change the Canada Temperance Act that it will be more of a prohibitory law, and to make it available by provinces. The Ontario Legislature will be asked to improve the License Law in some respects in which it is lamentably behind the times.

The electors will be asked to take such steps as will secure for our cause in Parliament and Legislature a better representation and more loyal support.

With such a wise and useful programme that ought to commend itself to every true friend of our cause, the Alliance Council is warranted in asking for the cordial and active co-operation of prohibitionists in every part of the Dominion, and the Ontario Alliance ought to be backed up by the loyal support of every unprejudiced friend of moral reform.

## LEGISLATION.

The proposals made by the Alliance Convention on July 9th for needed changes in the License Law are reasonable and timely. They are such as ought to be made by the legislature without any hesitation.

All that has been said about the progress of restrictive legislation in Ontario is true. Credit must be given to the Legislature and Government for what has been accomplished, and for the important restriction of the liquor traffic that has taken place during the last twenty-five years.

Unfortunately, however, there is very little to thank the Government or Legislature for in the record of the last couple of years. A number of the members of the present government are known to be personally strong temperance men. There must be operating in the Legislature, strong influences favorable to the liquor traffic, otherwise the views of these gentlemen must certainly have found some expression in the amending of liquor legislation that is admittedly defective, out of date and one-sided.

There are strong prohibitionists who believe that the Ontario Legislature ought to at once pass such a measure of

provincial prohibition as the Government can justify in view of the Privy Council decisions that have been rendered. The limit of power being, however, indefinite, there is no very strong opposition to the proposal of the Government to wait for the Privy Council decision regarding the Manitoba law before dealing with the prohibition question.

There is all the more reason for immediate legislation that will remedy some of the most glaring defects that now exist, which will be some recognition of the strong sentiment of the people, and that will make it clear that the Government and Legislature are not hostile to the temperance reform.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT.

Much complaint was made at the Provincial Prohibition Convention concerning non enforcement of the License Law. A good many strong statements were made and instances and testimonials quoted.

Hon. Mr. Stratton, under whose direction the Provincial License Department is conducted, has made statements several times recently to the effect that diligence is being used in endeavoring to have enforcement made thorough. These statements are in themselves evidence that hitherto there has been a good deal of laxity in this matter. The law is difficult of enforcement, and therefore requires special vigilance on the part of officers. Cases in which diligence is not exercised are very numerous.

One of the most flagrant and general violations of the License Law is the sale of liquor on Sundays by licensees. It is hardly going too far to say that there is very little effort on the part of officials to check this evil. The lawlessness in this respect is so great as to call for more vigorous measures than any that have been taken.

The cancelling of a few licenses would probably produce more effect than the many calls for law enforcement that are not obeyed. The law provides for the revocation of licenses by Commissioners in certain cases. In other cases the Commissioners have power to refuse the renewal of a license at the end of the license year. A statement that this would be done in the case of Sunday violation would speedily check the extensive law breaking that now goes on.

In some cases in which a conviction would have resulted, under the law, in the cancelling of the license, Commissioners have transferred the license to another party immediately before the conviction was made. There are various instances of this method which is such an outrageous violation of the intentions of the law that the Commissioners who are parties to it ought not to be allowed to retain office for an hour after the first possible opportunity of the Government to dismiss them.

Whatever may be the intentions or desires of the Government, the law is not enforced. Commissioners and Inspectors who plan to relieve law breakers from the consequences of their wrongdoing are continued in office. The Government is responsible for wrong doing which it makes no effective effort to put down.

The new sheriff of Cumberland County, State of Maine (which includes the city of Portland), declares that he has now closed every liquor shop which, by the laxity of his predecessor, had been selling liquor in contravention of the State Prohibition Law. He has exposed an attempt of brewing firms to bribe him with 35,000 dollars.

## IMPORTANT.

TORONTO, 1901.

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 to **inspire workers and make votes**.

We are embarking on a campaign for prohibition legislation in which the liquor traffic will do its utmost to block, delay, and if possible prevent our securing the enactment and enforcement of useful law. We have plenty of hard fighting ahead of us. We must keep posted and equipped, knowing all that is being done by our friends and foes, and sophistry and misrepresentation that will be advanced.

**The Camp Fire** will be one of the best aids you can have in the struggle. It will contain nothing but what you need. Every number ought to be preserved. You cannot afford to be without it, and the subscription price is only nominal, **Twenty-five cents per year**.

While a necessity to every prohibition worker **The Camp Fire** will also be of special value for distribution. We must keep up our educating work. Printed matter tells. It does its work continuously, silently, fearlessly and 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 uninterruptedly, 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 results. 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?**

Address,

F. S. SPENCE,

52 Confederation Life Building,  
Toronto.

## Selections.

### A CHILD VICTIM.

"And their dead bodies lie in the streets of the great city . . . where also their Lord is crucified."—Rev. xi 8.

Dead! in the courts and alleys—  
Dead! in the river's slime—  
Dead! a little one murdered  
For every hour of time.

Dead! with a drunkard's liver,  
The child only five years old!  
Murdered by her who should deem it  
More precious than wealth untold!

But sadder the fate of the living,  
To guilt and shame a slave,  
Beaten, hopeless, degraded,  
Sunk almost too low to save.

For the child's pure soul from its cradle  
Is steeped in the filth of sin.  
Outside, the sordid alley,  
Darkness and filth within.

Its birthright of joy and freedom  
Sold before it was born,  
For less than a mess of pottage,  
For a lot that devils would scorn.

And beauty is used for license,  
And sin is drawn with each breath,  
And the dancing feet are guided  
To practice the Dance of Death.

And the curls that should catch the  
sunlight  
Are damp with the fogs of hell,  
And the eyes that to love should open,  
Look on sights that no tongue dare tell.

And the Christ who loved the children,  
Cries out in His agony,  
"Is Nazareth forgotten?  
Forgotten Calvary?"

And He turns and looks upon us,  
And He stretches His bleeding hands—  
"Again have ye crucified Me,  
Ye men of Christian land!"

"In them does My life lie hidden,  
These little ones of my love;  
With them I am daily dying,  
By their side in anguish I move.

"Who against them offendeth  
Grieveth their Saviour too;  
Thine' my heart to theirs he pierceth,  
Openeth My wounds anew

"The streets of your mighty city  
Are red with their blood and Mine;  
High on the Cross am I lifted,  
Of their sorrow and shame the Sign."

And the stars look down in wonder,  
And the heavens above are brass;  
And all in vain seems the effort  
To touch the seething mass.

For the man must have his liquor,  
And the woman must have her rights;  
Rights over soul and body,  
Of the child whose life she blights.

And in vain we plead for the children  
With the oft-repeated prayer,  
That they may be protected  
From the liquor shop's lure and snare.

And still the cry goes heavenward  
From the dying lips of the child,  
Still are the helpless tortured,  
Still are the poor defiled.

And the streets of the city are cumbered  
With the victims of lust and wrong,  
And the hearts of thy saints are crying,  
"How long, O Lord, how long!"  
—M.E.B. in Alliance News.

"A mother was sentenced to six months' imprisonment in Liverpool recently for cruelty to children. One child, five years old, was declared to be suffering from drunkard's liver.

### THE TRAMP'S LAST FIGHT.

He was a sorry-looking specimen, and the operator instinctively glanced at the half-open drawer beside him to be sure that his revolver was there. But his trampship had no evil designs; he was merely hungry and cold and, after the fashion of his kind, looking for someone "soft" to "work" for food and a sleeping place and, if possible, a drink. "Couldn't let me sit by the waiting-room fire all night could you boss?" "It's against orders, my friend, you'll have to move on!" "Couldn't spare me a dime, could you boss?"