

THE CAMP FIRE.

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Every one who receives this paper is respectfully requested to read every part of it carefully. It is a journal that no Canadian temperance worker can afford to be without. The subscription price is almost insignificant. In the great impending campaign for prohibition in Ontario it will be of intense interest and great value.

A STRONG APPEAL.

Mrs. Edith J. Archibald of Halifax delivered an address at the last Nova Scotia W.C.T.U. Convention in which she made an earnest plea for the suppression of the liquor traffic, closing up with the following stirring appeal.

"Men of Canada we appeal to you to make this Century just begun the brightest in the annals of the history of our country. If you will not now place in the hands of woman the weapon of the ballot, that she may use it for the protection of her home, at least see to it that you no longer force her to be an unwilling partner in the legalized sale of that which has power to leave its prison brand not only on this generation but on that yet to come.

"The essence of true patriotism is not so much to die for one's country as to live for it, and to live at one's best! We are a young nation; our history is to be written. We are writing it line by line, day by day, year by year. Some pages would be fair to see; bright with energy, industry and integrity. But there is a foul blot on every page so far, marring it all in the eyes of the world! Oh, men! wipe out that blot or the scroll of Canada's story will yet be wet with tears and blood! Wipe it out, I beseech you, in the name of the womanhood of the new century. All fair and bright and holy incentives are yours to make of this great Dominion a people whose God is the Lord."

JUDICIAL STATISTICS OF SCOTLAND.

The report on the Judicial Statistics of Scotland for 1899 shows that while the average apprehensions of the five years from 1893 to 1897 was 154,500, during 1899 no fewer than 176,524 persons were taken into custody charged with various offences. In 1898 the figures were 165,903. The total of 1898 was a record, but it is now exceeded by 10,621. Those charged with serious crime in 1899 number 2,153. The number charged with drunkenness and disorder reach the appalling total of 112,063. The following towns have the worst record in cases of drunkenness and disorderly conduct:—South Queensferry has a proportion of 1,424 cases in 10,000 persons, Falkirk 1066, Linlithgow 830, Cumnock 770, Clydebank 756.

The comment in the report on these figures is—"It remains terribly clear that we are farther than ever from getting rid of the huge volume of drunkenness and disorder which mark Scottish statistics so unfavourably as compared with those of other countries."—Good Templar.

GROWTH AND SPREAD OF LOCAL OPTION.

The growth and spread of Local Option—or Prohibition on the instalment plan—is seen in the following table from the "Prohibition Handbook and Voters' Manual":—

Alabama—Fifty out of sixty-six counties have Local Option.

Arkansas—Fifty out of seventy-five counties have Local Option.

California—175 towns and cities have Local Option.

Colorado—Fifty towns and cities have Local Option.

Connecticut—Seventy-five out of 125 towns and cities.

Delaware—Half the State has Local Option.

Florida—Thirty out of forty-five counties.

Georgia—All the State except four cities.

Illinois—650 towns and cities.

Indiana—140 towns.

Iowa—All the State except twenty-five cities.

Kentucky—Ninety out of 118 counties.

Louisiana—Twenty out of fifty-nine counties.

Maryland—Fifteen out of twenty-four counties.

Massachusetts—125 out of 175 towns.

Michigan—400 towns and cities.

Minnesota—400 towns and cities.

Missouri—Eighty-four out of 115 counties.

Mississippi—Seventy out of seventy-five counties.

Nebraska—250 towns and cities.

New Jersey—200 towns and cities.

New York—700 towns and cities.

North Carolina—Sixty out of ninety counties.

Ohio—500 towns and cities.

Pennsylvania—600 towns and cities and twenty counties.

Rhode Island—Twenty towns and cities.

South Carolina—All the State except ten cities.

Tennessee—Seventy out of ninety-six counties.

Texas—120 out of 246 counties.

Virginia—Fifty-five out of 106 counties.

West Virginia—Forty out of fifty-four counties.

Washington—Fifty towns and cities.

Wisconsin—300 towns and cities.

THE REAL CULPRITS.

Who then is responsible for the continuance of the daily grinding wretchedness of Canada's drink traffic? Sir Wilfrid Laurier—a statesman of no mean order—and Government, together with those who voted for the Parnalee amendment? Hon. A. S. Hardy and his allies? No, verily they are only symptoms of disease that lies much deeper. We will give both gentlemen the credit of believing that they would have cordially supported prohibition had there been a reasonable prospect that to do so would have been advantageous, and to fail to do so would have been disastrous. As they saw it, through the lenses of past experience, the temperance man was a gentle, easily entreated, spineless individual, whose principles could be relied on to collapse conveniently at any critical juncture. But the liquor man was an evil that must be tolerated and reckoned with, because his stock of hard-headed common sense is vast and of an adamant order. He cannot be coaxed or cajoled. As his official press mouth-piece once put it "This paper has no politics. It is for the trade, first, last and all the time."

Then the real culprit is the citizen, man or woman, who in this drawn battle between God and the fiercest forces of the bottomless pit, puts the success of a man, or a party, before the triumph of God's issue.

Yes, it is God's issue. You cannot say it too often or too loudly. Let us keep this thought to the fore and force it upon the minds of a party-bewitched electorate, until the enormity of turning their backs on it, under any pretext, shall have burned its way into the heart of the church membership of this country.

In the words of the Ontario section of the Methodist General Conference Temperance Committee:

"The prohibition question is of more importance than any of the other political issues of the day, and patriotic citizens are earnestly urged to unite, regardless of mere partisan consideration to secure the election of those who will stand by the right and by the people, and the defeat of those who have treated this great movement with hostility and contempt."—From annual address by Mrs. Thornley, President W.C.T.U.

NOTES.

The Manchester Women's Temperance Association recently declined a bequest of one hundred pounds from a brewer.

The Trustees of the California Good Templar Orphanage have received from a Mr. Upham a bequest of nearly \$80,000; with which they have paid off local expenses and a debt of \$25,000, and invested \$40,000 in 19,000 acres of additional profitable land.

FINLAND.—Mr. F. W. Linnbeck, at the recent Scandinavian Temperance Congress at Christiania, read a paper which stated that last year "out of 310 country districts from which returns had been received in Finland, 194 demand complete prohibition of the manufacture, sale and importation of intoxicating drinks; 60 districts demand the same or local veto power; 51 demand local option only, while three districts are content with the present position.

In the army in India last year over one-half of the men of the East Yorks, Hants, and Argyle and Sutherland Highland Regiments were pledged teetotalers, as were those of the 6th, 25th and 55th Royal Artillery; while the 4th and 15th R. A. Field Batteries had over 60 per cent., the 3rd Field Battery had 74 per cent., and the Southern Battery Garrison Artillery had 89 per cent. of their men on the roll of the Army Temperance (Total Abstinence) Association.

The New South Wales temperance leaders have just organized a "New Temperance Party" at a great demonstration in Sydney Town Hall, said to be the largest town hall in the British Empire—the party declining to vote for any parliamentary candidate save those who will support a law to give voters power to stop any increase in, effect a reduction in, or totally discontinue the grant of liquor licenses. The law now gives a popular veto over new licences. The Salvation Army, Christian Endeavour, and Church of England Temperance Society took part with the other temperance societies in inaugurating the new party.

THE PRESENT DUTY.

One present and pressing duty is a campaign of warning and education. The rising generation is not being forearmed against intemperance. Temperance instruction in the schools, according to the regulations, is not enough. The temperance lodges with their dominant insurance interest will not meet the need. It must be taken seriously. The prophets in the pulpit, on the platform, and in the press must take up the warning cry. The home must do its duty. Let there be no uncertain sound. The danger is very real and very near. The

stake is what is best in our young nation's life. Warning against the evil of intemperance and a positive upbuilding of moral character is a duty which cannot be neglected, and for the doing of which no legislation is needed, nor any delay. Let that be done.

Another duty is a campaign against the saloon and the treating system. There is difference of opinion as to the principle of prohibition; there is no difference of opinion, there can be none among informed and earnest people, as to the burdensomeness of the bar-room and the curse of social treating. The open bar, with its accompaniments, is an unmitigated evil. It is a constant temptation to the weak, a ministrant to every unholy passion, and the prolific mother of all the sins of the flesh. The bar part of the hotel business, and the saloon which is not a hostelry but a drinking place—for the continued existence of such institutions no excuse can be offered, and no defence, either on the ground of political economy or of personal liberty, can be made. Let an intelligent and wisely planned campaign against the saloon be waged throughout Canada and the public will come to feel its weight as an insufferable mountain of sorrow and loss and it will be dug out of the way. That done, the treating system will go with it, and the way will be open to consider the entire removal of the liquor business from the region of selfish interest and personal gain. But of that more hereafter.—The Westminster.

ALCOHOL AND ARSENIC.

Professor Huxley is worth listening to on any scientific subject, and a word of his is singularly appropriate when the interest of the country is excited on the arsenical poisoning caused by drinking beer. In a letter, published in his "Life and Letters," in a reply to a question as to what he thought of alcohol as a stimulant to the brain in mental work, he said:—"Speaking for myself (and perhaps I may add for persons of my temperament), I can say without hesitation, that I would just as soon take a dose of arsenic as I would of alcohol under such circumstances. Indeed, on the whole I should think the arsenic safer, less likely to lead to physical and moral degradation. It will be better to die outright than to be alcoholised before death. If a man cannot do brain work without stimulants of any kind, he had better turn to hard work. It is an indication on nature's part that she did not mean him to be a head worker."—League Journal.

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