

The Camp Fire.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF
THE PROHIBITION CAUSE.

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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, JANUARY, 1896.

THE DELAYED DECISION.

At the time of writing this article nothing has been heard from the Imperial Privy Council regarding the question of jurisdiction. Temperance workers are growing impatient. It is annoying, because until the decision is rendered our hands are practically tied so far as progressive, provincial, prohibition work is concerned.

We need not however sit "idly waiting." The judgment rendered will simply clear the way for action. The action that will follow will depend not only upon the nature of the decision, but upon the wisdom, strength and zeal of the organized temperance forces. We may profit by the delay if we use this opportunity for the development of public opinion, and the perfecting of such organization as will make that opinion effective.

Again we appeal to our friends to take such action in every locality as will result in the organization of a Prohibition Club or some other union of prohibition forces. We urge the organization of a strong electoral committee in every constituency in which such committee is not already formed. The Dominion elections are near at hand. The session of the Provincial Legislature is drawing nigh. Let us be ready. Information concerning plans of organization will be promptly and cheerfully furnished by the Secretary of the Dominion Alliance.

LAW ENFORCEMENT.

A recent issue of the New York Voice contains a report of an interview with Andrew D. Parker one of the Police Commissioners of New York City. Mr. Parker endorses the vigorous enforcement of the excise law which has lately been affected and goes on to argue that a thorough enforcement of the liquor law helps to strengthen public respect for law in general and to develop order and civilization.

When questioned as to the practicability of the enforcement of prohibition in New York City, Mr. Parker said, "The passage of such a law would presume that it is the sentiment of this commonwealth, and this commonwealth will ultimately enforce its sentiment no matter what obstacle it may meet."

This is a forcible statement, but it simply declares what we have always believed and advocated, that honest officials could enforce prohibitory law in any part of this continent

in which public sentiment was strong enough to demand its enactment.

In this connection it is worth while noting how effectively prohibition is enforced at the present time. There was not a single case of drunkenness in the Toronto Police Court on Tuesday the 7th inst. Why? Simply because Monday January 6th, was the day of the municipal elections. Prohibition was law for that day. It was enforced. It was obeyed. It was a success.

It is worth while noting Commissioner Parker's views upon the evil that prohibition aims to suppress. He was asked what he thought of the saloon and the liquor traffic as a cause of crime, and in reply he said:—

"My individual testimony is infinitesimal as compared with the testimony of generations of public observers, of statesmen, of statisticians, of scientific and religious thinkers, that there is no crime-producing agency that anywhere approaches it in efficacy. I am not a Prohibitionist, nor a Puritan, nor a member of a church, but no man with eyes in his head and with the least particle of heart or conscience can fail to realize the terrible danger and handicap that intemperance is to our Anglo-Saxon civilization, especially when it does its work on our nervous American organizations."

MANITOBA.

The recent provincial election in Manitoba can hardly be said to have been fought out on temperance lines. The issue before the people certainly was the school question.

It is deserving of note however, that Hon. Mr. Greenway, the Premier, in his address before the election, stated clearly and emphatically the position of the Government upon prohibition. He practically pledged his Government to the enactment of prohibitory legislation to the full extent of its jurisdiction as determined by the Privy Council.

Going to the people with this pledge the Government won a great victory, more than three-fourths of the new Assembly being supporters of Mr. Greenway. Several Patrons were elected and they are also pledged, if possible even more strongly, to effort for the enactment and enforcement of prohibitory law.

ANOTHER VICTORY.

The Canada Temperance Act does not seem to lose any of the hold it has upon the confidence of our friends in the Maritime Provinces. A repeal contest has just been fought out in Westmoreland N. B. and has resulted in a splendid victory for the prohibition cause.

The Scott Act was first carried in Westmoreland in 1870 by a majority of 783. An attempt was made to repeal it in 1884 and was defeated by a majority of 73. A second repeal vote was taken in 1888 when a majority of 706 was given for sustaining the law. In the election just held a majority of 500 was recorded against repeal. The city of Moncton established some time ago in this county, gave a magnificent majority for sustaining the act.

ANOTHER FAILURE.

The State of Vermont has a prohibitory law. A number of hotel keepers object to its provisions. Some of them recently endeavored to organize a movement by which they hoped to secure such a general defiance of law as could not readily be suppressed. The plan proposed was a hotel keepers convention for the purpose of entering into an agreement to sell liquor to guests and to defend

any party to the agreement who should be prosecuted for his lawlessness.

It was expected that there would be a large turn-out of representatives from the 244 towns of the State. Less than forty persons were present. The whole movement practically flattened out, and the prohibitory law goes on.

GONE WRONG.

Many earnest friends of prohibition will deeply regret the decision taken by Rev. Dr. C. H. Parkhurst of New York in relation to the question of Sunday liquor selling. Dr. Parkhurst has acquired a great reputation through the earnest efforts that resulted in the present rigid enforcement of Sunday closing of saloons. He maintains his position regarding law enforcement, but seems to be badly wrong on the question of Sunday liquor selling generally. He recently said to a reporter:—

This question has given me an immense amount of anxious thought, and I think that now I begin to see light. As I told you last week, there exists now a manifest injustice in that the rich man can get on Sunday what the poor man can not. I am in favor of giving the poor man equal privileges under proper restrictions. I favor the sale of beer, ale, and light wines on Sunday as an accompaniment of an honest meal, honestly furnished and honestly paid for. I can not include whisky and other spirits in this as some do.

These sales should take place only at bona fide restaurants. The law should so define the meaning of restaurant, as to size of room, character of meal, etc., as to place it beyond the power of the ordinary saloon-keeper to comply with the requirements.

In addition to this I gave my assent to the plan that these same restaurants—not the ordinary saloons—shall have the privilege of selling beer and light wines between certain hours of Sunday, to be taken away and not consumed on the premises.

LAW IMPROVEMENT.

The Quebec Branch of the Dominion Alliance has secured from the Legislature a number of important amendments to the License Law. One of these makes it absolutely clear that certificates for licenses may be granted or withheld at the discretion of Municipal Councils. Another makes definite the right of Dominion Alliance representatives to appear and be heard before License Commissioners in reference to application for licenses. A third clause, which is valued by our friends, is one providing that in municipalities where prohibitory by-laws are in force, licenses for the sale of liquor for medicinal purposes shall not be granted to the proprietors of hotels.

THE FATAL CURSE.

In Canada as well as elsewhere the terrible trail of the serpent is everywhere. The cruel drink traffic is piling up the sad record of its victims in every corner of our land. Here are a few fatalities, all occurring within a few days. They are only specimens of many similar cases.

On the last Monday in December an unfortunate quarrel took place in the town of Sherbrooke, Que., in a bar-room, in which Mr. Eugene Belanger, twenty-five years of age, was killed.

A press despatch from Chatham tells of the death of a man named Robert Lunley on the evening of December 30th. He had been drinking, had no overcoat on, started to walk some distance to his home and was found next day near a half empty flask of whiskey frozen to death.

A sad result of liquor drinking occurred in the town of Ingersoll on

January 1st. Irwin Caldwell and William McClure had a scuffle in the hall way of the McMurry House, being under the influence of liquor. Caldwell fell upon McClure, was taken up unconscious and was laid upon a sofa. He died almost immediately.

A ROYAL ADVOCATE.

A strong plea in favor of prohibition is to be found in a speech addressed by Queen Victoria to the Bechuana Chiefs who visited her at Windsor recently. In her address to the Chiefs she said, "I am glad to see the Chiefs, and to know that they love my rule. I confirm the settlement of their case which my Minister has made. I approve the provision excluding strong drink from their country. I feel strongly in this matter, and am glad to see that the Chiefs have determined to keep so great a curse from the people. The Chiefs must obey my Minister and my High Commissioner. I thank them for the presents which they have made to me, and I wish for their prosperity and that of their people."

THE OLD, OLD STORY.

He was one of the fellows
That could drink or leave it alone,
With a fine high scorn for common men
Who were born with no backbone,
"And why," said he, "should a man of strength
Deny to himself the use
Of the pleasant gift of the warm, red wine
Because of its weak abuse?"

He could quote at a banquet,
With a manner half divine,
Full fifty things the poets say
About the rosy wine,
And he could sing a spirited song
About the lips of a lass,
And drink a toast to her fair young worth
In the sparkling generous glass.

And since this lordly fellow
Could drink or leave it alone,
He chose to drink at his own wild will
Till his will was overthrown,
And the lips of the lass are cold with grief,
And the children shiver and shrink,
For the man who once could leave it alone
Is the pitiful slave to drink.
—British Temperance Advocate.

DESTROYS BODILY VITALITY.

Alcohol is so insidious and so deadly in its character that there is no other article or material in nature that is so well calculated to produce disease and consequent crime and misery. Its acrid, poisonous nature is also attested by the most eminent scientists as the most virulent poison. One-half an ounce of pure alcohol taken into the system will paralyze the nerve centers and kill just as surely and as quickly as a stroke of lightning, and the same poison when taken in the form of whiskey, beer, wine, brandy or other alcoholic beverage is so antagonistic to the vitality of the system that its effects cannot be entirely eliminated even by total abstinence, but will remain in the system, more or less, making it less able to resist attacks of rheumatism, diphtheria, pneumonia or other dangerous diseases. —Demorsets Magazine.

"The vast concourse was like an instrument on which the Black Knight played, and moved to tears or laughter at his pleasure. At first there seemed a lack of sympathy between speaker and hearers, but as the knight got into his subject and his wonderful genius began to flash out, the audience became more responsive, and before he was half done, he was master of the situation. Mr. Hector has more than his share of that humor and originality which are the gift of the colored race in so marked a degree, and it was simply impossible to resist his sallies. He threw his hearers into convulsions of laughter, which often remained after he had passed by a swift transition to the grave and the pathetic, and had begun to play on another set of emotions."—Windsor Evening Record.