

THE GOTHENBURG SYSTEM.

There seems to be a great deal of misunderstanding about the so called Gothenburg system of dealing with the liquor traffic. Many persons imagine that this system is government ownership, and that under it the liquor traffic is carried on by officials who have no interest in its financial success. The following are the actual facts of the case.

Up till the middle of last century Sweden and Norway were notorious for spirit drinking and intemperance. These countries had practically free trade in the manufacture and sale of liquor. There were in the year 1829, in Sweden alone, 173,124 spirit stills in operation.

Shortly after the middle of the century laws were adopted by both these countries, giving municipalities power to prohibit the liquor traffic, and also authorizing the granting of licenses for the sale of spirits, to companies to be formed for the purpose of managing the liquor traffic, for the public benefit.

The first of these companies was established in Gothenburg in 1865, hence the name given to the method. The profits of its shareholders were limited to six per cent. of the capital invested. All money earned by the business above that amount was to be devoted to public purposes.

In Sweden the surplus profits were to be paid to the municipality to lighten taxes. In Norway they were to be voted by the company for the establishment and maintenance of gardens, parks, hospitals, temperance societies and various other philanthropic enterprises. A recent change in the law in Norway applies much of the surplus profits in that country also to the lightening of taxes.

Under the new legislation a great improvement has taken place in both Norway and Sweden. All through the rural parts prohibition has been adopted. The Company system prevails in most of the towns of Sweden, and in about one-half the towns of Norway; the other Norwegian towns have prohibition.

In the towns in which the Company system prevails drunkenness still continues, though to less extent than under the old free trade system, but to a much greater extent than in similarly situated Canadian towns and cities.

The Company system does not apply to the sale of beer, in which a great many private parties engage. Other parties than the companies are also licensed to sell spirits not to be drunk on the premises on which they are sold. This is an accurate though condensed statement of the Gothenburg System, which is sometimes and more correctly called the Company System.

RESULTS OF THE COMPANY SYSTEM.

It is difficult to estimate the real value of a system which is so incomplete, which is hampered by so much free sale of liquor in towns, and helped by so much prohibition in the country.

The annual Swedish per capita consumption of spirits is eight litres, and of beer 45 litres. Stating the consumption in gallons and comparing it with that of Canada, we get the following table:

Table with 2 columns: Country, Gal's beer. Sweden 1.75 9.90, Canada .65 3.99

The population of Gothenburg in 1899 was estimated at 122,376. The quantity of spirits sold in that year by the companies amounted to 1,958,198 litres, equal to about 430,802 gallons, or three and one-half gallons per head of the population. This does not include the liquor sold by other parties, nor beer

and wine, of which the consumption is also large.

The arrests for drunkenness in the city of Gothenburg for the same year amounted to 58 per thousand of the population. In the same ratio arrests for drunkenness in the city of Toronto would be 12,876, whereas the actual number of arrests made in Toronto was 4,269.

Comparative statistics of arrests for drunkenness do not always convey correct impressions because of the different methods of dealing with drunkenness in different cities, and differences in the character of the population. It is instructive, however, to note that the number of arrests per thousand of the population has been diminishing in Toronto and increasing in Gothenburg.

RESPONSIBILITY OF CHURCHES.

During recent years there has been a marked falling off in the membership of the many temperance societies which formerly were both numerous and influential. One reason for the change is the development of young people's organizations in connection with the various churches, and the consequent diversion to new lines of work of those whose energies were the life of the temperance societies.

The report of the Epworth League Committee of the Toronto Conference of the Methodist Church called attention to this fact, and also stated that the church societies had given so little attention to the temperance movement, that the cause had suffered by the change.

The remedy is simple. More responsibility now rests upon the church congregations and young people's societies. They, in fact, are more responsible for the strength and growth of temperance sentiment. Their responsibility is increased by the fact that they are fast becoming the only active educating agencies working along moral suasion lines. The churches must be roused to their duty in relation to this great reform.

A LECTURE TOUR.

Mr. W. W. Buchanan is making a lecture tour of Ontario under the auspices of the Grand Council R. T. of T. So far his meetings are reported as being large and successful.

Mr. Buchanan took an active part in the campaign that resulted in the enactment of the prohibitory law in Manitoba. He is well posted on all phases of the prohibition question, and is a skilled organizer.

His work in this province ought to tell strongly, not only for the organization under whose auspices he is traveling, but for the advancement of the prohibition cause, of which he is an unusually able and effective advocate.

A VERY BAD LAW.

The temperance workers of the province of Quebec are deeply disappointed over the results that are following some vicious liquor legislation recently enacted.

The license law of the province of Quebec now provides for the issuing of bottlers' licenses, which authorize holders to travel through the country taking orders for liquors from house to house.

Under these licenses issued directly by the Government, liquor peddlars are now dealing in municipalities where local option by-laws have been adopted and where the people are strongly opposed to liquor selling.

In other words the Legislature gives the people power to pass prohibitory by-laws, then issues licenses authorizing men to sell liquor in the prohibitory territory.

This farcical method of taking away from the people the rights which for a long time they have enjoyed, must meet with the condemnation of every fair-minded citizen.

A GREAT OFFER.

READ CAREFULLY.

You need this paper. You will need it more and more as the prohibition fight gets hotter and hotter, and the issue of prohibition is before our Legislatures. Read carefully what is said about it in column headed "Important" on page 2.

Although the price of the CAMP FIRE—Twenty-five cents per year—is very low, we have decided to make a special offer of premiums for subscriptions received during the early part of the present year.

We have secured a line of interesting and attractive books which we propose to present to both old and new subscribers on the plan below set out. Those who are already on our list and send money to take advantage of this offer, may either have another paper sent them or have their present subscription extended one year.

Each of the books named is among the very best of its class, the matter being selected with much care. Each contains 64 large double-column pages, and is neatly bound in attractive paper covers. We will send a copy of any one of these books by itself on receipt of ten cents.

A list of these books is given below. For Twenty-five cents we will send THE CAMP FIRE for one year and any one book selected from the list.

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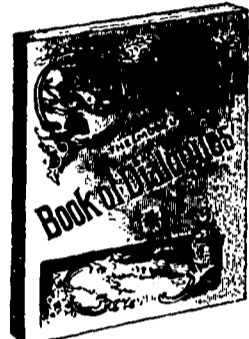
THE CAMP FIRE, 52 Confederation Life Building, Toronto

A CART-LOAD OF FUN.



This is a new book, just published, and contains One Hundred and Sixty-six funny Stories, Anecdotes and Jokes by such famous humorists as Mark Twain, Max Acher, Josh Billings, Bill Nye, B. B. Burdette, and many others. It is full of fun and nonsense from cover to cover, and a sure cure for "the blues." All the best jokes, anecdotes and stories of recent years have been carefully selected, and are now offered in this large and splendid collection, which will be highly enjoyed by all who love genuine humor and fun. Among the titles of the anecdotes and stories contained in "A CART-LOAD OF FUN" are the following: "A Man with a Liver," "Punkin Pie," "Potts and the Light-bulb Man," "How to Live on a Corn-cake," "Barrington's 1842," "Stone's Elopement," "Mortgage a Scheme to Manufacture Happiness," "Mrs. Jones's Burglar," "The Facts About Sam Snyder," "Deacon Amos Tendonon Discusses Dudes," "The Sad Case of Elmyra Bill," "The Deal Caled Christmas Tree," "A Primeval Serp," "Martha, You are Recommended," "One Ephraim's Wisdom," "A One-Horse Hotel," "Concluded Not to Commit Suicide," "Quercy Married," "A Foolish as Arouse," "How the Tired Patient Man had his Feelings Aroused," "Why the Tree Man Departed," "Jones's Baby," "Breaking up a Cat Concert," and 143 others. "A CART-LOAD OF FUN" is a book of 64 large double-column pages, neatly bound in attractive colored paper covers, and will be sent by mail post-paid upon receipt of only Ten Cents.

THE MODEL Book of Dialogues.



A large and valuable collection of Dialogues, both dramatic and comic, for School Exhibitions and Public and Private Entertainments. Among its contents are: "The Bashful Man," "The Kullback," "The Jew's Lodgers," "Generally Useful," "Terry O'Toole and His Master," "There's None Like Pretty Sally," "The Fashionable Wife," "The Factory Girl," "The Rival Editors," "The Masonic Lodge," "The Wrong Box," "The Absent Man," etc. All young people who delight to participate in dialogues will find in this book exactly what they need. Each dialogue is bright and lively, and the variety is so great as to provide something for every occasion. The book contains 64 large double-column pages, bound in attractive paper covers, and will be sent by mail post-paid upon receipt of only Ten Cents.

Fifteen Complete Novelettes BY FAMOUS AUTHORS.



This book contains Fifteen Complete Novelettes by fifteen of the most famous authors of America and Europe, as follows: "The Mystery at Peep-hole," by CHARLES M. BRADLEY; "The Woman in Black," by MISS M. E. BRADLEY; "The Fatal Secret," by MRS. EMMA D. E. SOUTHWORTH; "The Wheel of the Opprobrium," by H. RIDER HAGGARD; "The Ghost of Lenox Lane," by MRS. MAY AGNES FLEMING; "Curious the Detective," by SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE; "The Mystery of the Valley of the Sun," by A. CONAN DOYLE; "Judith's Sorrow," by SALVATOR COLLETTI; "The Miner's Wife," by MARY KATE DALLAS; "A Little by a Little," by "JOSHUA ALLEN'S WIFE"; "John Heckle," by J. W. FEVERS; "The Uncle from India," by OLIVER OPTIC; "The Last Plunk," by NED BUNTLINE; "The Phantom Train," by PAUL PASTERNAK; and "Sam Buck's Cow," by TOM P. MORAN. Each one of these novelettes is extremely interesting, though they are also rich in style, some being of the domestic or home order, some humorous, and others of the dramatic and exciting kind. Never before was so grand a collection of complete novelettes by so many famous authors published in a single volume. Each novelette is published complete and unbridled. The book contains 64 large double-column pages, bound in attractive paper covers, and will be sent by mail post-paid upon receipt of only Ten Cents.

FAMOUS DIALECT RECITATIONS.



This book contains a large and careful selection of the most popular recitations in the English, Scottish, German, Irish and other dialects, as recited by the leading elocutionists of the day. The contents embrace humorous, dramatic and pathetic recitations, both in prose and verse, some of which are the following: "The Stolen Watermelon," "The Spelling Book at Angels," "Caleb's Courtship," "Dorothy Jones," "The Forgetting of the Mortgage," "The Bartender's Story," "The Husky Bee," "Grandpa's Courtship," "The Cowboy's Christmas Ball," "Tea-time," "Mike's Confession," "The Surprise Party in Dutchtown," "Old Daddy Turner," "Paddy's Courtship," "Sambro's Dilemma," "Davy and Gollan," "The Barley Boat," "Little Johnnie's Christmas," "Joe's Wife," "Panorama," "Buddy's Trouble," etc. The contents of this book have been selected with great care, the aim being to include only the best, hence it contains the cream of fifty of the ordinary recitation books, and is without doubt the best collection of dialect recitations and readings ever published. A book of 64 large double-column pages, neatly bound in attractive paper covers, it will be sent by mail post-paid upon receipt of only Ten Cents.

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Famous Comic Recitations.



This is an entirely new book, just published, and it contains one hundred and ten of the very best humorous recitations, as recited by the most famous elocutionists of the day. These embrace recitations in the Negro, Yankee, Irish and Dutch dialects, both in prose and verse, as well as humorous compositions of every kind and character. Among its contents are: "The Ship of Faith," "The Dutchman's Mistake," "The Courtin'," "Mygel Snyder's Party," "De Cake Walk," "Uncle Ike's Roosters," "Watermillions," "The Freckled Faced Girl," "Paddy's Dream," "The Dutchman's Serenade," "How Maloney's Goat," "The Tale of Maloney's Cow," "Parson Jinglejaw's Sermon," "Mike's Courtship," "Josiah," "Nora Murphy and the Spirits," "The Countryman at the Show," "Intensely Utter," "Taking Toll," "How Sockery Set a Hon," "Tim Murphy's Irish Stew," "Schneider's Tomatoes," "What Troubled the Nigger," and 85 others. The contents of this book have been selected with great care, the aim being to include only the best, hence it contains the cream of fifty of the ordinary recitation books, and is without doubt the best collection of comic recitations and readings ever published. A book of 64 large double-column pages, neatly bound in attractive paper covers, it will be sent by mail post-paid upon receipt of only Ten Cents.

Modern Entertainments.



"Modern Entertainments" is the title of a new book by Mrs. Ethel W. Merriman, describing numerous forms of entertainments for evening companies which have been successfully given by versatile hostesses in all parts of the country. It can be entertained without dancing or cards; it is the ever-recurring question of that large class who consider such amusements baneful, and this book has been written to meet this precise need. Its possession will enable any hostess to entertain her friends and acquaintances in a manner thorough, enjoyable and interesting.

so numerous and varied are the entertainments described that it will furnish all the material needed in this line for many successive seasons. The following are the titles of the entertainments described: "Entertainment as an Art," "An Initial Entertainment," "The Modern Sewing Bee," "The Five Senses," "An Enjoyable Musical," "The Round Table," "A Valentine Party," "The Bohemians," "A Book Party," "A Geography Party," "A Charade Party," "A Kindergarten for Adults," "An Evening with the Occult," "The Artists at Play," "A Spinning Party," "A Drawing Attraction," "A Halloween Party," "A New Year Party," "Out Door Entertainments," "Breakfasts," "Luncheons," "Tea," "Dinners," "Wedding Anniversary," "A Meeting of Celebrities," ENTERTAINMENTS FOR CHILDREN, "An Old Fashioned Party," "A Punch and Judy Party," "A Modern Battle," "A Mystic Circle," "A Shooting Match," "A Peanut Party," "A Christmas Entertainment," "A Hurly Burly," "Modern Entertainments" is a book of 64 large double-column pages, neatly bound in attractive paper covers, it will be sent by mail post-paid upon receipt of only Ten Cents.