

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, JUNE, 1907

COMING CONVENTIONS.

The annual convention of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance will be held in the City of Toronto on Tuesday, July 17th. It will be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Council of the Dominion Alliance to be held in the same city on July 18th.

Both these meetings will take place opportunely. The question of national prohibition is now being considered by the Dominion Parliament. The action to be taken will no doubt have its influence in the approaching general election. The intense dissatisfaction that prevails throughout the Dominion over the unfair treatment of the prohibition question by the Dominion Government, will be a force in the campaign, unless something should be done by Parliament before the close of the present session.

Provincial prohibition is also in the air. Manitoba and Prince Edward Island are leading the way in measures proposing to restrict the liquor traffic to the limits of constitutional provincial power. Other provinces will speedily follow in the line.

The indignation and annoyance, perhaps discouragement, felt after the Provincial and Dominion Plebiscites, which showed public sentiment, but brought about no practical legislation, are fast changing into determination to secure such changes in Provincial and Dominion Parliamentary representation as will give some effect to the loudly voiced sentiment of the people in favor of the suppression of the drunk evil. The cause of civilization will be served if politicians are taught that they cannot trifle with moral issues, nor play tricks with the best and most conscientious part of the electorate.

It is probable that the coming conventions will be strong in numbers, in sentiment, in expression and in practical action.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

The present Liberal Government of Prince Edward Island holds office by the closest possible majority, having had its strength seriously impaired because of public disapprobation of the license law recently enacted, and which is now in mischievous operation in the city of Charlottetown, all the rest of the Province being under prohibition through the operation of the Scott Act.

In the Province of Prince Edward Island a Plebiscite was taken by the local Government on the question of prohibition in 1893. The result was as follows:—

Votes cast for prohibition 10,616
Votes cast against prohibition 3,390

Majority for prohibition 7,226
In the Dominion Plebiscite of 1898 the vote of Prince Edward Island was as follows:—

For prohibition 9,461
Against prohibition 1,146

Majority for prohibition 8,315
The prohibitionists of Prince Edward Island are following the example of their friends in Manitoba in pressing vigorously for the enactment of a provincial prohibitory law.

On Thursday, May 24th, an influential representative deputation of temperance men from different parts of the Province waited upon the Prince Edward Island Government and asked to have introduced into the Legislature, a Bill which they had prepared.

Premier Farquharson stated to the deputation that he had submitted to the Dominion Minister of Justice certain questions relating to the powers of the Provincial Legislature, but had not yet received a definite answer. If the Government will not promote the legislation asked for, it will no doubt be introduced into the Legislative Assembly by a private member.

MANITOBA.

Newspapers are publishing semi-official forecasts of the Manitoba Prohibition Bill which is to be introduced into the Legislature at Winnipeg early during the present week.

It is stated that the Act which will come into force on June 1st, 1901, will provide for the entire prohibition of all liquor selling either in bulk or by the glass, except in drug stores, which are to be permitted to sell under very stringent regulations, and for permitted purposes only.

The penalty proposed for the first offence is a fine of not less than \$200 and not more than \$1,000 and the penalty for a second or subsequent offence, imprisonment for not less than three months with hard labor, without the option of a fine.

Wholesalers and manufacturers are to be permitted to carry on their business, but will only be allowed to sell liquor in Manitoba to the drug stores above mentioned. Manufacturing may go on, but only for export to some place beyond the boundaries of Manitoba. Wholesalers and manufacturers will however be prohibited from giving liquor to any person in the Province, either for money or without payment.

The importation of liquor into the Province by any private party except for his own use will also be prohibited. Stringently worded clauses provide for the enforcement of the law. Extensive powers are given to inspectors and rewards are provided for the securing of convictions.

OFFICIAL DESPOTISM.

The *Montreal Witness* has been inquiring into the case of Corporal Courtney of A Battery, Kingston, who has been severely punished for insubordination. He declined to carry out the order of Major Faeges who instructed him to march his men to the canteen to be served with beer in which to drink Her Majesty's health. Corporal Courtney has strong convictions on the temperance question, and on account of his obedience to those convictions in preference to obedience to his superior officer, was reduced to the ranks.

It looks unfortunately, as if dis-

obedience to orders in the Canadian Militia is to be dealt with differently in the case of those who desire to encourage drinking habits from the way in which it is to be dealt with when the offenders are anxious to promote sobriety and morality.

The Militia regulations prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquor at camps. It is a notorious fact that last year this regulation was flagrantly, openly, persistently set at defiance in the presence of officers in many places. Attention was called to this breach of discipline, but none of the offenders so far as the public know, has yet been called to account for his insubordination.

The principle at issue as the *Montreal Witness* points out, is not a new one. Religious convictions before now have led brave soldiers to refuse to obey instruction which their superior officers had no moral right to give. Upon investigation these courageous soldiers have been fully sustained. No man's obligations as a soldier should compel him to sacrifice his allegiance to what he believes to be righteous, the more so when no real issue of discipline or military usefulness is at stake.

It is to be hoped that the Militia Department will promptly interfere on behalf of a man who evidently is made of good soldier stuff, and against the petty tyranny that would take advantage of its position to seek to compel men to violate their conscience as well as to defy the law.

There may be a curious complication in the problem of whether or not the supplying of beer at the canteen was not illegal. Is it right for a military officer to command a subordinate to violate the law, which both are sworn to enforce? Is a Major at liberty to defy the Militia Department while a Corporal must be punished for declining to obey a Major?

THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

In the Imperial House of Lords on May 8th, the Bishop of Winchester moved a resolution declaring that it was desirable to give legislative effect to the recommendations contained in both minority and majority reports of the Royal Commission on the Licensing Laws. Even a measure so moderate as this would no doubt in Great Britain be progressive and useful.

The Marquis of Salisbury, the Premier, took strong ground against the motion, and surprised even the staid House of Lords by his retrogressive and liquor favoring proposals. He strongly denounced the proposal to prohibit children under sixteen from bringing beer from public houses. Also the proposal to prohibit the sale of liquor on Sunday, and to regulate liquor selling on steamboats. He denounced the proposal to deny a great number of people the sustenance to which they had a right because other people got drunk and stated that the legislation was proposed by the cellared people to affect the cellarless people.

The discussion became almost a controversy between the Bishops and the other members of the House of Lords. Viscount Peel strongly opposed the Premier's sophistries as did also the Archbishop of Canterbury. The resolution was finally altered so as to simply request the Government to lay before Parliament legislative proposals founded upon the recommendations contained in the reports. Even this modified form was defeated on the following division:—For the resolution 42, against the resolution 45.

IMPORTANT.

TORONTO, 1900.

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**.

The victory won last year was only the opening of a campaign in which the liquor traffic will do its utmost to block, delay, and if possible prevent our securing the enactment and enforcement of prohibitory 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 **The Camp Fire** will also be of special value for distribution. Literature won the plebiscite victory. We must keep up the 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.

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