

# THE CAMP FIRE

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## THE 100,000 VOTERS' PLAN.

The Executive Committee of the Dominion Alliance has decided to ask those who have been canvassing for signatures to the 100,000 Voters' pledge, to send in their lists of names without delay. Already a large number of lists have been secured, and in some places the work is being pushed with commendable vigor.

There are localities in which nothing has yet been done. The work is very important and very promising. We desire to earnestly urge all friends of the temperance cause to see that there is no neglect regarding this duty. Forms of pledge and other documents relating to the work, will be promptly furnished to all who apply for them.

## NOTES OF NEWS.

### WHAT OUR FRIENDS AND FOES ARE DOING.

#### A Victory.

The township of Lansdowne, Ont., adopted a local option by-law on January 1st, by a majority of 75. Votes were taken in a number of other places, but the returns have not yet reached us.

#### Beer Money.

Mr. John Gretton, a partner of the great brewing firm of Bass & Co., England, has recently died, leaving an estate valued at over \$14,000,000.

#### Saloons and Police.

There are in the city of San Francisco 3,032 licensed saloons, being one for every 100 inhabitants. The number of policemen is 557, two for every eleven saloons.

#### What they Learned.

An Illinois man has made the statement that seventeen men who enlisted for the Philippine war from his town, recently returned home, one of them as a corpse, and the other sixteen drunkards.

#### A Soldier Slain.

Among the deaths reported in England, was that of a soldier who was on his way to Liverpool to embark for South Africa, who died suddenly in the train. A coroner's jury rendered a verdict in the case "died from alcoholic poisoning."

#### Law Enforcement.

In the city of Summerside, P.E.I., a very interesting meeting was held on the evening of January 5th, to consider the question of law enforcement. Attention was drawn to the continued violation of the Canada Temperance Act and it was decided to organize a Citizens' League to work for better enforcement.

#### Excused Because Drunk.

Before a judge in Edinburgh, Scot., a man pleaded guilty to murdering his mother with a pair of tongs. He persuaded the judge that the crime was the result of his intoxication, not of malice, and the penalty imposed upon him was only six months' imprisonment.

#### Is this Civilization.

Mr. Geo. Kennan, the famous writer, reports that in his investigations in Cuba, he has been remarkably struck with the sobriety of the native population as compared with the discreditable drunkenness too common among the American soldiers in the island.

## Teaching Boys to Drink.

The National Temperance Advocate reports that the managers of the Institute for the Blind in Columbus, Ohio, are having much trouble over the fact that boys who are inmates of the Institution and are permitted out to attend church on Sundays, are being on these occasions, enticed into saloons and made drunk.

### Wide Open.

A Voice correspondent has been investigating the moral conditions of the city of Toledo of which the Mayor is S. M. Jones widely known for his "Golden Rule" theory of Government. The Voice reporter states that Toledo is a wide open city, that on Sundays saloons and theatres run as on other days, and that gambling and other evils are everywhere flagrant.

### Liquor Men Fail.

The liquor men took a hand in the municipal elections in the city of Toronto, but did not have much success. Of the 25 members of the newly elected council, at least eleven are known to be in favor of prohibition. Some of the liquor party made a strong effort to induce the Aldermen not to elect Alderman Spence as a member of the Board of Control. Here also they were badly defeated.

### A Prohibition State.

Vermont is a prohibition State. Of course it is small, but it is comparatively free from the vices that flourish under license law. That prohibition is enforced may be gathered from the fact that the fines collected for violation of the law amount to over \$200,000 per year. The total number of policemen in the State is thirty-five. The expenses of all the jails for last year were \$11,600.

### In Sweden.

The Good Templar Order in Sweden celebrated its twentieth anniversary on November 5. The first lodge was instituted at Gothenburg on that date in 1875. By 1894 the Order had grown to 58,489 adult members in 1,181 lodges, and this year had further increased to 91,895 in 1,611 lodges, an increase in the last six years of 33,500 members in 400 lodges.

### A Terrible Record.

The report of the Commissioner of Police for the city of London, Eng., for 1898, has been issued. It shows that within the metropolitan police district there were last year 14,098 places licensed to sell liquor, and that the total number of arrests for drunkenness was 54,476. The convictions of licensed persons for violation of the law in the same time numbered 222.

### A Dying Testimony.

At Stephenville, Texas, on November 10th, Thomas Wright was hung for the murder of John Adams. Just before his execution he spoke to a crowd in front of the scaffold in the following terms:

"Boys, you little fellows out there, I want all of you that will do so to hold up your hands and promise me that you will let liquor alone. It's the cause of my death; it's the cause of poor old John Adams' death. Nothing in the world but liquor caused my death and his death. I have got to pay the death penalty for violating the local option law. If it hadn't been for that, John Adams wouldn't be dead, nor would I."

### Prohibition Works.

The city of Lowell, Mass., passed under prohibition on May 1st last. The record of arrests for drunkenness during the

first six months has been published, and is as follows, compared with the record for the same period of last year under license:

	Under License.	No License.
May .....	224	115
June .....	286	136
July .....	314	185
August .....	292	178
September .....	280	197
Total .....	1,406	811

### A Year's Record.

The city of Boston had in 1898, 26,157 arrests for drunkenness. It is officially estimated that the cost of arrests and caring for drunks amounts to about one-eighth of the total of the police department. At this rate the city of Boston's police expenditure on account of drunkenness is \$210,491.74. The fines collected for drunkenness amounted to \$23,490.78. The cost of arrests does not of course mean the cost of keeping in jail those who are sent there for drunkenness.

### Drink and Death.

A fearful commentary upon the drinking customs of the holiday season in Great Britain is to be found in some tables compiled by Mr. W. Stanyon, of Leicester. He shows that during the Christmas week the number of deaths in the city of London was 2,360, while the number for the preceding week was only 1,555. He takes thirty-six of the other large cities and towns in England and finds that their average death rate for Christmas week was at the rate of 25 per year, while for the preceding week it was less than 17. He estimates that the increase in these towns was equal to 1,346, which added to the London record, makes 2,151 extra deaths in the 37 cities and towns during Christmas week. The general belief is that these startling facts are explainable only by the intemperance indulged in at Christmas time.

### Drink and Crime.

Gen. Brinkerhoff, President of the National Prohibition Association of the United States, made a statement some time ago showing the increase of crime throughout the country, and it is startling to see how this increase in crime runs parallel with the increase in the consumption of intoxicating liquors. The following table sets out this comparison comprehensively. The first column gives the year for which the record is taken; the second column the amount of drink consumed per head of the population, and the third column the number of the population to every criminal confined in prison at the time of the taking of the census; the fourth column gives the total number of prisoners confined throughout the country at the time named.

Year.	Gals. Liquor per Capita.	Population to one convict.	Number of convicts.
1850	4.08	3,442	6,737
1860	6.43	1,647	19,086
1870	7.69	1,171	32,901
1880	10.09	855	58,609
1890	15.53	757	82,329

### HEREDITY.

In my experience, from sixty to seventy per cent. of all inebriates have had excessive and moderate drinking ancestors. Many of these had temperate parents who, by example and precept, encouraged temperate living. This was not sufficient to overcome the exhaustion and strains for which spirits proved a most grateful narcotic.

The passing over to the second and third generations of the alcohol tendency is a fact, not well known. Of course some specially exciting causes are required to develop this latent effect. Alcoholic prescriptions are one: "Rock and Rye" is given for cough, or patent bitters,

which contain from ten to forty per cent. of alcohol, or the more common spirit and egg medicine, or beer for supposed strength. In a short time these compounds awaken the hereditary tendency and once more the disease of inebriety appears.

In some studies of these cases of so-called atavism, or the transmission to remote generations of this special defect, I have found debilitated and unhealthy parents, who, while not drinking, are weak, nervous persons in whom the alcoholic tendency was kept alive.

There can be no possible doubt of the transmission of injury from alcohol to the next generation. This may be overcome by wise living, and marriage with strong, healthy persons, and disappear in the second or third generations, or it may go on down the race along with other weaknesses, appearing at any favorable moment.

If the drinking man should realize how positively he is weakening and lessening the chances of health and longevity in his children, he would not boast of the harmlessness of spirits. An illustration of this will be recognized as not uncommon. A lawyer, who is a wine drinker at the table, has five children. He prides himself on the temperate use of spirits and freedom from fanaticism. His eldest son broke down in college from nervous prostration and is travelling in Europe with a special nurse. His daughter eloped with a fast man and is an invalid in a sanitarium. A third child is choreic, and a fourth one has convulsions after any special excitement. The fifth is a delicate, undergrown girl. There is not the slightest doubt that these conditions are due to the defective germ cells of the parents, particularly of the father.

The use of wine, by its steady, poisonous action on the delicate nerve cells, has lessened their vigor and capacity to reproduce the germs of equal force for the next generation. The germ cells are the most complex and delicate of all the known forces of the human body. They not only contain but transmit all the strength and weakness of parents near and remote. Parents can destroy the next generation with as much certainty as they destroy themselves. Were it not for the wise construction of nature, which limits the production of disease and decay, the race would be extinct.

Sixty to seventy per cent. of all inebriates rapidly die out and their children as a rule die early and have few descendants. If they are fortunate in healthy marriages with more vigorous race stock, the old germ defects are eliminated and a new race follows. These inebriates are dying and becoming extinct and their children with them. It would seem that the destruction of the individual and his descendants by the use of alcohol would be the unpardonable sin for which there can be no forgiveness. There is something appalling in the fact that the inebriate is injuring the next generation and making it more difficult and impossible for them to live and enjoy the pleasures of life; also that his children are marked with the defects and go about bearing the brand of his ignorance, disease and folly.

This subject is a great, "dark continent" into which a few pioneer workers have penetrated, only to show its vastness and importance. — Dr. T. D. Crothers, in the Union Signal.

### FIGURES THAT TELL THE STORY.

The Chicago "Record" (no prohibition crank) says: "There are in Chicago, 1,700 families on the charity roll. Of these there were 517 families in one district alone. The heads of 283 of these were confirmed drunkards; the heads of 217 of the remaining families were regular drinkers. This left only seventeen families out of 517 who were supported by charity whose heads did not drink."