

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, NOVEMBER, 1901

ORGANIZATION.

Carrying out the instructions of the Convention, the Executive Committee of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance has made arrangements for organization of electoral districts in view of the approaching provincial election. Circulars giving information about plans and methods of work have already been widely scattered.

Mr. John A. Nicholls of Montreal, favorably known throughout Eastern Canada as an able lecturer and an effective organizer has been engaged to visit a number of places and aid local workers in getting arrangements completed. Mr. Nicholls has a high reputation and has had much experience on different lines of temperance campaigning.

Workers ought not however, to wait for any inspiration or advice from others. They ought to immediately organize to make their influence felt at the coming session of the legislature as well as in the election which will shortly follow. There is no time to spare. The Alliance Secretary will cheerfully furnish further information to any who desire it.

THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Doubts as to whether or not the Ontario Legislature will meet before next general election have been removed by the definite announcement of the Premier. The Assembly will meet for business early in the coming year.

It is confidently anticipated that before that time we shall be in possession of the judgement of the Privy Council upon the Manitoba Prohibitory Law. That judgement will settle the question of the legislation that will be expected to follow the example of the prairie province. If the Manitoba law should be declared ultra vires, then there must be no delay in the enactment of an effective and comprehensive amendment of our defective license legislation.

The license law can be so amended as to make it a much more valuable means of restricting the liquor traffic. This may be done with the introduction of a new principle, by simply changing the wording of defective clauses so that they will produce the result for which they were framed.

The Province of Ontario is therefore on the eve of stirring times. In the coming session of the legislature there will be a strong effort for better laws

and in the election following an effort to secure the return of candidates who can be relied upon to give legislative effect to the strong temperance sentiment of the community.

THE UNITED KINGDOM ALLIANCE.

The annual meeting of the General Council of the United Kingdom Alliance was held in Manchester on Tuesday, October 22nd, when Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart. presided over a large gathering. In moving the adoption of the annual report he said that the organization was the friend of all other movements and the enemy of none. Other societies had not opposition offered to them by the Alliance except what arose from the fact that if the objects of the Alliance were secured, these other societies would be unnecessary. He emphasized the root doctrine of the Alliance as being that drink was a destructive element in the body politic, just as it was in the human body. They believed although it was easy to prove that millions had been the worse by drink it would take a microscope to discover any who had really been the better for it. They would therefore go on in the propagation of their doctrine till the evils of drinking are banished from the country. Sir Wilfrid said there were really only two methods of dealing with the drink problem. There were first those who proposed to put down drinking by providing the people with intoxicants. He admitted that for the present these were in the majority though they admitted that the drink trade was a "gigantic evil." The other party proposed to put down drink by prohibiting the sale of drink. The plan had always succeeded where it was honestly tried. He counselled them to go forward on that path convinced that though they might be called the extreme party they were extremely right.

Mr. W. S. Cane, M. P., seconded the adoption of the report, and welcomed all efforts from whatever quarter to put down intemperance. His great point was that in the absence of the prospect of immediate legislation, they should go on with the work of creating temperance citizens, who when the fitting time arose would give effect to their opinions in sound legislation.

Mr. T. P. Whittaker, M. P., moved a resolution reaffirming the declaration of the Alliance in the right of the people to prohibit the sale of drink by a direct vote. He delivered an effective speech in the course of which he replied to the recent statements of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain and demonstrated the great advantage which had arisen from temperance legislation.

Mr. Joseph Mahns also spoke in similar terms. Other resolutions on various aspects of the temperance question were passed.

In the evening a great meeting was held in the Free Trade Hall, at which Sir Robert F. Reid, M. P., presided.

LIQUOR CONSUMPTION.

An English Parliamentary paper issued on September 28th, gives particulars of the production and consumption of alcoholic beverages in the various countries of Europe, the United States, and the principal British Colonies. A memorandum states that the United Kingdom derives the largest proportion of its national revenue from the taxation of alcoholic beverages, the proportion being about twice as much as in either France or Germany. In the United States, however, the proportion more nearly ap-

proximates to that of the United Kingdom, being 29 per cent. of the total.

The consumption of wine per head of the population is as follows: United Kingdom, 0.31 gallons; France, 25.4 gallons; Germany, 1.45 gallons; United States, 0.33 gallons. France is the principal wine-consuming country in Europe. Of the other countries, Portugal averages about 20 gallons per head; Spain, 19 gallons; Italy, 18 gallons, and Switzerland, 15 gallons. The consumption in Australia-Hungary is a little over three gallons per head, in Belgium, less than a gallon, and in Holland, about the same as in the United Kingdom.

Beer is the staple drink in the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States. The consumption per head in the United States is only half that of Germany, which is itself less than that of the United Kingdom. In each of the three Southern States of Germany, however—Bavaria, Württemberg and Baden—the consumption per head is greater than the United Kingdom. Of other countries not included here Belgium is easily first with a consumption in 1900 of nearly 47 gallons per head, which, however, falls short of the Bavarian consumption of 54 gallons per head. Nearly all these figures show evidence of a tendency to increase in recent years. In the United Kingdom the average consumption was, roughly, 27 gallons per head from 1885 to 1888, and in the next two years rose to 30 gallons per head, remaining at, or near this point, up to 1895.

The amount of spirits produced is not so large as that of either wine or beer, yet for many reasons—such as the proportion of alcohol it contains, as also for its capacity for taxation—it is the most important of the three sorts of alcoholic drinks. The quantity of spirits consumed amounts, roughly, to one gallon of proof spirit per head in the United Kingdom and the United States, and to two gallons of proof spirit per head in France and Germany.

AN ANTI-CANTEEN VICTORY.

Friends of temperance in the United States are jubilant over the assistance given them in their anti canteen campaign by General Nelson A. Miles.

As most of our readers know, the United States Congress has definitely and absolutely prohibited liquor-selling in connection with military posts and in canteens. Many leading military officials have strongly denounced this legislation and endeavored to make it appear that its operation resulted in increased drunkenness. The theory advanced is that soldiers who would buy beer at the army canteen now go to neighboring saloons and get intoxicated with ardent spirits.

The statement of a number of these liquor favoring officers has been published and there is evidently under way a movement to secure the repeal of the law. At this crisis, Gen. Miles has been interviewed, and without hesitation has expressed his opinion in the following terms:

"I don't believe the present law should be repealed until it has been given a fair trial. There has been a great deal of idle talk concerning the canteen. The army canteen, or exchange, or amusement room, as it is variously called, was at first simply a place where soldiers might congregate to play games and amuse themselves. The sale of liquor was not allowed. The last act of Congress places the institution back on the old footing. I am not sure that Congress has made a great mistake in again prohibiting the sale of liquor. Our large manufacturers don't find it necessary to provide places where their employees can congregate and drink.

The railroad companies don't. There is very little drinking among railroad men, and they seem to get along just as well."

In order that there might be no doubt about the authenticity of this statement, Dr. Wilbur F. Crafts, Superintendent of the National Bureau of Reforms at Washington, sent a copy of the interview to Gen. Miles, asking him to state whether or not it was correct. The document was returned to Dr. Crafts with the following endorsement:

"The above extract is substantially correct and represents my present views. Nelson A. Miles, Lieutenant-General, Washington, D.C., Oct 7, 1901."

DRINK AND CONSUMPTION.

No more important deliverance has recently been made than that of Prof. P. Brouardel, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, of Paris, at the great Congress held in London to discuss the subject of tuberculosis. This eminent scientist was introduced to the Congress as "the greatest living sanitary authority in Europe."

Some parts of Prof. Brouardel's address have already been published in the CAMP FIRE. They refer to the relationship of the consumption of alcoholic liquors to the propagation of tuberculosis and the possibility of recovery from this disease. Some of these statements are so strong and important that they ought to have the widest possible circulation. No apology is therefore necessary for the repetition of them. They are as follows:

"Bautman, of Beauvais, has shown that mortality from tuberculosis and from alcohol are nearly identical.

"In this connection he obtained the following results:—

Deaths from Tuberc. in 100,000 inhabitants	Annual consumption of liters of alcohol per head.
30 to 40	12.47
40 to 50	15.21
50 to 60	14.72
70 to 80	16.36
80 to 90	17.16
More than 90	50.70

"Any measures, State or individual, tending to limit the ravages of alcoholism will be our most precious auxiliaries in the crusade against tuberculosis, but the question is too large a one to deal with here. Still, I should like to draw attention to a mistake made too easily in the different countries by ministers who have the charge of the financial department of the State. They like to calculate the sum the State gets from the duty on alcohol, but they should deduct from it the cost to the community of the family of the drunkard, his degenerate, infirm, scrofulous children, who must have shelter

"This invasion of alcoholism ought to be regarded by every one as a public danger, and this principle, the truth of which is uncontested, should be inculcated into the masses, that the future of the world will be in the hands of the temperate.

"Unhealthy dwellings cause other disasters. Dark and crowded as they are, cleanliness is difficult, if not impossible to preserve; they are not pleasant to pass the time in, and the workman stays in his home as little as possible; he eats there and sleeps there, but the rest of his time is spent in the publichouse. J. Simon was right in saying: 'The wretched lodging is the purveyor of the publichouse,' and we can add to it that the publichouse is the purveyor of tuberculosis.

"In fact, alcoholism is the most potent factor in propagating tuberculosis. The strongest man who has once taken to drink is powerless against it. Time is too short for me to draw comparisons between the laws in force in different countries, those which are proposed, private efforts, associated efforts, and temperance societies. But I can say that a universal cry of despair rises from the whole universe at sight of the disasters caused by alcoholism.

"I will quote but two sets of statistics, but they speak for themselves. Tatham's show that the mean mortality being represented by 100, that caused by tuberculosis is in:

Butchers	105	Hair Dressers	149
Coalmen	116	Strolling musicians	174
Coachmen	124	Dock Laborers	176
Publicans	140	Peddlars	239
Sweeps	141	Barmen	257
Brewers	148		