

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, JANUARY, 1898

IMPORTANT.

Read this paper carefully. Then subscribe for it. You will need it in the coming plebiscite campaign. It will supply workers with facts and arguments they need. It will be the best kind of literature to circulate. It will make votes for prohibition. Kindly help us to get it into every corner of the country.

THIS YEAR'S WORK

The year upon which we have just entered bids fair to be one of momentous interest in the history of the temperance reform in Canada. The Dominion Parliament is expected to meet early next month. A Bill has been promised by the Government providing for the taking of a Plebiscite on the question of prohibition. A promise has also been given that if the result of the vote shows that public opinion demands prohibition; the voice of the people will be obeyed.

The facts bring us face to face with a splendid opportunity and a heavy responsibility. Upon our success in the approaching contest depends the immediate attainment of the object for which we have worked so earnestly and so long. A defeat will mean the indefinite delay of the coming of total prohibition.

Nearly every province has already an organization ready to take hold of and superintend campaign work. Responsibility however, rests not simply on the central bodies but on the rank and file of our workers. It is the local organization that will tell in the fight. The workers of every city, town, township, parish and village ought to thoroughly organized so as to do effective work.

There is no need to wait for any advice or the visit of any agent to have this organization effected. Friends of the cause in every locality should consult with each other and form their committees at once. If any one hesitates for lack of information as to the methods of securing thorough organization, a card dropped to any provincial secretary, or to F. S. Spence, Toronto, will bring by return mail full details of plans and methods. Let not a moment be lost in the preparation that is of so much importance.

EDUCATION.

The holidays are over. The heavy pressure of Christmas entertainment is passed. There remain a few months of winter time, the best of the year in which to push on the work of prohibition education.

Every church should have platform temperance meetings. Every temperance society should take a similar step.

Well posted speakers, able to inform the electors are now to be found in every neighborhood. No meeting need lack in either power or influence.

Literature must not be forgotten. The splendid series of campaign tracts prepared by the Dominion Alliance cannot be too freely used. Already hundreds of thousands of copies have been printed and great quantities are being gotten ready. No other opportunity for securing such effective literature at such insignificant cost was ever before presented to our workers. Every home in the Dominion ought to have in it every one of these twenty valuable documents.

The liquor traffic is working hard already, gathering funds, circulating literature, influencing municipal elections, strengthening itself for the struggle. Let us be also ready.

Read our offer headed CAMPAIGN EQUIPMENT

PRINCIPAL GRANT.

It ought to be a distinct advantage to the temperance cause to have the case against it set out fully by so able a controversialist as the Rev. Principal Grant. He is endeavoring to make a case for the liquor-traffic, and certainly the friends of that traffic have little to congratulate themselves upon in the result of his efforts.

Able pens have replied to the "Letters in the Globe." It has been shown that the reverend opponent of prohibition has been unfair in his quotations and illogical in his deductions. With strange lack of knowledge he has quoted the figures for drunkenness under license and charged them against the Scott Act. He has endeavored to show that prohibitory laws are so ineffective that under them liquor is freely sold, while claiming that under these laws people are unable to procure liquor freely, and therefore use dangerous drugs that have increased idiocy and other physical evils to an alarming extent.

One result he has certainly accomplished. He has vindicated the common sense of the High Courts of the church to which he belongs, which from time to time have treated almost with contempt his puerile attempts to defend the legalization of the vile liquor traffic, and have denounced in ringing terms the cruel evil for the toleration of which Principal Grant is pleading. Dr. Grant is keen to see the weakness of an opponent's position and oftentimes has proved himself successful in debate. It is marvelous how prejudice can blind his eyes to the inherent weakness of his own absurdities and misrepresentations, and make him fail to realize the force of the case for prohibition which he so feebly assails, and the strong features of which he utterly fails to recognize, or at any rate does not attempt to deal with.

A WARNING.

When the introduction of a Plebiscite Bill into the Dominion Parliament was expected last session, a deputation of liquor sellers waited upon the Government, and asked that the people be requested at the same time to vote upon the question of direct taxation.

The intention of this clever dodge was manifest and a prompt protest came from every part of the country against the injustice of the suggestion.

So strong was this protest that the Government felt constrained to disavow through a Cabinet Minister, any intention of acting upon the liquor

traffickers' advice. The protest was timely and wise.

We do not know what will be the form of the Plebiscite Bill when it is laid before Parliament. We must however be on the alert, lest the friends of the liquor traffic should attempt again to encumber it with some condition that might be distasteful to the electorate, thus endeavoring to secure its defeat.

In a few weeks we ought to see the promised measure. Earnstly we urge our readers to be on the watch. The liquor traffic is wary, anxious, cunning and keen. It is impossible to forecast the moves that it may make. We must simply be ready to protest as vigorously as we protested before if any attempt should be made to play such another trick as the drink traffic tried to play upon us

MORTALITY.

There has been prepared under the directions of the Registrar General of Great Britain a report on the mortality of men engaged in different occupations for the years 1890-92 inclusive. The death registers have been examined and from them there has been made a classified statement of the age, occupations and registered cause of death of every male over fifteen years of age who died during the time named. Taking 1,000 as the average number of such deaths that should have occurred among a certain proportion of the population, it is found that the actual deaths vary from this very much according to the occupation of the persons who have died. The rate for clergymen is very low, being only 533. The rate for some other occupations is as follows:—

Farmers	563
Grocers	664
Lawyers	821
General laborers	1,509
Coal-heavers	1,528
Lead-workers	1,783
Publicans	1,748

An English journal commenting on the statistics, says:—"No other occupation is so deadly as that of the publican, even servants employed in this business die twice as rapidly as if they were engaged in any other occupation but that of selling strong drink."

Read our offer headed CAMPAIGN EQUIPMENT

LAW ENFORCEMENT.

A favorite argument of anti-prohibitionists is that laws against the liquor traffic are frequently poorly enforced. The liquor traffic is admittedly a law-defying institution. It seeks to evade every restriction imposed upon it. Its success depends upon its strength.

The more rigid the laws under which the liquor traffic chafes the weaker does the traffic become. Its most effective opposition is where law is most lax. The traffic is notorious for its antagonism to the restriction of license laws. In nearly every place where such laws exist, it is necessary to have special officers to secure their enforcement.

In the nature of things it must be easier to enforce prohibition than license. It is easier to put the liquor traffic down than to restrict it. It is easier to prevent than to regulate.

The childish argument that thorough prohibition would probably be ineffective, because partial prohibition is sometimes not enforced, ought not to have any weight with any intelligent elector. The lawlessness of the liquor is a demonstration of the ineffectiveness of any legislation but that of total prohibition.

Almighty God is not to be bought with gold that is blistered with orphans' tears, and is steeped in the mother's blood, that is cankered with the mildew of England's sins. I would sooner see the Cathedrals rot on the ground than that they should be re-built by the colossal fortunes that have been raised by the drinking idiocy of the English people. — Rev. Canon Wilberforce, M.A.

CAMPAIGN LITERATURE.

TORONTO, 1897.

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 in the plebiscite campaign to inspire workers and make votes.

The contest upon which we are entering, will be largely a literature campaign. Printed matter tells. It does its work continuously, silently, fearlessly and well. 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.

This journal will be in every respect reliable and readable. Every article will be short, good and forcible, containing nothing sectional, sectarian or partizan. The literature of the old world and the new world will be ransacked for the most helpful and effective material. The price is very low.

Such literature will convince many a man whom his neighbors cannot convince. It will talk to him quietly, in his own home, in his leisure moments, when he can listen uninterrupted, when he cannot talk back, and when the personality of the talker cannot interfere with the effect of the talk.

It will ply him with facts, arguments and appeals, that will influence, instruct and benefit him. It will set him thinking. This is half the battle. Its wide circulation will swell the victory that we are about to win. This is its object.

Your help is asked in this great work. Every society should subscribe for and distribute hundreds of copies. This is the easiest and surest plan of making prohibition votes. Look at the terms:

Twenty copies will be sent to any one address every month for six months, for ONE DOLLAR, payable in advance.

On no other plan can a small investment be made to produce so much of educative result. One hundred and twenty copies may be placed in as many homes, and have more than HALF A THOUSAND readers. One dollar will cover this placing of the claims of our cause before five hundred people. Ten dollars may reach FIVE THOUSAND. WILL YOU HELP US?

Address,

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Toronto