

The Camp Fire.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF
THE PROHIBITION CAUSE.

Edited by F. S. SPENCE

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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, JULY, 1895.

PROHIBITION IN PARLIAMENT.

The long expected prohibition debate in the Dominion Parliament took place on Monday, June 17th. Mr. T. B. Flint moved his resolution in an able speech which was warmly received. It was seconded by Mr. T. D. Craig.

Mr. George Guillet, of West Northumberland, moved the following amendment:

"That whereas there is now before the Judicial Committee of the Imperial Privy Council an appeal against the Supreme Court of Canada on the jurisdiction of Provincial legislation prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, the further consideration of this question be deferred until this appeal shall have been decided and the report of the Judicial Committee shall have been received."

Mr. George Taylor submitted an amendment to the amendment declaring it inadvisable to legislate upon the prohibition question until the results of the Royal Commission inquiry had been made available for consideration, and until the jurisdiction question had been settled. Mr. Taylor's amendment was defeated, 51 votes being polled for it and 70 against it. The amendment of Mr. Guillet was then voted upon with the following result: Yeas 68, nays 57. The prohibition resolution question was therefore side-tracked by a majority of 11.

This is the narrowest majority that has yet been recorded by the House of Commons against prohibitory action. The vote was very small, 80 members being absent. It is more than likely that a full house would have resulted in a majority for the Flint resolution.

The unfortunate part of the whole affair is that so few members have really been placed. Of the 80 who did not vote, the position of some is well known, others are just the men that we would like to have placed.

Hon. Mr. Laurier, the leader of the Liberal party in the House of Commons, voted for the amendment, and Hon. Mr. Foster, the Conservative leader of the Commons, voted against it.

THE JURISDICTION QUESTION.

In all probability the question of provincial jurisdiction will have been settled before this paper finds its way into the hands of its many readers in the different parts of the Dominion.

The appeal from the decision of the Supreme Court to the Privy Council was set down for hearing in the early part of the present month. Dr. J. J. Maclaren is in England, conducting the case on behalf of the Ontario Government which is the appellant.

A few days will probably put us in possession of the facts of the case. We shall know what our Provincial Legislature can do. There will then be made a demand upon that Legislature for action to the full limit of its ascertained jurisdiction.

In view of these facts the next session of the Ontario Legislature will be doubtless one of the most important in its relation to the temperance cause of any that has yet been held. We must at once make preparations for a vigorous campaign to secure the enactment of all the prohibition that the Legislative Assembly can possibly grant.

ELECTORAL ACTION.

The result of the voting upon the prohibition resolution in the House of Commons last month makes more evident than ever the necessity of electoral action, entirely free from partisanship.

Up till that time the Liberal Party in Dominion politics had probably a better claim upon temperance support than had the Conservatives. The Conservative leaders had promised nothing in relation to prohibition. Further, they had refused to promise anything. They were responsible for the Royal Commission delay. They might fairly be set down as hostile to temperance legislation. On the other hand the Liberal Party had given the question some recognition. When in power they had passed the Scott Act. At the great Ottawa convention they had declared in favor of a plebiscite. The leader of the party has, moreover, since declared definitely that if a plebiscite showed a majority for prohibition the Liberal party would accept the result as a mandate to enact prohibitory law.

The vote on the Flint resolution was not a party vote. It was, however, a vote that may fairly be taken as a test vote on prohibition. The resolution was a clear cut, definite, moderate declaration in favor of the total prohibition of the liquor traffic.

The amendment that was moved was an absurdity. It named the jurisdiction question as a reason for not adopting the prohibition resolution. There is before the courts no question involving in the remotest degree the jurisdiction of the Dominion Parliament to prohibit the liquor traffic. The authority of that body in regard to the matter is unquestioned. The case before the Privy Council has been brought to settle whether or not a province has prohibitory jurisdiction.

The decision of the question will not affect the position of prohibition in the Dominion Parliament. It will not change the opinion of prohibitionists that the Dominion Parliament should enact a national prohibitory law. It will not affect their attitude or action in relation to that Parliament.

In short the Guillet amendment was an unworthy evasion. It was simply an excuse for not dealing directly with this important question.

The leader of the Conservative party in the House of Commons voted against this tricky amendment. The leader of the Liberal party voted for it. So far as leadership goes, the Liberals opposed and the Conservatives favored the taking of a straight vote on the prohibition issue.

What are we to do then about the matter? Simply carry out the Montreal platform. To secure prohibition we must have men in Parliament who are more prohibition than partisan, and who can be relied upon to stand by what is right regardless of mere party exigencies.

DEALING HONESTLY WITH POLITICIANS.

Nothing could be more dangerous or damaging to the temperance cause than a narrow-mindedness on the part of its advocates, or unfairness in criticism of those whose ideas do not exactly harmonize with our own.

To judge from the utterances of some few prohibitionists we might infer that there was no such thing as an honest member of either of the existing parties. Any action or statement that would convey such an expression is as unwise as it is unjust.

To such an extent has this feeling gone that temperance men have sometimes been almost afraid to express their appreciation of valuable help given to our cause by leading politicians, from fear of being pointed to as partisans of those politicians, and because of the readiness of some professed friends of our cause to impute party motives to any one who will not join in the injudicious crusade against all parties and politicians.

When the leaders of the Liberal party in the Province of Ontario committed themselves definitely and fearlessly to the principle and policy of prohibition, they had a right to expect that this action would be accepted in good faith by temperance men of all parties and creeds, yet this was not done. In many cases this laudable action was ridiculed, in others it was declared to be dishonest and unreliable. All this was discreditable and foolish. Such a course has a tendency to make enemies where we ought to make friends, and to prevent our making progress that would otherwise be attained.

We need more honest standing by anything and every person who gives us a helping hand, regardless of the sneers of those who are narrow or prejudiced, or are themselves too partisan to see any good outside their own political horizon. We should be ready to endorse, approve, support ever man who is willing to aid us, whether he be Liberal or Conservative.

In the old land at the present time, prohibition is in politics. The Liberal party there has made the enactment of Local Option a part of its policy. The Conservative party has opposed that action. There are many earnest temperance men in the Conservative ranks, yet even great Church papers do not hesitate to fearlessly appeal to all right-thinking citizens to stand by the Liberal party in the present crisis. As an example of this fearless action, we quote the following extract from a recent article in the *English Methodist Times*:

"We earnestly appeal to all who care more for morality, virtue, and the Christian religion than for party politics to rouse themselves. The liquor trade is unanimous and furious. We have a very fierce battle before us; let us fight to the death. We have now reached the most serious hour in the long history of Temperance Reform. For the first time a government stakes its reputation and its existence upon doing what we have hitherto vainly implored all governments to do.

"If the Temperance party does not support Sir William Harcourt now, it will be justly discredited for generations. It will prove to be the rotten reed and the hollow mockery which Mr. Beaufoy loudly asserts it is. Coldness now would be one of the most criminal exhibitions of public ingratitude ever witnessed, and would properly inflict upon us long humiliation and lasting disaster.

"Every pulpit in the land that has not become a mere sounding-board of ecclesiastical shibboleths and dead Pharisaical traditions should speak out loudly in the name of righteousness and humanity. Let every reader of the Bible study the utterances of the prophets in the Old Testament. How brave they were, how outspoken, how honestly they dealt with the fantastic abstractions of library-theologians, but with the facts of life and the awful evils of their own time!"



REV. J. H. HECTOR.

Is one of the most remarkable men of the present day. His life story surpasses any romance in its startling realities. Left an orphan at an early age, he passed a youth of vicissitude, hardship and privation such as few have experienced. Later on he fought in some of the fiercest struggles of the great American war, and was five times frightfully wounded, so that his survival was almost miraculous. Subsequently as an engine driver he had many a perilous experience; but he came through all to be a converted man, an earnest Christian, a successful minister of the Gospel, and one of the most effective advocates of prohibition and other moral reforms.

Mr. Hector is a full-blooded negro of superb physique and great natural abilities, to which, despite all difficulties, he has added a self-education which must compel admiration. As an orator he is a phenomenon, carrying his audience along with him by a tornado of eloquence, humor and pathos that is fairly irresistible. His originality, wit, readiness of repartee and intense earnestness, quickly open the way for the shafts of truth which he hurls with consummate tact and telling force.

Everywhere he goes he captures the hearts of the people, rouses their sympathies, appeals to their best nature and purest motives, and does them good. Everybody should hear as many as possible of his wonderful sermons and lectures.

Subjoined are a few specimen press notes of his work:

"His speech was irresistible in its eloquence and pathos." *Toronto Globe*.

"Seldom has so large a congregation—somewhere about two thousand—attended a morning service in St. James' Church as yesterday greeted the Rev. J. H. Hector, the Black Knight. The sermon was an extraordinary pulpit effort and greatly affected the large assemblage which listened, was inspired, amused, thrilled and almost caused to weep in unison." *Montreal Witness*.

"The lecture delivered yesterday afternoon by Rev. J. H. Hector, the celebrated colored prohibition orator from California, was a masterly, eloquent and convincing arraignment of the liquor traffic. The audience, the largest of the season, were at one time thrilled by the flow of language which fell from the lips of the speaker, and at others convulsed with laughter by his epigrams, sallies and witticisms. He is a splendid specimen of the race to which he belongs, being powerfully built and showing to great advantage a cultured mien and deportment while thundering forth invective against what he terms worse slavery than that which prevailed in the South." *Toronto Mail*.

Rev. Mr. Hector, popularly known as the "Black Knight," is open for engagements during the coming fall and winter. His time is already filling up fast, applications should be made at once. For terms, dates &c., address

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