

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, SEPTEMBER, 1900

LAW ENFORCEMENT.

The attention of the Ontario Government is respectfully called to the fact that the license laws of this Province are openly, flagrantly, and persistently violated, with the full knowledge, and practically with the consent, of the officials who are charged with the duty of enforcing those laws.

We are not now referring to clandestine sale of liquor by unlicensed persons, or by licensees on election days, Sundays and the like; but to cases of law breaking in which there is no attempt at concealment on the part of the offenders, and in which there can be no excuse of ignorance on the part of the law enforcers.

The retail sale of liquor on Sundays is absolutely prohibited throughout this province. Very many hotels supply liquor openly, continually, to their guests at meal times, receiving payment therefor, and evidently relying upon entire immunity from prosecution.

At banquets in the city of Toronto and elsewhere, liquor is sold to those taking part, by caterers who are not licensed, and on premises for which no license has been issued. License Inspectors seemingly make no effort to either prevent or punish the wrong doing.

Liquor is sold openly and freely in dining cars upon railways and no attempt is made to prevent this open defiance of the law.

Public opinion is opposed to all these facilities for obtaining liquor, apart altogether from the question of their legality. At one time in the Ontario Legislature, a proposition was made to license dining cars. It raised a perfect storm of opposition.

Supporters of the Government, one of them now a member of the Government himself, were out-poken in their denunciation of it. In all the cases named, the Government must be considered directly responsible for the neglect of its officers, the License Inspectors, and for the existence of systematic law-breaking which is so public and so common that a great many people have no suspicion of its illegality.

THE COMING ELECTION.

The present Dominion Parliament will cease to exist in June, 1901, unless it is dissolved before that time. It is therefore practically certain that a general Dominion election will take place within the next nine months.

Both political parties are already in the heat of the campaign. Candidates are being nominated. Meetings are being held. Political leaders are scour-

ing the country. All the election activities are in full swing. Now is the time for prohibitionists to press upon the electorate the importance of the temperance issue, which the politicians as a rule would like to ignore.

The policy adopted by the July Conventions is straightforward, simple and effective. It asks no man to evade his civic responsibilities, but on the contrary urges him to recognize them more fully than ever before. The plan proposed is one that if fairly carried out will result in the nomination of good candidates everywhere. Unless good candidates are nominated we cannot hope for any success. Prohibitionists fail in their most important duty if they leave the nomination of candidates altogether to those who take little interest in the greatest political issue of the day.

The faithful, earnest, useful prohibition elector will therefore be found not only at the polls, but in the nominating conventions and in the meetings that select delegates to that convention. He will not merely poll his vote for the best man in the field, but use his influence and vote in some party, to secure the nomination of a man who will be sound on this great question. The composition and the character of the next Parliament will be to a great extent decided before polling day comes, and the temperance question will be slighted again if temperance men do not have a share in the decision.

THE ALLIANCE ADDRESS.

The Executive Committee of the Council of the Dominion Alliance has issued an address in view of the approaching general election for the Dominion Parliament. The document deserves a careful study and is full of valuable suggestions.

Deep disappointment and strong dissatisfaction are expressed in regard to the action of the Dominion Government and Parliament. Attention is called to the "gross injustice" with which the electorate at large and prohibitionists in particular have been treated. It is pointed out that the Plebiscite was not sought for by the prohibitionists, but was a method chosen by Government and Parliament to test public opinion on the question of prohibition, and that this proposal was accompanied by definite promises that the will of the people as expressed in the vote would be carried out by the Government. It is further stated that by these promises the Liberal party secured much support in last general election, and that the reasons given for the evasion of them are altogether unsatisfactory.

The circular further recites the figures of the voting results and claims that the vote and majority were, under the circumstances, as large as could have been reasonably expected. Special emphasis is placed on the fact that there is a majority of over forty constituencies in favor of prohibition, in which constituencies the average majority for prohibition was over one thousand. The appeal closes with the following forcible statements:

"The Alliance Executive calls attention to the fact that the Government and Parliament have united to sustain the liquor traffic, in defiance of the people's wishes, and in violation of what the public had accepted as an agreement that the traffic was to be outlawed if the people voted against it. The electors are respectfully asked to unite in an effort to make such changes in their representation in the House of Commons as will ensure the embodiment in law of the policy which has been endorsed at the polls.

"Friends of the temperance cause are therefore earnestly urged to take a more

active part than ever in political affairs, identifying themselves with political organizations, attending political primaries, and conventions, and doing their utmost to secure the nomination and election for the Dominion Parliament of men who can be relied upon to be true to the prohibition cause.

"The prohibition question is of more importance than any of the other political issues of the day, the patriotic citizens are earnestly urged to unite, regardless of mere partisan considerations, to secure the election of those who will stand by the right and by the people, and the defeat of those who have treated this great movement with so much hostility and contempt.

BEER, WINE AND SPIRITS.

It has been argued by some and believed by a few credulous souls that an increased consumption of beer and wine would be followed by a lessened demand for stronger liquors. The men who sell "soft drinks" only are ever ready to contend that they are engaged in true temperance work inasmuch as it is better that men should drink beer than whisky. How delusive these doctrines are has long been apparent to most temperance people, and the proof is now furnished in very conclusive form by the special commissioner of the New Voice of New York who is now in Europe collecting statistics bearing on this question.

This commissioner, Mr. William Johnson, has carefully inquired into the consumption of wine and spirits respectively in the wine drinking countries, France, Spain and Italy and the consumption of beer and spirits respectively in the beer-drinking countries, Germany, Britain and Bavaria. The tables cover periods of ten years, from 1888 to 1897 inclusive.

In France the consumption of wines increased from 19.14 gallons to 21.78 gallons per head, and the consumption of spirits from 1.56 to 1.88 gallons per head in the ten years.

In Spain there was a decrease in the consumption of wines, 23.54 to 13.40 gallons per head and a like decrease in spirits from .826 to .380 gallons per head.

In Italy there was also a decrease in the consumption of both wine and spirits, the former falling off from 27.06 to 16.72 gallons and the latter from .317 to .264 gallons per head. It will be seen that in the three principal wine-drinking countries when wine drinking increased, the consumption of spirits also increased and vice versa.

Germany is a beer-drinking country but also consumes spirits to an extent about equal to France. In Germany, during the ten year period under review, beer drinking increased from 21.56 gallons to 25.48 gallons per head, and in the same time the consumption of spirits increased from 1.58 to 1.89 gallons per head.

In Great Britain the result was substantially the same. The consumption of beer went up from 24.9 gallons to 31.3 gallons per head, coupled with an increase of from 0.92 to 1.03 gallons of spirits per head of the population.

In Bavaria the consumption of beer is greater than in any other country, while spirits are not quite so largely used as in Great Britain. The ten year period here shows an increase from 47.52 to 54.78 gallons of beer per head and a like increase from .045 to .061 gallons per head of spirits.

One would suppose, if there was any merit in the "beer cure" for spirit drinking the Bavarians are giving a very effective trial to the remedy, as the official statistics show that they consume over fifty four and three quarter gallons for every man, woman and child in the country, and yet their consumption of spirits has steadily increased during ten years past. The facts are that the beer cure and wine cure are all of a piece with the license cure. They are all drunkard-making cures.—Charlottetown Guardian.

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 in the plebiscite 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.

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 results. 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,

F. S. SPENCE,
52 Confederation Life Building,
Toronto.