

# 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, 1901

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

We have already referred to the wonderful progress made by the temperance cause during the century that has lately closed, and have also ventured to express hopes of what the new century may be expected to bring. The past, however, is gone by and the future is unknown. We have the present on our hands to deal with. If we faithfully discharge the responsibilities which it imposes we may confidently leave the future to the overruling wisdom that will recognize our earnest efforts and will certainly make all things work together for good.

One of the greatest dangers that confront the temperance reformer is the liability to overlook the dual character of the evil he contends with and the dual nature of the effort he must make. Local or temporary conditions may induce him to give such prominence to the moral or the political side of his work as may lead to neglect of the other complementary and equally essential side of it. Moral suasion and political action must go together. Public sentiment is ineffective unless embodied in law. Law will fail unless public opinion is behind it.

It is impossible to overestimate the value of educative work. There is too little temperance teaching in Sabbath schools, religious papers and pulpit ministrations. Sufficient attention is not paid the holding of public meetings and the inculcation of the sound doctrine of total abstinence.

On the other hand there are social reformers who feel the awkwardness of opposition everywhere given to prohibition effort by a large and influential section of the community. Prohibition advocates are looked upon as disturbers. Effective prohibition, which must and will come when the people realize their duty, is considered by many as the dream of enthusiasts. There is a growing tendency to charge aggressive prohibitionists with being too radical and with neglecting the line of effort that has brought public opinion up to its present standpoint.

We want no falling off in the moral suasion agitation. We need to have the advocacy of total abstinence carried on more earnestly and continuously on the broadest and most comprehensive lines. We must at the same time stand by the righteous principle of legal suppression of the iniquitous traffic in strong drink. It is our duty to persistently seek for more rigid legislation and for better en-

forcement of the anti-liquor laws that already exist. Above all we want to cease finding fault with those who are doing their best on either line. Our duty is to encourage them as far as we can and strive by our additional effort to keep up the needful agitation on other lines, to the importance of which we think our co-workers are not fully alive.

## A FIGHTING PROHIBITIONIST.

A good deal of excitement has been stirred up in Kansas over an attack made upon the premises of an illicit liquor seller in Wichita, by Mrs. Carrie Nation, President of the W.C.T.U.

It is stated that liquor selling in Wichita has been open and flagrant, in defiance of the prohibitory law. Mrs. Nation, who is reported to be a highly respectable lady sixty years of age, is President of Barber County W.C.T.U., and has much sympathy from her co-workers. She and her husband had made a number of unsuccessful attempts to secure the co-operation of officials in suppressing the illegal liquor selling. Finally on Wednesday, December 26th, she visited nine of the principal law violating joints, called the attention of the occupants to the fact that they were violating the law, and told them that she would make a personal attack if they continued. The following day the joints being in full operation, Mrs. Nation entered one of them, a saloon owned by Mahan Bros, smashed some mirrors, decanters and other property. For this attack she is arrested and is now in jail awaiting trial.

## BAD BEER.

Great Britain has had a huge scare over widespread sickness and death directly traceable to the free consumption of beer discovered to be poisonous. In most cases the poisonous beer had been manufactured from glucose and was found to contain quantities of arsenic. In some cases the fatality has been great.

In fear that their trade will be badly damaged, leading brewing companies are scattering broadcast certificates from eminent analysts stating that samples of beer examined have been found to be free from poisonous ingredients. Posters have been put up in many places containing the same declaration. Of course it is easy to secure such certificates of samples of beer supplied, but the public have before them the appalling fact that immense evil has resulted from the consumption of their favorite beverage.

No doubt the beer in which the arsenic has been discovered is specially bad. Arsenic is a dangerous drug, and its general consumption must do tremendous mischief. The harm done by arsenic, however, is almost insignificant to the harm done by alcohol, and beer has produced more mischief by far from the alcohol it contains than from all the adulteration that has been carried on in its manufacture.

Total abstainers of course have escaped the danger to which their drinking associates were subject, and the universal practice of total abstinence would of course be the surest, safest guard against the danger of poisonous beer. It remains to be seen whether or not the beer drinking Britons will be wise enough to learn this important lesson from the severe lesson which they have just received.

## ENFORCEMENT IN MAINE.

Liquor sellers in Portland, Me., are badly stirred over the election of Sheriff Pearson, who has declared his determina-

tion to enforce the prohibitory law. Mr. Pearson has appointed a lot of thorough-going deputies, to whom he has issued most explicit instructions with regard to their duties. He has informed these deputies that any of them who does not practice abstinence will be expected to resign his position at once, that the issue on which the sheriff was elected was the enforcement of prohibition, and that his subordinates would be expected to carry out the law to the fullest extent. Already there have been a number of raids on illegal joints and seizures of quantities of liquor.

In other parts of the state similar action has been taken by newly appointed officers, and at present there is better prospect than there has been for many years of a thorough enforcement of prohibition in those parts of the State of Maine where the enforcement of the law has been most defective.

It is stated that a plan is already being devised to secure the enactment by the Legislature of a law taking away from county sheriffs their right to enforce prohibition and giving this duty over to town and city officials. Such a bare-faced attempt to thwart the opinion which elected Sheriff Pearson is not, however, likely to be successful.

## A GREAT CAMPAIGN.

The National Temperance League of Great Britain, under the leadership of the Archbishop of Canterbury, in co-operation with the Church of England Temperance Society, the Temperance Alliance of Free Churches, the United Kingdom Alliance, and the W.C.T.U., has planned a vigorous effort to secure a revival of interest in the temperance cause. A part of the new movement is a systematic canvass from house to house throughout Great Britain and the holding of mass meetings in an effort to secure during the present year one million pledges of total abstinence.

## A DRINK BILL.

New South Wales, it is calculated, spent last year on strong drink £4,403,913, or £3 5s 5d per head of the population. This represents an increase of 1s. 3d. per head on the figures for 1898, and 2s. 10d on those for 1897. The expenditure on drink is equal to about one-fourth of the total amount spent on food and non-intoxicants. A few years ago about £1,000,000 more was spent on drink than on animal food; now the meat bill exceeds the drink bill by about £1,000,000. New South Wales is more extravagant in drink than the United States, New Zealand or Canada, but more economical than the United Kingdom, which, according to Dr. Dawson Burns, last year spent £3 19s. 11d. a head. Since 1881 New South Wales has reduced its outlay on intoxicants from £5 4s. 5d. per head.—The Temperance Witness.

## A DRUNKARD'S WILL.

A dying drunkard in Oswego, New York, left the following as his "last will and testament":

"I leave to society a ruined character, a wretched example and a memory that will soon rot. I leave to my parents as much sorrow as they can, in their feeble state, bear. I leave to brothers and sisters as much shame and mortification as I can bring on them. I leave to my wife a broken heart and a life of shame. I leave to each of my children poverty, ignorance, a long character and a remembrance that their father filled a drunkard's grave."

Ye patrons of the saloon, is this the "will and testament" you are writing out each day for your wife and children? Shame upon you to leave them such a disgraceful inheritance! Where is your manhood? Where is your love for your family? Where is your honor and nobility? Are you selling it to the saloon-keeper!—California Christian Advocate.

# 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 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 uninterruptedly, 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.