

THE CAMP FIRE.

A Monthly Record and Advocate of the Temperance Reform.

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25 CENTS PER YEAR

Every one who receives this paper is respectfully requested to read every part of it carefully. It is a journal that no Canadian temperance worker can afford to be without. The subscription price is almost insignificant. In the impending campaign for better legislation in Ontario it will be of intense interest and great value.

PROVINCIAL W.C.T.U.

The annual meeting of the Ontario W.C.T.U. held last month at Stratford, was one of the most successful in the history of the organization. Encouraging reports were received from workers in every part of the province and strongly worded resolutions were adopted in favor of aggressive action. To the energetic action of the Women's Christian Temperance Union in past year, has been due the agitation that has won for us temperance teaching in schools, and the vigorous campaign that has at any rate reduced liquor selling at military encampments. In regard to both these matters, the Convention took a strong position. Too much importance cannot be attached to them.

A feature of the meeting was a discussion on law enforcement led by Rev. C. Deacon, of Stony Creek, who has been remarkably successful in securing better observance of the license law in different localities, in the face of bitter opposition.

Most of the old officers were re-elected. Mrs. S. G. E. McKee, is President; Mrs. May R. Thornley, Vice-President; Mrs. Sarah Rowell Wright, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Ella S. Acheson, Recording Secretary, and Mrs. Anna Britton, Treasurer. A year of good work is looked for.

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NOTES OF NEWS.

ABOUT THE WARFARE AGAINST DRINK. WHAT OUR FRIENDS AND FOES ARE DOING.

Not All Profit.

The Allsopp Brewery Company, of Great Britain, show a loss on the year of one million four hundred and thirty thousand pounds!

Who Sold the Liquor?

A shocking suicide occurred recently near Portage la Prairie. An Indian, who had been drinking heavily, shot himself after telling his companions what he was going to do.

Going Ahead.

The Quebec Grand of Good Templars met at Way's Mills last month. The reports presented were, on the whole, encouraging. The debt due by the organization had been decreased and plans were being laid for an extension of much-needed missionary work.

Tell It All.

The American Temperance Society says that critics who show that 11,000 gallons of liquor are sold in Maine by authorized medicinal agencies, ought to point out that this only amounts to one 68th part of a gal per inhabitant per year.

A Wonderful Work.

The Temperance Committee of the English Wesleyan Conference reported at last session 4,804 Bands of Hope with a membership of 427,168 besides 1,765 adult church temperance societies, having a membership of 99,046. How is it that no such movement is carried on by the Methodist Church in Canada?

Falling Off.

New York State had only 2,588 liquor licensed hotels for the year commencing May, 1901, as compared with 4,055 in the preceding year. New York and all the other cities in the State show a decrease except Albany, the State Capital.

Drink Did It.

The Charlottetown Guardian gives a saddening account of the death through drink at Boston of a young Prince Edward Island girl, only one of many cases in which new associates and evil customs, have led to ruin and death.

Coroner's Inquests.

A change in public opinion is strikingly manifest in the statement made by an English liquor journal, that seven years ago in the city of London, 568 inquests were held in one year in public houses, while during the year 1900 there were only six inquests in public houses out of a total of over 8,000 held.

The Million Signatures Crusade.

A great movement is on foot in England and promises much success for the securing of a million signatures to a total abstinence pledge. English papers report great meetings at which hundreds of signatures are secured. This wise method of winning recruits for the temperance army might well be initiated by Canadian workers.

A Good Year's Work.

The annual meeting of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, was held last month and received a report of a year's energetic and success-

ful work. A number of temperance meetings had been held, 5,050 signatures to the pledge had been received, 500,000 pamphlets and leaflets had been distributed and 1,821 public meetings held.

Law Enforcement.

A vigilance committee in the city of Liverpool, Eng., has done good work during the past year in securing a reform in the administration of the liquor laws. The number of licenses was reduced by 50, many being cut off because of convictions for law breaking. During the time the League has been at work since 1870, the number of licenses cut off has been 346.

A Coming Convention.

The Twelfth Annual Convention of the Dominion Woman's Christian Temperance Union is called to meet at Montreal on November 15th. Meetings will be held in the First Baptist Church and a programme of much interest is under preparation. Full information regarding details, railway arrangements, etc., may be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs. E. W. McLachlan, 55 St. Monique street, Montreal.

Scotch Wisdom.

The Scottish Congregational Union Temperance Committee report that with few exceptions their churches use unfermented wine at the sacrament, and hope that the others will soon adopt "the safer and more appropriate symbol of Christ's sacrifice." The Camphill U. F. Church at Glasgow took a vote of its members for and against changing from fermented to unfermented wine, and the vote was 282 for and 172 against the change.

A Drink Murder.

A shocking occurrence was reported in Montreal on October 27th. A foreigner, named Tom Hansen, thirty-five years of age, gave himself up to the police, stating that he was a murderer. An investigation proved the confession to be true. Hansen had been drinking heavily for several days and his money was exhausted. He met a boy of thirteen, named Herick Marrott, who was rattling some change in his pocket. The drunken man killed him for the seventeen cents, which was all the poor had had.

The Scott Act at Work.

Westville, Nova Scotia, has had a campaign of Scott Act enforcement with gratifying results. A strong law-enforcement league exists with Rev. Geo. E. McLeod as President. Six convictions have recently been recorded against liquor sellers and a conviction that means jail without option of a fine, is now ahead of a number of them. This will make them careful and the amount of illicit liquor selling has been very much reduced. Inspector Watters has the hearty approval and co-operation of temperance workers.

A Falsehood Nailed.

Among the arguments used by the canteen favoring journals and talkers in the United States, was the assertion that since liquor selling in canteens had been prohibited, there had been an unusually large number of desertions from the army. This falsehood had been reiterated with much vehemence and frequently and widely circulated. It has been completely refuted by the annual report of Lieut. Gen. Miles, in which he has reviewed the working of the law and called attention to the fact that during the first six months of 1901, the percentage of deserters has been smaller than at any other time during the past twenty-five years.

Against Prohibition.

The Toronto World is making a hunt for some method of dealing with the temperance question other than that of prohibition. A series of articles strongly advocated the encouragement of grape culture and the manufacture of Canadian wine. Later on a similar argument was produced for the encouragement of cider manufacture. An article published on October 31st commends the Russian system of government control of the liquor traffic as being "apparently workable and effective" and claims that prohibitory laws are broken in Kansas, Maine and Canada. Any weapon is good enough to fight the prohibition cause with.

Some Sense and Some Nonsense.

Hon. Joseph Chamberlain has been discussing the temperance question. In a recent address to the Birmingham Temperance Society he declared that drinking could not be put down by coercive legislation, but must be met by a gradual improvement in the physical and moral condition of the people. He commented favorably upon the statement that in Great Britain there are three million total abstainers. He then went on to advocate his old theory of municipal control of the liquor traffic and declared that the public would not tolerate any scheme of legislative reform which did not provide compensation for publicans whose business was taken away.

The Chief Evil.

In the last annual report of the London City Mission, it is stated that drunkenness is the chief evil which stands in the way of moral and religious progress. Were this hydra-headed monster slain the misery and sorrow experienced by the poor and the industrial classes would, to a large extent, disappear. Whatever the improvement of the people may be in other respects, it would seem indubitable that their drinking habits are growing. This testimony from a society which has no fewer than 460 agents continually at work among the people, must be regarded as very striking.

The city missionaries in many districts are unanimous in their testimony to increased drunkenness among women. One of them writes: "In thirty minutes I saw 74 persons enter a public-house in my district. Of these, 65 were women and 9 were men, most of the women had little children with them. Poverty of course follows, in many cases, in the wake of intemperance. The cruel state of the evil is, that the children who are not the cause, suffer the most."

Fairly Beaten.

The liquor sellers of Portland, Me., have been finally compelled to admit themselves beaten. Sheriff Pearson has made the law a success. One man has paid \$1,300 in fines and was obliged to sell the jewelry he had earned in the traffic, to raise the money. Another paid \$1,200 within a short time and signed a pledge in the presence of the sheriff and other officials that he would not sell any more. A persistent law-breaker who is liable to twenty-two months imprisonment in default of fines, which he says he cannot pay, appealed to Mr. Pearson, saying: "Sheriff, are you going to keep it up at this rate?" and the sheriff replied: "Oh, no, I am going to make it as much harder as I can." Liquor men in other states, who have been supporting the Maine law-breakers, are getting discouraged.