

# The Camp Fire.

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THE PROHIBITION CAUSE.

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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, OCTOBER, 1895.

## CRIME IN CANADA.

In a carefully prepared statement relating to crime in Canada, compiled under the direction of Mr. Geo. Johnson, the Dominion Statistician, is given the following table showing the total number of convictions for crimes made during the eleven years 1882 to 1892.

| Year. | Convictions. |
|-------|--------------|
| 1882  | 31,305       |
| 1883  | 33,388       |
| 1884  | 29,536       |
| 1885  | 33,900       |
| 1886  | 33,876       |
| 1887  | 34,453       |
| 1888  | 37,049       |
| 1889  | 38,431       |
| 1890  | 38,540       |
| 1891  | 37,415       |
| 1892  | 34,007       |

Total. 383,450

Of this vast number of convictions, 133,371 were for the offence of drunkenness. It is well known that a great proportion of other crimes may be traced directly to strong drink. There were 27,794 convictions for violations of liquor laws.

## JUVENILE CRIME.

One of the saddest features of this sad criminal record is the number of mere children who are convicted for crime. Another sad fact manifested in the government figures is that juvenile criminality is on the increase. In nine cases out of ten juvenile criminals are so because of parental neglect and the street education that ensues. This parental neglect is in a great majority of cases traceable to the intemperance of one or both parents.

In the official tables already mentioned, we have not any record of the proportion of juvenile criminals to all criminals. These tables however, give us this information in relation to the very serious crimes known as indictable offences. From the years 1884 to 1892 inclusive the total number of convictions for such serious offences was 32,948. Of the persons so convicted 9,133 were under 21 years of age. No fewer than 3,915 were under 16 years of age.

Discussing this question in his report, Rev. Dr. McLeod of the Royal Commission on the Liquor Traffic, says, "One of the most serious charges made against intemperance and fully sustained, is that it creates such conditions of hereditary and environment as to make it almost impossible for a large proportion of children to be anything else than

paupers and criminals. From birth they are handicapped by evil surroundings and tendencies that are the direct result of intemperance."

## EXPERT TESTIMONY.

A most systematic and thorough inquiry into the relation of drink to crime was made some time ago by Hon. Carroll D. Wright, then Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of Labor for the State of Massachusetts. He investigated, through a corps of able assistants the personal history of all offenders sentenced in the county of Suffolk, including the city of Boston, during the year between September 1st, 1879, and September 1st, 1880.

Dr. Wright's report is a document of deep interest. The total number of sentences for the year of investigation was 16,807. Of these, 12,221 were for the various grades of drunkenness, and 68 for violation of license laws. This left 4,008 other cases to be investigated, and it was found that in 2,007 of these the offenders were in liquor at the time of the commission of the offences of which they were found guilty.

The inquiry further shows that of this balance of 4,008 criminals, 1804 were led by intemperate habits to the condition that induced the crime, and that in the case of 821 the intemperate habits of others led the criminal to the condition that induced the crime.

This instructive report, of which further particulars may be procured from the Secretary of the Dominion Alliance, goes into details relating to the effect of drink in leading to the commission of different kinds of crime such as assault and battery, larceny, robbery, rape, felonious assault, manslaughter, etc. And closes with the following forcible paragraphs:—

"The above figures indicate the enormity of rum's share in the 27+ per cent. balance of criminal cases in Suffolk county for the year of our investigation. They show that to the 72+ per cent. for distinctively rum crimes must be added 12+ per cent., representing the criminals who were in liquor at the time of committing other crimes, making a total of 84+ per cent. of all criminal cases due directly or indirectly to the influence of liquor.

"These figures paint a picture, at once the most faithful and hideous, of the guilt and power of rum. Men and women, the young, the middle-aged, and the old, father and son, husband and wife, native and foreign born, the nightwalker and the manslayer, the thief and adulterer, all testify to its ramified and revolting tyranny.

"Therefore the result of this investigation, in view of the disproportionate magnitude of the exclusively rum offences, and considered in connection with the notorious tendency of liquor to inflame and enlarge the passions and appetites, to import chaos into the moral and physical life, to level the barriers of decency and self-respect, and to transport its victims into an abnormal and irresponsible state, destructive and degrading, calls for earnest and immediate attention at the bar of public opinion and the public conscience of Massachusetts."

## OFFICIAL EVIDENCE.

Five years ago the Ontario Government appointed a Commission to collect information relating to prisons, reformatories and the like. Among the subjects into which the Commission was requested to inquire, was the following, "The Cause of Crime in the Province! From the instructive report of this Commission, the following paragraphs are taken.

"Drunkenness does more than any other cause to fill the goals, and it unquestionably does much to recruit the ranks of the criminal classes. Of the 11,803 persons committed to the goals of the Province during the year 1880, no less than 4,777 were charged with having been drunk and disorderly, and in all probability excessive use of drink was the chief

cause of trouble in the case of the 531 persons who were committed on the charge of common assault. Of the 11,587 cases disposed of in the police court of the city of Toronto, 5,441 were cases of drunkenness and of disorderly conduct caused by drunkenness. The proportion in the other cities, as will be seen by reference to the returns published elsewhere, was about the same. The number of convictions on charges of drunkenness in the Province during the year was 7,050, very nearly one-third of the whole; and of the 675 prisoners in the common goals at the close of the year, a very large proportion were habitual drunkards.

"A similar state of things exists in other countries. In England and Wales the convictions for drunkenness were 103,906 in the year 1880, or nearly one-fourth of the total number. A few years before there were 205,587. In Scotland the convictions for this offence numbered 23,740 in the year 1880. How many of these paid the penalties of imprisonment, the reports do not state, but the proportion was probably large. The total number of persons committed to local prisons in Ireland during the year ending March 31st, 1888, was males 10,769, females 6,704, total 17,533."

## WHY DRINK CAUSES CRIME.

The vast array of testimony set out in condensed form in this paper makes it clear that drink is both a pre-disposing and an exciting cause of very much wretchedness and crime.

Felix L. Oswald, a well informed and thoughtful writer, has carefully studied this relationship and in the following brief form sets out his ideas in reference to it:

"1. Drunkenness excites the instinct of destructiveness and thus becomes a direct cause of violence and often of wholly unprovoked assaults.

"2. Inebriety clouds the perceptive faculties and thus disqualifies its victims for judging the consequences of their acts or realizing the force of dissuasive arguments."

"3. Habitual intemperance weakens the influence of self-respect and eventually almost deadens the sense of shame.

"4. Intemperance tends to idleness, the parent of vice.

"5. Intemperance is the chief cause of poverty, and thus indirectly of the crimes prompted by hunger and distress.

"6. Alcohol tends to beget a disinclination to intellectual employment, and thus neutralizes a chief agency of reform.

"7. Intemperance begets a hereditary disposition to idleness and vice."

The same writer quotes the celebrated Professor Otto, of Upsala, as saying:—"The greater part of the exciting influence of alcohol is directed towards the posterior and inferior portions of the brain; or in other words, it excites chiefly the organs of the animal propensities, and according to the law that whatever stimulates strongly one class of cerebral organs weakens another class, alcohol, while it adds vigour to the animal propensities, enfeebles the intellectual faculties and moral sentiments."

## A NOTABLE CASE.

There is to be found in the thirtieth annual report of the Executive Committee of the Prison Association of New York an estimate that the notorious Jukes family had cost the community in seventy-five years nearly one million dollars. The history of this remarkable family is thus summed up:—

"The ancestry of this family is traced to Max, a man who was a very hard drinker, and who became blind. Many of his descendants for two generations were also blind, and a

multitude of them inherited his intemperance. One of the most notorious of his offspring was a woman named Margaret, of whose progeny Richard L. Dugdale writes:—"In tracing the genealogies of five hundred and forty persons who descended in seven generations from this degraded woman, and one hundred and sixty-nine who were related by marriage or cohabitation, two hundred and eighty were adult paupers and one hundred and forty were criminals and offenders of the worst sort, guilty of seven murders, theft, highway robbery, and nearly every other offence known in the calendar of crime." He estimates that the cost to the public of supporting this family of drunkards, criminals and paupers was \$1,308,000."

## TESTIMONY OF EMINENT MEN.

Under the above heading the Minority Royal Commission Report gives the following quotations:—

"Among all causes of crime, intemperance stands out the 'unapproachable chief.'—*Judge Noah Davis.*

"Two-thirds of the crimes which come before the courts of law in this country (England) are occasioned chiefly by intemperance.—*Lord Chief Baron Kelly.*

"If the cases appearing in all the calendars throughout England were taken, it would be found that seventy-five per cent. of the crime was traceable, directly or indirectly, to the inordinate love of liquor.—*Justice Hawkins.*

"I can keep no terms with the vice that fills our goals, that destroys the comforts of homes and the peace of families, and debases and brutalizes the people of these Islands.—*Chief Justice Coleridge.*

"Drunkenness is not only the cause of crime, but it is crime; and if any encourage drunkenness for the sake of the profit derived from the sale of drink, they are guilty of a form of moral assassination as criminal as any that had been practised by the bravos of any country or any age.—*John Ruskin.*

The great cause of social crime is drink. When I hear of a family broken up and ask the cause—drink. If I go to the gallows and ask its victim the cause, the answer—drink. Then I ask myself in perfect wonderment, why do not men put a stop to this thing?—*Archbishop John Ireland.*

"The more I examine and travel over the surface of England, the more I see the absolute and indispensable necessity of our temperance associations. I am satisfied that unless they exist we should be immersed in such an ocean of immorality, violence and sin as would make this country uninhabitable.—*Lord Shaftesbury.*

"Drunkenness causes every year in England 60,000 deaths. According to the testimony of the magistrates, it is the source, directly or indirectly, of 75 per cent. of the crimes committed causing the disastrous ruination of families and destroying domestic life, together with the practice of religion and the Christian education of the children.—*Cardinal Manning.*

"The diminution of the revenue from drink goes side by side with an increase and extension of the saving habits of the people. It has been said that greater calamities—greater because more continual—have been inflicted on mankind by intemperance than by the three historic sources of war, famine, and pestilence combined. That is true, and it is the measure of our discredit and disgrace.—*Gladsstone.*

"After all, if we hunt vice and crime back to their lairs, we will be pretty sure to find them in a gin mill. Drunkenness is the prolific mother of most of the evil doing. Drunkenness is the prime cause of all the trouble.—*Police Superintendent, New York City.*

"I do not overstate it when I say the two hundred thousand saloons in this country have been instrumental in destroying more human lives in the last five years than the two million armed men did during the four years of the civil war. Whiskey is a more deadly weapon than shot or shell or any of the implements of our modern warfare.—*Hon. William Wyndom, Secretary of the Treasury, United States.*