

THE CAMP FIRE.

A Monthly Record and Advocate of the Temperance Reform.

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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 present campaign for prohibition legislation in Ontario it will be of intense interest and great value.

NOVA SCOTIA.

One hundred and sixty-eight earnest prohibitionists gathered at Truro, N.S., on January 15th, constituting the largest temperance convention ever held in the Province of Nova Scotia. The gathering was a great success, entirely harmonious and exceedingly interesting.

D. W. Reid presided, W. S. Sanders acted as secretary. The most important business transacted was the adoption of a strong resolution outlining a plan of action to secure a Provincial prohibitory law, and the appointment of a strong and representative committee to carry out the policy laid down. The resolutions adopted were as follows:

Whereas,—The Privy Council has, in its recent decision re Manitoba Act, shown that the prohibition of the liquor traffic is within the power of the Provincial Legislatures;

Resolved,—That this convention petition the Legislature of Nova Scotia, at its approaching session, to enact a law prohibiting the liquor traffic in this Province, and that a committee of 27 be appointed, each county to be represented, to wait upon the Legislature, and that this committee be empowered to assist in every way possible in maturing such legislation in order that it be fully satisfactory to the temperance people of this Province.

The committee to carry out the instructions given was composed of a representative from each county and nine other persons, as follows:

Annapolis, Rev. J. S. Coffin; Antigonish, W. P. Cunningham; Colchester, Edward Fulton; Cumberland, C. S. Chapman; Cape Breton, Rev. F. C. Simpson; Digby, Amos Outhouse; Guysboro, Wm. Ferguson, M. P. P.; Halifax, A. M. Bell; Hants, W. H. Guild; Inverness, Rev. R. S. Stevens; Kings, S. C. Parker; Lunenburg, Judge Chesley; Pictou, A. Carson; Queens, Rev. H. B. Sloat; Richmond, John Morrison; Shelburne, R. G. Irwin; Victoria, M. D. McAskill; Yarmouth, E. H. Armstrong. Additional members—P. A. McGregor, Rev. Robert Murray, Rev. G. W. F. Glendenning, J. C. McIntosh, B. H. Eaton, D. W. B. Reid, A. Hubley, Geo. Harvie, W. S. Sanders.

NO UNFAIR VOTE.

A well-attended meeting of the executive committee of the Ontario branch of the Dominion Alliance was held at Toronto on January 20th to consider the present position of the movement for Provincial prohibition. The members discussed the suggestions made by newspapers and certain persons regarding a referendum. All who spoke expressed them-

selves as strongly opposed to any proposition that would allow a minority vote of any magnitude to prevent the coming into operation of a law approved by a majority of the voting electorate.

The feeling of the meeting was expressed in a series of resolutions moved by Mr. M. Auger, and seconded by Rev. L. H. Wagner, in the following terms:

Whereas, the Government and Legislature did directly, by legislation, invite the electors of the Province of Ontario to declare whether or not they would approve of legislation prohibiting the liquor traffic; and

Whereas, the electors of the said Province have on two occasions, by very large majorities, voted in favour of such legislation; and

Whereas, the Government has repeatedly promised deputations representing the organized prohibitionists of Ontario to introduce a bill to prohibit the liquor traffic to the limit of the jurisdiction of the Legislature, as soon as the extent of such jurisdiction should be ascertained; and

Whereas, a decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has affirmed that a Province has power to prohibit transactions in intoxicating liquors within the Province; and

Whereas, a number of persons have publicly suggested that the coming into force of a prohibitory law for the Province of Ontario ought to be made conditional upon the ratification thereof by a three-fifths majority of the voting elector-

ate; and

Whereas, this Executive Committee, to which the said promises were given, and representing the prohibitionists of every part of the Province, is firmly convinced that the requiring of such a condition would be unwise and unjust, and would not be an honorable carrying out of the Government's pledges.

Therefore, resolved, that without admitting that any further vote of the people is needful or desirable, this committee emphatically protests against the said suggestions, concerning a 3-5 vote, and begs to respectfully inform the Government that legislation limited by such condition, or by any condition that would permit the opinions of a minority of the voting electorate to prevail, would not be accepted by the prohibitionists of Ontario, as in any degree a fulfilment of the Government's promises, nor as entitling members of the Legislature who voted for it, to their confidence and support.

On the afternoon of the same day the Ontario section of the Standing Committee on Temperance and Moral Reform of the Methodist Church in Canada, held a session in Toronto and unanimously agreed that whilst they would not express any opinion as to the expediency of a referendum, they would enter a very emphatic protest against the un-British principle of minority rule, and demand that if a vote of the people were taken, a majority of those voting must govern.

THE PLEBISCITE FIGURES.

Frequent enquiries are received at the Alliance office concerning the plebiscites that have already been taken. The actual results obtained are set out in the subjoined tables. In the plebiscite for the Province of Ontario, taken on Jan. 3, 1894, the votes polled were as follows:

	Men.	Women	Total.
For Prohibition	180,087	12,402	192,489
Against Prohibition.....	108,494	2,226	110,720
Total votes polled.....	288,581	14,628	303,209
Majority for Prohibition....	71,593	10,176	81,769

The Dominion plebiscite was taken on September 29th, 1898, and the votes polled gave the following results:

	For Prohibition.	Against	Majority For	Maj. Against.
Ontario.....	154,498	115,284	39,214
Quebec.....	28,436	122,760	94,324
Nova Scotia.....	34,678	5,370	29,308
New Brunswick.....	26,919	9,575	17,344
Prince Edward Island.....	9,461	1,146	8,315
Manitoba.....	12,419	2,978	9,441
British Columbia.....	5,731	4,756	975
North West Territories.....	6,238	2,824	3,414
Total.....	278,380	264,693	108,011	94,324

Other Provincial plebiscites were taken on the dates and with the results set out in the following statement:

Province	Date of Voting	Votes Cast for Prohibition.	Votes Cast ag't Prohibition.	Maj. for Prohibition.
Manitoba.....	July 23rd, 1892	19,637	7,115	12,522
Prince Edward Island...	Dec. 14th, 1893	10,616	3,390	7,226
Nova Scotia.....	Mar. 16th, 1894	43,756	12,355	31,401

AFRAID OF IT.

Mida is the name of the leading liquor journal of the United States. It manifests a good deal of interest in the temperance legislation at present pending in the different Provinces of the Dominion. Already it has set to prove that the success of prohibition in Canada would not be evidence of the suitability of that method for the United States. It is amusing to read the argument based on assertions about Canada's great area and small population as considerations making prohibition more effective than it would be in the country south of the line.

PROHIBITION IN GEORGIA.

The New Voice for January 16th, contains an interesting map of the State of Georgia showing the extent to which prohibition is in operation. There are 137 counties in the State, of which 107 are under prohibition. In 24 counties liquor licenses are issued, and in six others liquor is sold only in Government dispensaries. The Voice gives an interesting history of the progress of the movement which has produced such good results and gives interesting evidence of the success of even this partial prohibition that has been secured.

NOTES OF NEWS

ABOUT OUR WORK AND WORKERS

PROGRESS OF OUR CAUSE IN MANY PLACES

GROWING STRONGER.

The Independent Order of Rechabites working mainly in Great Britain and Ireland, is one of the strongest and most effective temperance organizations. In the United Kingdom 85 adult Tents and 84 juvenile Tents have been opened. The adult membership is now 174,000, the juvenile membership 104,000. The annual income is over £800,000, and the funds amount to one and a quarter million pounds. During the year new Tents have been opened in Hong Kong, Burma, Ceylon, and Liberia, and also at Gibraltar. A new District has also been formed in connection with the Royal Navy, with its headquarters at Portsmouth.

PROHIBITION AT THE CAPE.

The Queenstown (Cape of Good Hope) Daily Representative, of Nov. 21st, has the following paragraph: "In his reply to a circular letter from the Attorney-General, requesting information as to the effects of the restrictions imposed on the sale of intoxicating liquor to natives in connection with the administration of martial law, the resident magistrate of Queenstown says: Prohibition under martial law has had the most beneficial results, and the condition and conduct of the natives generally has improved. The restrictions imposed under the 'Innes Liquor Act' has also been attended with a most satisfactory result."

NO SUNDAY SALOONS.

An elaborate inquiry into the attitude of clergymen and religious newspapers towards the question of Sunday saloon opening in New York has been made by "Zion's Herald" (Methodist Episc.) a strong opponent of the proposed changes in the excise law. It finds that all Roman Catholic papers, all the Methodist papers, all the Episcopalian, all the Baptist but one, all the Congregational but one, and all the other Protestant organs, are against the proposition for any form of the Sunday saloon. A few clergymen are in favor of what is called "a liberal policy," but Zion's Herald fails to find a single Baptist or Congregational minister, or Roman Catholic priest, of the same mind. The same paper continues:—"No movement that cannot carry the Baptists, the Roman Catholics, and the Methodist Episcopal churches can succeed with the legislature of any commonwealth in the land. And when these three great bodies unite, as they now do, against the proposition of the Sunday saloon, it is doomed in advance. While there is reason for alertness and earnest agitation, there is the best reason also for abiding confidence. The Sunday saloon with its advocates will speedily go down under the pressure of those great religious and moral forces which are combined against it."

A TEMPERANCE BILL.

Lord Peel, recently addressing a crowded meeting in Glasgow, said he was hopeful that in Scotland an effort would be made to embody in some bill the proposals made in the Minority Report. If those proposals met with the approval of the Scottish people, and their representatives gave their assent to them, an enormous step would have been taken in temperance reform. The present licensing system had broken down, and some effort must be made to rid the country of a scandal which was degrading our cities, and by slow and insidious means was sapping the vitality, injuring the morality, and weakening the fibre of our people.