

# The Camp Fire.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL  
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF  
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, FEBRUARY, 1900

## PARLIAMENT.

The Dominion Parliament is again at work. The Speech from the Throne did not refer to the question of prohibition. It looks at present as if the Government had decided to ignore this great question.

No doubt the desire of politicians of both parties is to if possible, evade an issue that might disturb the present party lines. Party leaders have selected other issues on which they prefer to divide. If the prohibition question is allowed to become prominent, Members of Parliament must either accept the responsibility of doing wrong, or make enemies of the powerful liquor traffic. They naturally wish to escape this dilemma.

Unfortunately the friends of moral reform are not so active in political affairs as are their opponents, not having the same personal financial interests at stake. The liquor party therefore, though of comparatively small dimensions, uses its political power to the utmost, while the temperance party, although in reality far stronger, does not unite and act so as to win the position and exercise the influence to which it is entitled.

Members of Parliament realize these facts. They expect prohibitionists to vote regardless of prohibition. They expect the liquor party to vote regardless of anything else. Because of this peculiar situation, a minority of the electorate dominates Parliament so far as the temperance question is concerned.

So the situation will remain until the temperance party is not further strengthened, not further educated, not further convinced, but stimulated to more consistent and energetic action. Earnestness makes the anti-prohibitions potentia. Earnestness would make the prohibitionists overwhelming.

It is true that the business sense of the community is coming to realize the material evil that the liquor traffic produces. This evil however, touches most directly those whose personal appetites and relationships impel them to stand on the liquor side of the controversy. Even men who suffer financial loss from this cause are therefore often indifferent to that loss which is overshadowed by other matters of closer urgency.

Prohibition must come through Parliament. Parliament can only be reached through the ballot box. The ballot box can only be affected by a rousing of the

people to a fuller and more unselfish realization of their political duties and responsibilities. This will lead to united electoral action that will bring victory. What is being done in this direction by the church, which is to-day looked to as the source and strength of moral sentiment?

## OUR RESOLUTION.

The Executive Committee of the Dominion Alliance some time ago drafted a prohibition resolution which was placed in the hands of Mr. T. B. Flint, to be introduced into the House of Commons.

This resolution is on the lines laid down by the Conventions held in July last, and is in harmony with the 100,000 Voters League Movement. Its object is to secure an expression of opinion of the House of Commons upon the prohibition question, and is so framed that it ought to meet with the support of all reasonable men.

In point of fact this resolution simply declares that the will of a majority of the electors shall prevail in a specific case. No one would dispute the abstract principle. Parliament is asked to honestly apply the principle in a case in which its application would be specially beneficial. Even men who are personally opposed to prohibition ought not to deny the right of the majority to rule.

At the time of the writing of this article notice of the motion has not been given by Mr. Flint. We have no reason however, to fear that he will fail to comply with the Alliance request. He has stood loyally by our cause before, and may be counted upon to press this important question to a division in the House of Commons. The resolution is in the following form:—

*That, in view of the declaration of this House made on March 26th, 1884, that prohibition is the right and most effectual legislative remedy for the evils of intemperance, and that this House is prepared, so soon as public opinion will sufficiently sustain stringent measures, to promote such legislation—and further in view of the substantial majority in favor of prohibition, of all the votes polled throughout the Dominion in the Plebiscite of September 29th, 1898, including an overwhelming majority in all the Provinces but one, and a large proportion of all the possible votes in those Provinces, this House is now of the opinion that it is the duty of the Dominion Parliament to enact without delay, such legislation as will secure the entire prohibition of the liquor traffic for beverage purposes in at least those Provinces and Territories which have voted in favor of prohibition.*

## THE 100,000 VOTERS MOVEMENT.

Now that Parliament is in session, public attention will be more than usually directed to legislative and political affairs. It will be therefore, easier to interest people in the movement looking to the election of a Parliament more in harmony with public opinion on the question of prohibition.

The movement for pledging electors to vote only for prohibitionists has met with cordial approval in every part of the Dominion. Those who are pushing canvassing work are surprised at the readiness with which signatures are secured. The only difficulty seems to be in the way of getting work started. When started, it is found to be remarkably easy and successful.

Signed pledges have been received from very many places, although hitherto no special effort has been made to secure their early return. It is now specially requested that all that are complete be sent to the Alliance Secretary at once. Friends who have received pledge forms and have not yet used them, are urgently requested to see that they are put

into circulation without delay. The season is growing late and the work is easier done in the winter-time than at other seasons.

Once more we earnestly appeal to all friends of our cause to do their utmost to make this plan of campaign as successful as it deserves to be made.

## CAMPAIGNING IN ONTARIO.

Messrs. Duncan Marshall and Donald Gillies are holding meetings in Ontario under the auspices of the Dominion Alliance. They have already succeeded in securing effective organization in several electoral districts and hope to have a large part of the Province ready for effective work in a short time. They report encouraging receptions and success in nearly every locality visited, and prompt and extensive signature of the 100,000 Voters Pledge when the meaning of the movement is made plain. These agents are now at work in the north-west part of the Province, including counties of Bruce, Huron, Grey and Wellington. Any information regarding them will be cheerfully furnished by the Alliance Secretary.

## CIRCULATING LITERATURE.

Again we earnestly urge upon friends of the prohibition cause the special value of literature circulation as most effective form of campaign work. In the Plebiscite campaign the prohibition vote polled in different localities bore a remarkable relationship to the quantity of literature there circulated. What men read is generally most fully apprehended and best remembered. The facts and arguments furnished by judiciously selected campaign literature are the most powerful weapons we can use.

In this connection we would earnestly urge upon our friends the duty and utility of doing their best to increase the circulation of this journal. In many places temperance workers regularly take a number of copies of THE CAMP FIRE for distribution, and testify to the good accomplished by this method of work. We have provided special rates for this purpose, details of which will be found in another column. Everything that can be done on the lines of education through well-selected literature, ought to receive more attention than has been yet paid to it.

## A PETITION MOVEMENT.

The Sons of Temperance in New Brunswick have started a prohibition campaign on a new line. They are circulating for signature a petition to the Governor-General of Canada, calling attention to the failure of the Government to promote legislation in accordance with the majority of the votes polled in the prohibition Plebiscite, and requesting the Governor-General to ask the Government to introduce a prohibition law or else resign.

We have no information as to the success with which the circulation of this petition is meeting. The grievances to which it refers is well worthy the attention of the Governor-General and his officers. As long however, as the Governor has the confidence of the Parliament and the Parliament has the confidence of the people, the representative of the Crown is not likely to interfere. The petition is as follows:—

*To His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir George John Elliot Murray-Kynynmond, Earl of Minto, etc., Governor-General of Canada:*

We, the undersigned electors of the Dominion of Canada, wish to direct Your Excellency's attention to the existence of a very serious grievance that we have against Your Excellency's present advisers, and also against the present Parliament of Canada. Some

time ago a measure was introduced into the House of Commons, was accepted by that House, and also being passed by the Senate of Canada, received the assent of the Earl of Aberdeen, your predecessor, as the representative of the Queen in Canada. That measure provided that a ballot should be taken throughout Canada to ascertain the opinion of the people of Canada with regard to the continuance of the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors in the Dominion of Canada. The vote of the people entitled "The Prohibition Plebiscite" was taken on the 29th September, 1898, and by a large majority of the votes cast the people of Canada declared in favor of the abolition of the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors in the Dominion of Canada. We have waited patiently until this time for your advisers to initiate a prohibitory law, and to introduce it in Parliament. We have waited for the Parliament of Canada to pass a law prohibiting the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors in Canada, but up to this time no such law has been passed. On the contrary, we are credibly informed that your advisers do not intend to introduce any such measure in Parliament, and that the present House of Commons are adverse to passing such a law. In such case there is nothing left for your humble petitioners to do except to proceed to the foot of the Throne, and to address you as the representative of the Queen in Canada. We think that it is a well understood principle of British government that your advisers should be in accord with the will of the people as lawfully expressed. Their will with regard to the prohibition of the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors has been expressed in the so called Prohibition Plebiscite by a very large majority of the voters casting their votes in favor of Prohibition. The House of Commons also should be in accord with the people in any matter that has been submitted to a popular vote. We believe that it is the prerogative of the Queen to dismiss her advisers when they are not in accord with the will of the people, and to dissolve any House of Commons when it is evident that that body is also out of accord with those who elect its members. As loyal subjects of the Queen we most humbly request Your Excellency to give careful consideration to this our petition, and to do all that is in your power to relieve our grievance. We hope that Your Excellency will be able to see your way clear to ask your present advisers whether they are willing to do that which the electors of Canada have declared by a lawful vote that they should do, and if they express unwillingness to introduce a prohibitory law into Parliament, to ask of them their resignation, and to get new advisers in accord with the will of the people, as expressed in the Prohibition Plebiscite, and, if necessary, under the advice of these new ministers to dissolve the present House of Commons, and give the electorate of Canada an opportunity to pronounce in an effective way whether their will, as expressed on the 29th September, 1898, should be carried out. In conclusion, we would request Your Excellency to do all that you can in any way to remove our grievance, and to suppress a business which we feel is dealing out death and destruction to a large number of our fellow citizens, and among them to some who are very dear indeed to us.

## THE DRINK PROBLEM.

There is an awful leprosy upon us. There is a tyranny of one worse than the Turk, a slavery a hundred-fold more savage than that which bound the negro, fastened upon our body politic. We have licensed hell. We grant the devil for a consideration absolute freedom to produce misery and profligacy, cruelty and wickedness, disgrace and social demoralization; to transform creatures of heaven into the felon, the harlot, the pauper and the madman. We have permitted an organized Satanical despotism to be reared in our midst, which has boundless resources, moves forward with gigantic strides, crushes millions of victims, inflames society with all the passions of the pit. It is the school of anarchy, the breeding-ground of criminals, the nursery of woe, the sworn foe of the church. Economically, politically, religiously, this is the problem.—Rev. F. D. Powers, in C.T.W.