

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

THE CURE OF INEBRIATES.

The city of Glasgow is leading the way in Great Britain in an important practical movement for the reformation of habitual inebriates. A country house has been acquired four miles from any town with a farm of fifty acres, and to this reformatory will be committed persons who have been repeatedly convicted for drunkenness. Female inmates will be employed in household and laundry work and light out-door employment. Male patients will be engaged in gardening, agricultural occupations and the exercise of trades. A full staff of superintendents and assistants is provided and a careful dietary arranged for. The institution is to be managed by a committee of eighteen representatives of the Glasgow City Council. The term of residence in this reformatory is to be such as will give the offender committed, an opportunity to recover from the evil influences which dominate him. Enforced total abstinence will of course be a part of the treatment.

A GROWING EVIL.

A table compiled from government returns by the New Voice, shows that the total number of retail and wholesale liquor selling establishments in the United States, including distilleries and breweries was in 1900, 240,293. The number for 1899 was 231,610, for 1898, 227,475, and for 1897, 222,900.

It will be seen from the foregoing statement that the number of liquor selling places has increased during four years by the enormous number of 17,313. The increase in licenses issued for 1900 over those issued in 1899 is 8,683. It is worthy of note that 165 is the total increase of government licenses issued in six prohibition States, while 8,518 is the increase in the remaining states that are under license law.

A GREAT MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the United Kingdom Alliance held last month, was one of the most interesting in the history of that great body. The Annual Alliance Convention usually takes place in October. This year it was deferred because of the general election. The question of most interest which the Council was called upon to consider, was

set out in a resolution proposed by Mr. T. P. Whittaker, in the following terms:—

That this Council heartily welcomes the Report of the Minority of the Royal Commission on Licensing, and pledges itself to give the recommendations of that Report a cordial yet discriminating support, whilst reiterating its declaration that no legislation can be adequate which does not confer upon the people of the United Kingdom power to veto the grant or renewal of licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquor in their respective localities.

This important resolution was adopted by the Alliance Council with very few dissenting votes. Commenting upon the proceedings the Alliance News has the following statement:—

Three things stood out in relief amid the events of the day.

First, the absolute and unquestioned loyalty of all our friends to the great principles of the Alliance, viz, Prohibition, and especially Local Prohibition by the Direct Vote of the people.

Second, the reverence, the loyalty, the personal devotion felt by every one of our friends for our great leader, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, an affection and confidence which found frequent expression, but never so strikingly as when at the close of the Council all rose to their feet and stood while Mr Aked endeavoured in throbbing sentences to voice feelings, in fact, too deep for words.

The third point is that the Alliance has broken silence and has spoken words of sympathy and welcome, which will find an echo in every Temperance circle in the kingdom.

Once and for all the lie has been given to that slander, which our enemies have been anxious to fasten upon our organization, that the Alliance is so blindly devoted to Local Prohibition as to have no thought for other workers or for other efforts. We are, indeed, devoted to Direct Veto, and grow yet more devoted as the days go on. But that very devotion makes us the more keen about every other scheme of sound Temperance reform, and more eager to render it our cordial, our energetic, our effective support.

Well Put.

The nation holds open the front door of the saloon while the devil tends the back door that leads to the gutter, the brothel, and hell.—War Cry.

Municipal Success.

The city of Glasgow has a municipal council of seventy-seven members. In the recent election forty-six of the men returned were favorable to temperance reform. Thirty-two are personal abstainers.

The Canteen Again.

The canteen question is before the United States Congress again. By a very large majority the House of Representatives have passed a bill prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquor in all canteens. The Senate has adopted the measure with the addition of an amendment exempting beer from the proposed prohibition. It remains to be seen whether or not the House of Representatives will accept this practical nullification of the legislation proposed.

Insanity Through Drink.

An old country exchange informs us that the Annual Report of the Lunatic Asylum for the Scotch District of Glasgow, states that out of 211 persons admitted to the Asylum during the past year, 37 of them were admittedly rendered insane by drink. The report also stated that alcohol was the cause of twenty times as much insanity as is caused by worry and anxiety.

BEER AS FOOD.

To the Editor: It is frequently claimed by brewers that they are furnishing a temperance drink which is harmless and nourishing. They point to their customers who are fleshy as compared with the abstainer. What is the expert medical opinion on beer drinking?—H. A. Lewis, Sacramento, Cal.

This has been one of the questions, which has led to no little discussion, pro and con. In its relation to the army canteen, drinking army surgeons have rushed to defend beer and light wines as helpful to the service, while temperance army surgeons have been ready, though not so eager, to oppose these drinks, especially in view of President McKinley's decided preference to them. Yet even these bold public leaders have not ventured to claim that it was advisable for men to drink, simply asserting that they wished the government to provide these drinks to the soldiers, rather than outside parties. One physician, D. H. Mann, who has made a study of the subject, calls attention to the fact that the first result of beer drinking is to abnormally enlarge the stomach. He then continues:

"The next damaging effects are upon the kidneys and liver, so often followed by Bright's disease, or enlargement and softening of the kidneys or an equally alarming change in the liver, by enlargement, fatty deposit or dotted with little hardened points like nail-heads, which is called the hob-nailed or drunkard's liver, and in addition to these a long line of other diseased viscera are developed from beer drinking.

Physicians and surgeons all agree that a beer drinker is a hard subject for a favorable prognosis under medical or surgical treatment for an injury or malady. Tell any physician that his patient is an habitual beer drinker, and he will shrug his shoulders and draw a deep sigh, wishing the patient had not fallen into his hands for treatment. It is difficult to find any vital organ in a beer drinker doing its work as nature designed it should. That is the reason beer drinkers are so often snapped off suddenly.

"It is not to be supposed that there are no damaging results because we cannot always trace them. One writer says: 'The idea that because you stop before you stagger the system takes no note of the damaging material you put into it, is a ruinous delusion.' Abnormal changes cannot long be endured by the human system, but damaging results are sure to follow, such as impaired nutrition, weakening of nervous system, debility of the vascular organism deranging the heart's action and the circulation of the vital fluid. Thus the beer drinker does not stand an equal chance with his abstemious neighbour for recovery from any disease or injury."

If such are the results of beer drinking, and no expert will deny the facts as stated, it would appear a suicidal policy for the government to encourage such excesses on the part of American soldiers—Ram's Horn.

A LECTURE IN BRIEF.

There are two points of great importance to us. (1) That water is so essential to the welfare of the body, that out of a total of 14½ ozs., over 5 lbs. must be water, alcohol not being a necessity at all. (2) That alcohol does harm in the following ways:—(a) By hardening food, (b) by precipitating pepsin, (c) by inflaming the stomach and intestines, and (d) by retarding the process of absorption. Simple food, out-of-door exercise, plenty of fresh air, and water as our beverage, will ensure a good digestion and consequent freedom from many ills.—League Journal.

A BIG PROGRAMME.

At its recent annual meeting, which was of unusual interest, the United Kingdom Alliance, without at all receding from the strong position it has taken in regard to prohibition, declared in favor of co-operation with action to secure the passage of laws embodying part of the proposals made by the Royal Commission for further limiting the liquor traffic. Among the most important of the proposed restrictions are the following:

1. The limitation of licenses to one for every 750 inhabitants in towns, and one to every 400 in the country, with sweeping authority to refuse renewals and cancel existing licenses.
2. A reduction in the number of hours public houses may remain open during the day.
3. A reduction of the hours of sale on Sunday, by half.
4. Closing the public houses on election days.
5. The abolition of grocers' licenses.
6. The prohibition of the sale of drinks to children.
7. The prohibition of music and dancing licenses to public houses.
8. A radical increase in license charges.
9. The abolition of the back door and side entrances and screens.
10. The prevention of persons interested in the liquor trade becoming directly or remotely connected with the licensing authority.
11. Clothing the police with power to arrest for simple drunkenness instead of limiting arrest to disorderly conduct.
12. Stricter regulations in club licenses.
13. Provisions for the enactment of local option in districts at the expiration of several years from the passage of the new law.

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