

# The Camp Fire.

A. MONTHLY JOURNAL

OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF  
THE PROHIBITION CAUSE.

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ADDRESS - - TORONTO, ONT.

Subscription, TWENTY-FIVE CENTS a Year

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 his 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, APRIL, 1900

## A BAD BILL.

Mr. W. M. German, M.P.P., for Welland, has introduced into the Ontario Legislature a Bill to permit the sale of liquor on Sundays to *bona fide* travellers, and on the days on which municipal bye-elections are held. It is not likely that this proposal will become law. Public sentiment in Ontario has been so strongly expressed in favor of prohibition that it is strange to find anyone audacious enough to propose a further extension of the liquor traffic. Ontario friends of our cause will however, act wisely in writing to their representatives in the local legislature urging strong opposition against this iniquitous proposal.

## THE 100,000 PLEDGE.

Every day brings to the office of this journal lists of voters who have signed the 100,000 Voters' Pledge. As the life of the present Parliament is drawing to a close it is specially desirable that these lists should be complete as soon as possible. We therefore earnestly request our friends in every part of the Dominion to secure a completion of their pledge lists and forward them to this office without any further delay. Those who are working on this line express surprise and gratification at the success with which their efforts are meeting.

## THE COMING ELECTION.

It is now almost certain that a general Dominion election will be held during the present year. Prohibitionists will therefore do wisely in being prepared in good time for that event. In the Plebiscite of 1898, prohibition majorities were recorded in the constituencies of 120 members of the House of Commons, out of a total of 213. Outside the Province of Quebec there are 121 Members out of a total of 148 whose constituencies voted for prohibition by average majorities of over 1,000. It ought to be easy for the friends of temperance to unite in these constituencies in such action as would secure the nomination and return of a representative in harmony with the public opinion thus strongly expressed. Again we urge upon our workers to lose no time. Let county conventions be speedily held. Let politicians of both parties understand that they must nominate prohibitionists or lose the support of those who voted against the liquor traffic. Wise and energetic action on this line may now ensure us a Parliament that will give us the legislation for which we voted.

## DOMINION R. T. OF T.

The Dominion Council Royal Templars of Temperance held its Twelfth Session at Hamilton, commencing on March 20th with a large attendance of delegates from different parts of the Dominion, Bro. Geo. H. Lees, Dominion Councillor presiding.

The address of the Dominion Councillor was full of interesting information and valuable suggestion regarding the work of the year, and contained also wise and forcible references to the present position of the prohibition reform, and a cordial endorsement of the Alliance movement to secure 100,000 pledged voters and to make prohibition a political issue. Manitoba was congratulated upon the advance step taken by her Government.

The most important business transacted by the Council was the deciding upon an increase in the insurance rates of the Order. Hitherto the Royal Templar Order has been remarkable for its cheap insurance, hereafter its insurance is expected to be not only lower than that of other fraternal organizations, but as safe as insurance in old line companies. We cordially congratulate the R. T. of T. on the great success that has been achieved and wish them a hearty God-speed in their future undertakings.

## MANITOBA.

The Manitoba Legislature is in session and friends of our cause are eagerly waiting for the introduction of the promised prohibitory legislation. The speech from the throne at the opening of the session, contained the following paragraph:

"The people of Manitoba having, on two occasions, declared themselves by their votes, in favor of the prohibition of the liquor traffic, my Government has decided to give effect to their views in so far as the powers of the Provincial Legislature will permit them to do so, and a bill dealing with this important subject will be submitted to you at the present session."

Whatever course is taken by the Manitoba Legislature must be followed by the Legislatures of Ontario and the Maritime Provinces. We congratulate our friends in the west and wish them the fullest and best success in the splendid fight they are making for God and home and Canada.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

The resolution in favor of prohibition still stands on the order paper of the House of Commons, which body seems very slow in taking up this important question.

Parliamentary usages and methods may be the cause of the delay. Prohibitionists however, believe that a question with which the Government was anxious to deal, would not have stood so long without consideration.

We sincerely hope that Mr. Flint who has charge of this resolution will see that no indifference or opposition prevents its receiving fair play. The friends of the temperance cause want to have the matter discussed and a division taken in the House of Commons so that they may know who are with and who are against the voice of the people as recorded in the Plebiscite of 1898.

## A VICTORY IN PARLIAMENT.

The temperance cause won a notable victory in the British House of Commons on March 9th. In the orders of the day was a bill introduced by Mr. Robinson Souttar, providing for prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors to children

under eighteen years of age. It was not generally expected that the bill would be reached, but some other business was unexpectedly gotten rid of and the temperance measure was reached early in the day. On behalf of the Government Mr. Goschen moved the adjournment of the House on the grounds that the discussion of the bill was not anticipated. The proposal raised a storm of opposition so vigorous that the motion was withdrawn and the discussion proceeded. An opponent of the measure endeavored to secure an adjournment of the debate, but the Speaker ruled him out of order as the House had unanimously agreed to go on by permitting the motion for adjournment to be withdrawn. The bill was read a second time without a division, and now stands for consideration by the Committee of the Whole. English Temperance Journals are jubilant over this victory, and the organs of the liquor traffic are unusually excited over the prospect of its becoming law.

## TEMPERANCE AND LIFE INSURANCE.

Another evidence of the value of total abstinence is furnished in the report for 1899 of the Sceptre Life Association of Great Britain. This insurance organization has a special temperance section in which only abstainers are classified. The growing popularity of the temperance section is shown in the fact that of 579 policies issued during the year, 492 were on the lives of abstainers.

During the year, according to mortality tables, the expected deaths in the general section of the insured by this society, were 140, the actual deaths were 86, giving a percentage of about 61. The expected deaths in the temperance section were 94, the actual deaths were 47, giving a percentage of 50.

The experience of this society for the preceding fifteen years is set out in the following table, showing the actual and expected deaths in the general and temperance sections respectively.

GENERAL SECTION.			
Years.	Expected.	Actual.	Percentage.
1884-88	466	368	79.00
1889-93	564	466	82.62
1894-98	628	498	79.30
Total	1,658	1,332	80.34
TEMPERANCE SECTION.			
Years.	Expected.	Actual.	Percentage.
1884-88	195	110	56.41
1889-93	312	181	58.07
1894-98	419	228	54.42
Total	926	522	56.37

## THE NEW ZEALAND VOTE.

As our readers have already learned, a vote was taken upon the license question in New Zealand at the recent general election. A three fifths majority is necessary to carry prohibition in any district. The returns of the votes polled showed that had a bare majority been sufficient, prohibition would have been made the law in a number of places that are still under license. The following is a list of some of the places in which there was a majority for prohibition, but not enough to give the temperance party complete success.

	Votes for License.	Votes for No License.
Waipatu	2,417	2,558
Franklin	1,727	1,746
Masterton	1,861	1,988
Kaipoi	1,715	2,235
Ashburton	1,901	2,021
Wakatipu	2,664	2,359
Bruce	1,519	1,967
Taiari	1,551	1,576
Invercargill	2,228	2,300
Thames	2,064	2,369
Oamaru	1,770	1,975
Wellington Suburbs	1,939	2,120

## IMPORTANT.

TORONTO, 1900.

DEAR FRIEND,—

You are respectfully requested to carefully examine **The Camp Fire**, a neat four-page monthly Prohibition paper, full of bright, pointed, convenient facts and arguments; containing also a valuable summary of the latest news about our cause. It is just what is needed to **inspire workers and make votes.**

The victory won last year was only the opening of a campaign in which the liquor traffic will do its utmost to block, delay, and if possible prevent our securing the enactment and enforcement of prohibitory law. We have plenty of hard fighting ahead of us. We must keep posted and equipped, knowing all that is being done by our friends and foes, and sophistry and misrepresentation that will be advanced.

**The Camp Fire** will be one of the best aids you can have in the struggle. It will contain nothing but what you need. Every number ought to be preserved. You cannot afford to be without it, and the subscription price is only nominal, **Twenty-five cents per year.**

While a necessity to every prohibition worker the **The Camp Fire** will also be of special value for distribution. Literature won the plebiscite victory. We must keep up the educating work. Printed matter tells. It does its work continuously, silently, fearlessly and no form of literature is so generally read and so potential as the up-to-date periodical. It comes with the force and interest of newness and life. For this reason the form of a monthly journal has been selected.

This journal will be in every respect reliable and readable. Every article will be short, good and forcible, containing nothing sectional, sectarian or partizan. The literature of the old world and the new world will be ransacked for the most helpful and effective material. The price is very low.

Such literature will convince many a man whom his neighbors cannot convince. It will talk to him quietly, in his own home, in his leisure moments, when he can listen uninterruptedly, when he cannot talk back and when the personality of the talker cannot interfere with the effect of the talk.

It will ply him with facts, arguments and appeals, that will influence, instruct and benefit him. It will set him thinking. This is half the battle. Its wide circulation will swell the victory that we are about to win. This is its object.

Your help is asked in this great work. *Every society* should subscribe for and distribute hundreds of copies. This is the easiest and surest plan of making prohibition votes. Look at the terms:

**Twenty copies will be sent to any one address every month for six months, for ONE DOLLAR, payable in advance**

On no other plan can a small investment be made to produce so much of educative results. One hundred and twenty copies may be placed in as many homes. And have more than HALF A THOUSAND readers. One dollar will cover this placing of the claims of our cause before five hundred people. Ten dollars may reach FIVE THOUSAND. **AND. WILL YOU HELP US?**

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