

THE CAMP FIRE

A Monthly Record and Advocate of the Temperance Reform.

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25 CENTS PER YEAR

100,000 VOTERS

A GREAT CAMPAIGN.

Special attention is called to the movement set out in circular printed on last page of this paper. We have no hesitation in warmly commending it to all friends of the temperance cause in the Dominion of Canada.

The Secretary of the Dominion Alliance will promptly furnish copies of the circular on application, and also copies of the proposed pledge to be signed, which is in the following form.

PLEDGE.

We, the undersigned, promise that at the next general election for the Dominion Parliament, we will vote only for such candidates as will agree to do all in their power, if elected, to obtain the immediate enactment of such legislation as will secure the total prohibition of the liquor traffic in at least those provinces and territories that gave majorities for prohibition in the plebiscite.

This pledge is null and void unless 25,000 signatures to it are secured.

Full particulars of the progress of this campaign will be published from month to month in the *CAMP FIRE*, which will thus be of special value to all interested in this important movement.

Friends who are pushing work to secure the 100,000 voters enrolment, are respectfully requested to send to the *CAMP FIRE* from time to time full details of the progress of their work and the success with which they are meeting.

THE BALANCE OF POWER.

In the Plebiscite of 1898 there were polled 273,380 votes in favor of prohibition. The 100,000 Voters Movement asks that about one-third of these, pledge themselves to carry into the next general election the principle for which they have already declared.

One Hundred Thousand Voters would be an average of nearly five hundred in each constituency. If distributed about as the prohibition vote was distributed in the Plebiscite, and unitedly exercised, it would enable us to elect a prohibitionist to Parliament from at least every one of the 129 constituencies that gave prohibition majorities, thus giving us control of the House of Commons by a majority of about forty-five.

We ought to aim at this result. The attainment of any considerable part of it would compel the enactment of a prohibitory law. We have in Parliament at the present time, many friends whose hands are weakened by the fact that prohibitionists have never made a demonstration in their favor. We owe it to our friends to make them stronger. We owe to our cause the duty of opposing those who have opposed it. No higher object was ever sought by any political movement in the Dominion of Canada. It deserves to be cordially supported. It deserves to be enthusiastically advocated. It deserves the warm and energetic co-operation of every Christian voter.

NOTES OF NEWS.

FROM MANY LANDS.

A Great Revival.

A great total abstinence campaign has been carried on during the past year at Newcastle, Eng. Ten thousand people have signed the pledge.

Going Backward.

A movement has been commenced by the organized liquor sellers of Montreal to secure the enactment of legislation authorizing the sale of intoxicating liquor on Sundays.

Drink and Crime.

At the recent convention of the Catholic Total Abstinence Union in Chicago, the city prosecutor stated that the arrests made in that city annually because of drunk, amounted to 65,000.

A Bad Record.

Since the coming into operation of the mullet law in Iowa, the increase of crime has been very marked. In 1889, under prohibition, the arrests reported for drunkenness, vagrancy, assault and disturbance of the peace, were 1,406. In 1898 there were 4,158 arrests made for the offences named.

A Vast Revenue.

The amount of duty collected by the British Inland Revenue Department on liquor manufactured, for 1898-9, amounted to £30,103,373. The customs duties on liquors imported amounted to £5,844,719, making a total liquor revenue of £35,948,092. This does not include license fees paid by the enormous number of retail liquor sellers.

Wants no Drink Revenue.

Hon. Mr. Schreiner, Premier of Cape Colony, South Africa, is a strong opponent of the liquor traffic. At last general election he opposed the imposition of any duty upon any liquor manufactured in the colony, on the ground that the liquor traffic is an evil, and no state should derive any prosperity or financial benefit from what produced ruin and degradation in the community.

Physical Deterioration.

The increasing consumption of alcohol in France, which has been widely discussed and deplored, is showing its effects upon the population. Of conscripts for the army in 1831, twenty-one per cent. were sent back as not physically up to the standard required. In 1868 the percentage was 28 and in 1894 it had reached 34 per cent. In Caen 50 per cent., and in Havre 75 per cent. of the men taken in 1897, were unfit for service.

An Important Meeting.

The annual convention of the Ontario Woman's Christian Temperance Union will be held in Guelph, from October 30th to November 3rd. An interesting circular has been issued giving details of arrangements made. The usual fare and a third rates are allowed on the certificate plan. Mrs. E. L. Hill, Box 36, Guelph, has charge of billeting. In view of the present critical position of the prohibition movement in Canada, this convention will be of unusual interest and importance.

A Colony to Vote.

In less than three months there will be held a general election in New Zealand, in connection with which a poll will be taken on the liquor question, the result to decide whether or not the traffic is to go on in the different districts voting. The New Zealand Alliance has five organizers in the field and a number of local electoral districts are also employing agents to give their time to house to house canvassing in favor of prohibition.

Teetotal Soldiers.

Reports show that in the British Imperial Army there are 35,983 enrolled abstainers. Of these 22,208 are in the Force stationed in India, every third man of which has signed the pledge. The Army Temperance Association which has vigorously pushed the work that has had such magnificent results, has also an honorary membership which now amounts to 5,018. This makes a total of 41,000 abstainers in the British Army in connection with this single association.

Prohibition in New Zealand.

The Clutha District is an interesting part of the colony of New Zealand that came under prohibition on July 1st 1894, through the operation of local option legislation. The result is shown in the following table setting out the number of convictions made in the district for three and a half years after the enactment of prohibition, as compared with the convictions made during the previous three and a half years under license.

| | LICENSE | PROHIBITION |
|--------------------|---------|-------------|
| Drunkenness | 146 | 6 |
| Breaches of peace | 15 | 6 |
| Assaults | 11 | 4 |
| Obscene language | 13 | 8 |
| Disorderly Conduct | 13 | 1 |
| | 198 | 25 |
| Other offences | 77 | 82 |
| | 275 | 107 |

The prohibition in the Clutha has been only partial owing to the existence of wholesale licenses. If full measures give such results, what would be the effects of complete prohibition?

Liquor for the Yukon.

The Yukon Territory is nominally under prohibitory law, no liquor being allowed to enter the Territory except under special permit issued by the Minister of the Interior. It is well-known however, that through the operation of the permit system provided the liquor traffic is carried on interfering disastrously with the moral and material well being of both natives and emigrants.

An Order in Council has recently been issued regarding permits, and is in the following terms:—That each permit issued by the Minister of the Interior shall be signed by such officer as the minister may designate for the purpose; that the fee to be paid for each permit shall be the sum of two dollars per gallon under proof and that such fees shall be and become a part of the liquor revenue of the Yukon territory; that any person taking or importing, or attempting to take or import spirituous or malt liquors or other intoxicants into the Yukon territory who has not first obtained a permit from the minister in the manner hereinbefore mentioned shall be liable to penalties provided by ordinance in that behalf enacted by the commissioner, or council of the Yukon territory.

THE TRAIL OF THE SERPENT.

SOME SAD SAMPLES.

The month of September had the usual record of sad disasters and serious crimes directly traceable to intemperance.

Seldom have our people been more shocked than they were by the disgraceful story told of the brutality and crime of the drunken stokers on board the wrecked steamer Scotsman, at Belle Isle. The details as made public are a terrible arraignment of the liquor habit, showing to what depths men can be reduced by the dementia of intoxication.

On Sunday, Sept. 6th, the body of a man was found floating in the bay at Toronto. He had last been seen drinking in a bar room on the preceding Friday evening.

A New Glasgow despatch of Sept. 18th, told a sorrowful story of a drunken man who lay sleeping on the railway track and was instantly killed by a passing train.

It was only a day or two later that a drunken laborer seventy years of age, beat his wife to death at Smith's Falls while under the influence of strong drink.

A similar case barely stopped short of fatal results at Toronto, on September 21st, when a drunken man chased his wife out of the house, striking her as she fled, with a heavy brick. He then demolished the interior of the building with an axe, and defied the police to arrest him.

It would be easy to fill columns with similar instances were we to draw upon our American and English exchanges for the information. The Chicago Tribune which has kept a careful record of crime for ten years, states that during that period the saloons of the country are chargeable with 53,000 murders, and another authority asserts that twelve per cent. of the suicides that take place in France are directly traceable to strong drink.

SPARKS FROM THE ANVIL.

No tolerance of the rum fiend or any of his agents.

As good citizens you can do better work by helping to deplete the prisons than by paying taxes to enlarge them.

Patriotism is no less the minister's duty than piety.

The man who is not prepared to be as radical as truth will never wear a reformer's crown, or bear a reformer's martyrdom.

I have never known a lazy man, or a selfish man, or a coward to earn a martyr's crown as a reformer.

"Good citizenship" means conflict rather than repose; the activity of men rather than the seclusion of hermits; battling with public iniquity as the ever implacable foe of good government.

No prohibition law anywhere, however poorly enforced, ever failed to give enough of beneficent result to justify its enactment.

A political party may not expect to change the hearts of men engaged in iniquity, but it may help to prevent the wicked deeds of their hands.

The Decalogue and the Golden Rule have been banished from many an editorial sanctum that is ostensibly respectable.

A political party, however useful, is only an implement, a piece of machinery, a means to an end. When a party claiming to be influenced by principles ceases to act as if in aid of public righteousness, it is time for it to die; it ought to die, and it probably will die.—*Mitcalf.*