

The Camp Fire.

A. MONTHLY JOURNAL
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF
THE PROHIBITION CAUSE.

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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 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, AUGUST, 1896.

Do not hesitate to take this paper from the Post Office. If you have not paid for it in advance, some one else has done so for you, or it is sent you free.

THE PLEBISCITE.

In a few days Parliament will be in full swing. It is generally anticipated that the Session opening on the 19th will be brief, and that little business will be transacted beyond passing of the Supply Bill. Plebiscite legislation will be looked for from the first Session dealing with general business. This will probably be in January or February of 1897.

Although the actual commencement of the campaign is yet some distance off, no time should be lost before making preparations. Every municipality ought to have its campaign committee organized, the ground looked over, plans laid for seeing that voters' lists are complete and other necessary machinery ready to be put in operation.

The contest is inevitable. It will be hailed by friends of the cause with satisfaction. It means a fight with possibility of a victory in the form of practical legislation on the lines for which we have long worked, and waited, and prayed. Never before had we upon us a heavier responsibility. Never before were we face to face with a more important duty. Earnestly we urge all our friends to get ready at once.

LOCAL OPTION.

The Ontario Legislation providing for the enactment of Municipal by-laws prohibiting the sale of liquor is in the following terms:—

"The council of every township, city, town and incorporated village may pass by-laws for prohibiting the sale by retail of spirituous, fermented or other manufactured liquors, in any tavern, inn or any other house or place of public entertainment; and for prohibiting altogether the sale thereof in shops and places other than houses of public entertainment: Provided that the by-law before the final passing thereof, has been duly approved of by the electors of the municipality in the manner provided by the sections in that behalf of the Municipal Act."

"No by-law passed under the provision of this section shall be repealed by the council passing the same, until after the expiration of three years

from the day of its coming into force, nor until a by-law for that purpose shall have been submitted to the electors and approved by them in the same manner as the original by-law, and if any such repealing by-law (upon being submitted to the electors) is not so approved, no other repealing by-law shall be submitted for the like approval within the full term of three years thereafter."

These sections are so plain as to require little comment. Under them the liquor traffic may be absolutely wiped out in rural municipalities where it would be entirely unprofitable to pay the high fee required for authority to sell liquor in wholesale quantities, which sales are necessarily limited even in populous places.

The Dominion Alliance is preparing a pamphlet giving details of procedure for bringing Local Option By-laws into force, forms of petition to Municipal Councils, forms of by-laws, and a good deal of valuable information. In the meantime parties engaged in local option work may obtain full information by applying to the Secretary of the Alliance.

THE JULY CONVENTIONS.

The Annual Meeting of the Dominion Alliance Council and the Annual Convention of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance held last month, were gatherings of much interest. The decision of the Privy Council regarding provincial jurisdiction and the success of the Liberal Party committed to a Dominion plebiscite, were the matters which made the meetings centres of unusual interest.

Without discussing to any extent the question or undesirability of a plebiscite, both meetings accepted its eminence as a fact and took steps towards preparation for the coming campaign.

The statement by the Attorney General, that the Provincial Government did not accept the Privy Council decision as a clear declaration that the Province had power to prohibit the liquor traffic, prevented the discussion for the time being of provincial prohibition.

The intimation by members of the Government that other restrictive legislation would probably be immediately enacted, encouraged the delegates to the adoption of a series of strong recommendations for changes in the existing liquor laws.

Local Option was endorsed and warmly commended to prohibitionists in Ontario. Following the convention's action there will no doubt be a revival of interest in this method of dealing with the liquor traffic.

The disagreeable feature of the Convention was the difference of opinion brought out by the action of the Hamilton delegates in opposing the continuance of Hon. G. W. Ross as one of the Presidents of the Alliance on the ground that he has been disloyal to the temperance cause in advocating the election of the Liberal candidates in Hamilton when independent candidates were in the field strongly in favour of prohibition. The Convention however, declined to endorse the proposal. It is to be sincerely hoped that there will be no permanent division in the temperance ranks over a question which should never have been introduced at all in a Convention understood to be a union of all classes of workers earnestly desiring the total suppression of the liquor traffic.

The Royal Commission to investigate the liquor traffic in England has been scrutinizing "perpendicular" drinking. The evidence seemed to show that liquor drunk standing up made a man drunk as well as when drunk sitting down.

COMMONPLACE TEMPERANCE WORK.

A paper read at the Juvenile Institute by Miss Jennie F. Yemen.

"A commonplace life; we say as we sigh,
But why should we sigh as we say?
For a commonplace sun in a commonplace sky
Makes up the commonplace day.

The moon and the stars are commonplace things,
The flowers that bloom, and the birds that sing
But dark would this world be, and sad our lot,
If the flowers bloomed and the sun shone not.

Many of us in the Temperance cause think our work commonplace, insignificant. We are almost ashamed of our positions thinking that to our lot falls the drudgery, affording us no opportunity of achieving great things. To excel in public is granted to others, why not to us? One Niagara is enough for the continent, America, but who of us for a moment, would despise the numerous rivers wending their ways along grassy meadows or the tiny mountains, or threadlets of crystal, trickling down the hill-side, clothing the dry, barren earth with a velvety green carpet and moistening the flowerets of the vale

You say, "Our space is limited, cramped; indeed we have few opportunities, just our Temple once a week, along with a word now and then to help others than Templars." Yes friends, but how may we secure greater opportunities? By making faithful use of those already granted.

You know the parable of the talents—it applies here.—"To him that hath shall be given," and from him who misuses his one talent even those limited opportunities shall be withheld. If you wish to increase your field of labor work faithfully the field you already have, and you will find that greater work will crowd upon you. Soon you will be calling for assistance.

We err when in our inmost thoughts is whispered, "only our Juvenile Temple,—Only a dozen or two girls and as many boys." Yes, that is all, but in each of your ordinary boys and girls lies hidden the germ of great and noble manhood or womanhood Sisters and brothers, to you may be given, if you are faithful in commonplace duties, the pleasure, the blessing and the reward of awakening, caring for, training and developing that germ into a noble, useful being.

Could we but help one other to overcome temptation, to grow strong, true and noble, our life would be no failure. The helper of the weak and wavering, the man or woman who leads others to triumph over intemperance and sin, is greater than a Napoleon or a Wellington.

The motive for our work must not be solely for reward, otherwise we lose the best part of existence. The heart that goes out of itself grows large, tender, and more full of joy. This is the great secret of the noblest lives. We do most for ourselves when we are doing something for others. Education begins at the mother's knee. Every word spoken, every act witnessed, every thought, every emotion aids in the formation of character. Can we not help the development of a character in the ages to come by impressing the benefit of such a character on the present generation.

You may have met with Temperance workers who will only help the semi-respectable, they turn away from the poor wretch who was at one time an innocent boy by his mother's knee but who now through the curse of rum and its associate imps of darkness has become degraded till he shrinks from the pure and true.

They show their dislike. The poor fellow says:—"Oh: Yes. I'm not fit for decent people to look at"—and away he goes to be worse than before. Friends, the refinement that carries us away from our fellow men is not God's refinement.

The great heart of Jesus, the perfect Temperance worker, throbbed with aching anguish over those who were sunken in sin and iniquity. That is to be our example. Our hearts should burn with a great yearning love and compassion for our fallen brothers. Give them a helping hand. They will bless you for a kind word.

In view of the misery and degradation which this curse has caused, let us gird on the armour of love and perseverance to save the innocent of our land from a similar fate. Displace the sparkling dew-drop from the blush-

ing rose-leaf, no skill can replace it. Despoil the great white lily of its color and fragrance, none can give back the perfection of its purity. Destroy the delicate organism of the eye no medical skill in the universe can restore it. When youth has once lost its innocence, when sin has once blasted the soul, when the first freshness of God-giving innocence is gone no after repentance, reformation or repentance or devotion will ever make it just the same. Memory is polluted, the imagination is assailed by impurities, habits of virtue are weakened. The force of vice is strengthened. "The wound may heal but the scar remains." God may forgive, man may forget, but the transgression is never altogether beyond the vision of the transgressor. God gives some things twice, some things many times, but innocence no soul can get a second time.

Let us seek to build up an innocent youth, let each of us do our commonplace duties with commonplace patience and commonplace pleasure and be found true and trusty stewards.

Let us each by loving patient effort hedge the youth of our land round about with principles of Temperance and sobriety, that in the coming generations we may see the dawn of the long-looked-for age when no pitiful wail of helpless wail shall be heard, when the miseries of the drunkard's home shall not be known.

THE SCOTT ACT AT WORK.

Brome County, in Quebec, is having a revival of Scott Act enforcement. A recent issue of the *Montreal Witness* tells of thirteen convictions of offenders who were sentenced to pay fines aggregating \$850. The Brome County Branch of the Dominion Alliance worked up the prosecutions.

SCANDINAVIAN TRETOTALLERS.

An interesting article in a recent issue of the *New York Voice* describes the progress of the temperance cause among the 1,500,000 Scandinavians who are now living in the United States. Among these sturdy pioneers there are three classes of temperance work, the Good Templars, the Templars of Temperance and Independent Total Abstinence organizations. The Good Templar work is the strongest and most general. Four temperance papers are published in the Norwegian language and one in tee Swedish. In the State of Minnesota the Scandinavians have been the means of carrying local option in many localities. Prohibition sentiment is very strong among them.

A SHOCKING TALE FROM LABRADOR.

Pere Goyce, an Oblat Father, who has just returned from a visit to the missions of his Order on Labrador coast, reports that the Indians there are in a state of starvation. He complains that they are dying of hunger, while the rivers of the coast are swarming with fish, especially salmon, but as these waters are mostly in the hands of clubs or wealthy men, they are unable to avail themselves of these sources of natural food supply. He also complains that while the Indians and settlers along the coast are forbidden to utilize the eggs of seabirds, which were formerly a source of food and profit to them, the Newfoundlanders make descents upon the coast in defiance of the Canadian law, and in the absence of adequate police protection and carry them off by wholesale, thus also largely reducing the supply of feathered game. Lastly, he complains of the fatal work done along the coast by the whiskey traders and declares that the missionaries are powerless to carry on their good work in the face of the brute force used by these ruffians and the demoralization caused among the Indians by their nefarious traffic, which has resulted in the melancholy death of a large number of these poor untutored children of the forest. He characterizes the liquor traffic as the greatest evil and scourge of the coast, as it not only increases the poverty of the Indians, but is killing them off with alarming rapidity by aggravating the pulmonary and other diseases to which they are peculiarly subject.—*Montreal Witness*.