

The Camp Fire.

A. MONTHLY JOURNAL
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF
THE PROHIBITION CAUSE.

Edited by F. S. SPENCE

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 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, NOVEMBER, 1897

THE LITERATURE CAMPAIGN.

Again we desire to call the attention of our readers to the opportunity now placed before them for educating public opinion. The political situation, the coming plebiscite, the excellent series of leaflets provided for the Alliance at prices that are amazingly low, are all important features. We are at a crisis time in our country's history. People are interested as they have not been before. They will read what we offer them relating to the prohibition movement. Documents of the highest class and most convincing character, may be had at rates that bring them within the reach of every organization or individual who desires to work on this line.

During the coming winter our whole Dominion ought to be "sown knee deep" with prohibition literature. The expense may be very small to the workers of any locality. The plans recommended for distribution make the work easy and effective. Everyone who has not yet received circulars containing full information regarding this matter, should at once write for the same to F. S. Spence, 52 Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

The time for the election of Municipal Councils is near and will give temperance workers a splendid opportunity for the accomplishment of practical results. In every part of Canada the Municipal Councils have much power and influence in the restriction of the liquor traffic and the enforcement of the liquor laws. A strong public sentiment against the liquor traffic may be utterly thwarted by a hostile council. It is easy to see the desirability of having in power men who are on the right side of this question.

The liquor men look keenly after their interests when election comes round. Temperance workers are too often careless in regard to this matter, contenting themselves with agitation, while their opponents quietly and effectively work to defeat all effort to make right sentiment effective in legislation and law enforcement. In every municipality there are available for public positions, men who are sound on the temperance question and at the same time thoroughly qualified to look after public affairs. Our temperance friends should see that their very best men are nominated and elected to Municipal Councils.

THE W. C. T. U.

The month of October 1897 will long be remembered by Toronto temperance workers on account of the impetus given to the cause in their

city through the advent of the great army of white ribboners from every part of the Dominion and every part of the world. The conventions were held opportunely. Their influence will be felt in the great national prohibition campaign upon which we are about to enter.

No modern development of moral reform work surpasses in interest this great woman's movement. What was at first an effort to fight the saloon has now broadened into a campaign against nearly every evil that afflicts modern society. The praiseworthy efforts of these enthusiastic workers have not been confined to mere antagonism of evils. Much has been done in the way of establishing agencies that may compete with institutions that are evil, in attracting and holding the young and imperiled. Rescue work in many departments has also been a prominent feature. There are thousands to-day walking with trembling feet in the path of rectitude, who thank God for the W. C. T. U. as the agency which under His blessing effected their reclamation.

Mighty work has been done, but much remains. This strong organization has to-day a firm hold on the affections of Christian people everywhere. Its potentialities for good are greater than ever. If such mighty results have been accomplished in its early days, with the difficulties that had to be faced, and the inexperience of those who pushed the movement, what may we not expect in the near future, now that this great institution is recognized and approved, and its leaders go on in their holy crusade with no less devotedness and zeal but with the powerful aid of more perfect organization and fuller practical experience.

ORGANIZATION FOR WORK.

To-day a great array of earnest men and women who may become effective prohibition workers, in the ranks of churches and young people's organizations, are waiting for information and invitation to do their share in the contest for total prohibition. To some extent however, they look to organizations specially formed for prohibition work, to take the lead. There ought to be a prohibition club or league or union in every locality; not in rivalry with any other society but combining all for the time being for this great object. The Dominion Alliance has sent out many thousands of circulars giving advice about such organizations, and the secretary is always ready to furnish information regarding the matter to any friends who apply for it.

The total abstinence movement is the logical and substantial basis of the prohibition reform. Upon the societies that have special y stood for this great total idea, has hitherto rested the main responsibility for the development of public opinion. Other agencies are doing splendid work to-day, but we must not forget or neglect the pioneer societies that bore the burden when it was heavy, and who will still be expected to do a great share of the hardest work. Too much praise cannot be given to the men and women who in Divisions, Lodges, Councils and Unions have kept the old flag flying, and given us the sentiment for which we are so thankful. There is room for them still. They are needed in the contest. Earnestly we appeal to every true friend of the cause to stand by his local temperance society and do his best to spread its influence and increase its strength.

New fields must be occupied. Organizations that have been allowed to lapse must be revived. The time is favorable for this. Financial condi-

tions are better than before. Public interest in the temperance question is fast increasing. There are difficulties to overcome, but it is easier to organize or build up a temperance lodge to-day than it was a year ago. We are thankful for the mighty militia that is ready to help us, but we must not neglect to maintain the force of regulars that is the nucleus and strength of the great prohibition army.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION.

The temperance legislation that the Ontario Legislature is being asked to enact at its approaching session is eminently moderate and right. It consists of simply two amendments to the liquor laws. These amendments were unanimously endorsed by the great convention held in Toronto last July.

The first proposal made is that a majority of the municipal electors in any polling sub-division should have the right by petition to prevent the renewal of an existing license at the termination of any license year. The second is that a majority of the electors in any municipality should have a right to limit the hours of sale, or in other words to require licensed places to be closed earlier than the general act at present requires.

It is hard to see how these reasonable requests can be refused. It must be remembered however, that the liquor traffic is bitterly opposed to them. An effort will be made to influence legislators to vote against them. Every temperance society, every church congregation, and every young people's association in the province should send in a petition in favor of this desirable change. Full information and forms of petition may be obtained by application to F. S. Spence, Toronto.

LOCAL OPTION

Total national prohibition is the goal towards which we are progressing, and short of which we must not stop. We hope to attain it through an act of Parliament relating to the whole Dominion. Much has however, to be done before such a law comes into operation. Meantime the liquor traffic carries on its deadly work, notwithstanding the fact that in nearly every locality in Canada the electors have in their hands the power to destroy that traffic, if they so desire.

In their use of this power other provinces have done far better than has Ontario. Here we have in the hands of the people power to weaken the liquor traffic that is exercised to a very small extent. The council of any municipality may limit the number of licenses to be issued. The electors of any municipality may wipe them out altogether.

Doing this would not retard total prohibition, but hasten it. It would unite and consolidate the temperance electorate. It would shield many a home from the evils that grow out of the licensed liquor curse.

Now is the time to start. Local option by-laws may be passed by municipal councils and submitted to the electorate at the time of the municipal elections on January 3rd next. In a number of municipalities steps towards this end are being taken. The good example thus set ought to be followed in many more.

PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS.

The Ontario Legislature is called to meet on November 30th. Some persons are inferring from this fact the probability of an early appeal to the people. Whether or not a provincial

election is held during the present winter, it is certainly not very far off. The rival parties are already active. In fact the campaign may be said to be in full blast. Conventions are being held. Candidates are being nominated. Everything is being gotten ready for the fight.

Now is the time for temperance men to make their influence felt. They ought to be at every meeting of their respective political parties. They ought to be in nominating conventions, seeing that the right kind of candidates are put before the people. We talk a good deal about the sacredness of the ballot and our duty to vote for good men. We cannot vote for good men if good men are not nominated, and it is our duty to see that this condition exists.

The temperance politician who talks and works and even votes always with the temperance question uppermost in his motives, will fail to accomplish what he desires, if he always votes only for the better of two men that those who are opposed to him select. The nominating caucus is just as important as the polling booth. Earnestly we appeal again to every temperance elector to make a special effort to see that the right kind of candidate is nominated by his political party. He can only work to this end with the fullest effect, when it is known that he and others will not support any candidate but one who meets their views regarding this important question.

IMPORTANT! READ IT ALL!

THE CAMP FIRE

is a neat, four page monthly edited by F. S. Spence, devoted to the advocacy of Temperance and Prohibition, full of bright, fresh, pointed convincing facts and arguments. It is just what is needed for the Plebiscite Campaign, to inspire workers and make votes. Subscription, only **twenty-five cents** per year. **ORDER NOW!**

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