

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.

A METHODIST DEPUTATION.

A deputation representing the Ontario section of the Temperance Committee of the General Conference of the Methodist Church waited upon the Ontario Government on Wednesday, February 20th, to ask for prohibitory legislation. The deputation expressed appreciation of the statement made by the Premier to the Alliance deputation to the effect that the Government was prepared to give a prohibitory law to the full extent of its jurisdiction as soon as the power of the Province was ascertained.

The Premier assured the deputation of his sympathy with their object, pointed out the difficulties that the Government had in dealing with the question, and expressed a hope that there would be no difference of opinion between the religious bodies and the Government on the questions of moral reform.

GETTING TOGETHER.

A striking illustration of the concentration of the liquor traffic which is steadily going on, may be found in tables recently published by the British Government. In the year 1882, no fewer than 15,744 persons were licensed as brewers, in 1900 the number had decreased to 6,447. The change has been the result of the acquisition of small businesses by large brewery companies.

These companies have also acquired possession of licenses for the retail sale of liquor, so that at the present time 80 per cent. of the licensed houses in Great Britain and Ireland are owned by brewers.

The new brewery companies of large dimensions are able to turn out larger quantities of liquor at less cost. In their efforts to do this, they have paid little attention to the materials used in the manufacture, and the processes employed have resulted in the production of poisonous beer. A scare over the number of deaths from bad beer has taken effect.

The business is slightly affected, and brewers are vigorously circulating ad-

vertisements of the purity of their product. A Royal Commission is now sitting to take evidence as to the extent and cause of this poisoning.

THE PLEDGE RENEWED.

On February 13th a strong deputation from the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance waited upon the Provincial Government to urge the request made last July, that the Government would promote prohibitory legislation to the full limit of its ascertained jurisdiction.

In reply the Premier, Hon. G. W. Ross, stated that the Government did not recede from the position previously taken, and was always prepared to go to the limit of its power in prohibitory legislation. He considered, however, that it would be right and wise to wait for the decision given on the Manitoba prohibitory law, which law was now before the courts. He had carefully studied that Act and the questions concerning it which had been submitted for the consideration of the judges, and he believed that all the vital points at issue were covered by the questions which were being considered.

The deputation was introduced by Dr. J. J. MacLaren, and the views of the deputation were expressed by Rev. Dr. W. A. MacKay, Rev. Dr. A. Carman, Mrs. A. O. Rutherford and F. S. Spence.

THE MANITOBA CASE.

On Saturday, February 22nd, the King's Court of Manitoba delivered judgment upon the questions submitted by the Government as to the validity of the Manitoba Liquor Act. It will be remembered that this measure was enacted at last session of the Provincial Legislature. It is a rigid measure of prohibition of all liquor transactions originating and ending within the limits of Manitoba, being thus a measure of total provincial prohibition.

The judgment of the court, full details of which, of course, are not yet received, is said to declare the Act ultra vires of the Legislature in a number of important particulars. The most serious difficulty with the law seems, in the opinion of the judges, to have been its extreme character. They say it went beyond matters merely of a local nature and was so framed as to affect to some extent the trade and commerce of the Dominion at large.

When the Act was passed the Manitoba Government submitted it to the King's Court to have its constitutionality tested, with the intention of having an appeal taken from the decision of the Court to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council of Great Britain. No doubt this plan will be carried out, and no action will be taken by the Legislature towards either repealing or amending the law until the final court of resort has expressed an opinion regarding it.

Some of the friends of the measure are firmly of the opinion that the Privy Council will reverse the opinion of the Provincial Court and declare the Act to be within the jurisdiction of the Legislature.

A Victory for Prohibition.

The Municipal Council of the parish of St. Raymond, in Port Neff County, on the Quebec and Lake St. John Railway, has decided that no more licenses for the sale of liquor in hotels or groceries will be issued in the municipality.

Death Through Drink.

At Dinorwic, a station on the C.P.R., in the Algoma District, John McCrae, a miner, of Wabigon, was fatally shot on the evening of February 16th, by William Watson. The tragedy occurred in Quinn's Hotel, and was the outcome of a drunken quarrel. Watson is an American who was recently arrested for selling whiskey to Indians.

A Liquor Fatality.

A terrible tragedy occurred on the evening of Saturday, February 16th, at Denero town-site, twelve miles from Greenwood, B.C. A drunken miner named Deriver quarrelled with a young man named Henry Rowand, and in a scuffle that ensued, Deriver stabbed Rowand several times inflicting fatal injuries. The murderer was arrested and has been committed for trial. He admits the slaying, but declares that it was done in self-defence.

Temperance Teaching Sustained.

On November 29th last, fifty five members of the London School Board were elected. Each candidate was asked to reply to the following question:—"Will you if elected, maintain the arrangements already in force as to temperance teaching in the London Board School?" All the candidates, excepting three, replied in the affirmative. Only one of these three was elected so that, at least, fifty-four of the fifty-five are sound on the question submitted. It is believed that the other successful candidate will also favor the continuance of the present regulations.

Habitual Inebriates.

The magistrates of London, Eng., have recently forwarded to the Home Office a return showing the number of persons against whom several convictions for drunkenness have been made during the year ending October 31st last. Of these recidivists 597 are women and 325 are men. Of the women 116, and of the men 45 were convicted more than six times; and of these, nine women and four men were convicted over ten times. This shocking record of habitual drunkenness, on the part of women, is alarming. Provision is being made for increased accommodation on the Farmfield Estate, for the detention of habitual inebriates.

Progress in Great Britain.

Many newspapers are calling attention to the vast progress made in temperance reform during the reign of Queen Victoria. The Scottish Reformer says that in the first year of the reign the total abstainers did not, probably, number more than 150,000, while now they are over 7,000,000 strong. In 1837 there were few ministers and churches favorable to teetotalism, now there are over 10,000 clergymen who are total abstainers, and nearly every church has a temperance association. Hours of liquor selling have been restricted, and Sunday closing is making rapid progress.

Royal Templars.

The Ontario Royal Templars held their annual meeting in Toronto, commencing on Tuesday, February 19th. There was an unusually large attendance of earnest prohibitionist workers. A question that created a good deal of controversy was a resolution by Rev. Mr. Kettlewell, proposing that the Dominion Government should take control of the importation, manufacture and wholesale distribution

of liquor. He believed that such control would make the enforcement of provincial prohibition easier. The Council was not ready to adopt the resolution, and the matter was postponed for a year. J. A. Austin, of Toronto, was elected Grand Councillor for the coming year.

A Victory for Temperance.

The County Council, of London, Eng., has had a hot controversy over the course to be taken in regard to 15 public house licenses which had come into the possession of the Council in connection with a large area of land acquired for city improvements. The improvements committee recommend the abandonment of some of the licenses and the continuance of others. Many leading temperance reformers, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishops of Rochester, Stepney and Islington, Rev. Dr. Clifford, Rev. Hugh Price Hughes, John Burns, M.P. and others, petitioned the Council against any continuance of the liquor traffic, and a motion in favor of abandoning all the licenses was carried by a vote of 67 to 11.

Refreshments for Soldiers.

Lord Roberts' appeal to the English people not to tempt returning troops to indulge in intoxicating liquor, has been followed by a request from the War Office to the Railway Companies to make arrangements for soldiers and sailors to secure refreshments at their railway refreshment rooms. It was suggested that the Railway Companies should issue a voucher enabling men in uniform to obtain food and unalloyed drink, and to announce where such vouchers could be purchased by those desiring to present them to soldiers or sailors.

In response, the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway has issued a voucher which is sold for six pence, and on presentation of it any soldier or sailor, at any of the Company's refreshment rooms may obtain two sandwiches of bread and cheese, or a piece of cake with either three slices of bread and butter, or a roll and butter, or a portion of veal and ham pie, together with half a pint of tea, or coffee, or cocoa, or a bottle of any aerated water. Two of these vouchers entitle the holder to cold meat, with bread and cheese, with two cigars, or one ounce of tobacco; or two meat pies, two cigars, or one ounce of tobacco; together with half a pint of tea, coffee, or cocoa, or a bottle of aerated water. Other companies are following this good example.

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