

# The Camp Fire.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL  
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF  
THE PROHIBITION CAUSE.

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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, 1895.

## SENSIBLE TALK.

The prohibitory law in Kansas is being vigorously enforced by Governor E. N. Morrill. Saloons are practically closed in every city except Leavenworth. A good deal of trouble was experienced in Wichita. Complaints were made of remissness of duty on the part of the Police Commissioners who should have enforced the law. Attorney General Dawes was sent by the Governor to investigate the charges. A great meeting of citizens was convened and statements of the situation were made by prominent citizens. In reply the Attorney General said.

"I am here simply to find out what the sentiment in Wichita is; I am here to tell you that this law will be enforced just so long as there are men here to carry guns. How many of you are willing to carry guns? (Almost every man in the room rose to his feet.) The officer is under no more obligation to enforce the law than you are, but every loyal citizen of this commonwealth ought to help to enforce the law. I shall instruct your county attorney to enforce the law, and if after a reasonable time I find he is not making an effort to do so I shall appoint an assistant attorney general who will enforce it."

## THE JURISDICTION QUESTION.

The appeal to the Imperial Privy Council against the discussion of the Supreme Court of Canada affirming that a province has no prohibitory power was heard at London on August 1st, 2nd, 6th and 7th. Five of the Law Lords formed the committee before which the case was argued.

J. J. McLaren, Q.C., represented the appellants in the case, assisted by Richard H. Haldane, M.P. Argument against the appeal was made by Messrs. E. L. Newcome and H. W. Lochnis on behalf of the Dominion Government and Hon. Edward Blake Q.C., M.P., on behalf of the brewers and distillers. There were other legal gentlemen interested in the case.

Judgment was reserved, but will probably be rendered before very long. The way will then be clear for an immediate advance. Whatever decision is given will be followed by a vigorous campaign for Provincial Legislation in the interests of temperance, as well as for the election of prohibitionists to the Dominion House of Commons.

## GROWING INTEREST.

In many quarters there is evidence of a deepening interest in the practical question of prohibition. The Christian Guardian and other religious papers have been making strong appeals to electors to make prohibition an issue in the election for the Dominion House of Commons, which cannot now be far off. The Patron Organization is considering the question of making prohibition a plank of its political platform. Conventions of prohibitionists are being held in different constituencies. In North and South Oxford respectively, the Patrons and Prohibitionists have united in the nomination of candidates. Secular journals are giving more attention than usual to the temperance question. The indications are that this question of prohibition will have more prominence in the coming campaign than it has yet had in any Dominion election. There will be many opportunities for temperance voters to show their loyalty to the cause and their willingness to sacrifice mere party predilections for the maintenance of right principle. An opportunity is afforded us such as has not been given before.

The principles laid down in the political platform adopted by the Montreal Convention in July 1894, give prohibitionists a safe basis for action. A judicious carrying out of those principles would ensure the return of a good majority of members committed to the support of our cause, and would make it possible to have a prohibition resolution carried through the House of Commons. The adoption of such a resolution we are assured by political leaders, must be speedily followed by definite legislation in harmony therewith.

## STAND BY OUR FRIENDS.

Temperance electors have been charged with failing to give the support they ought to give to those parliamentary candidates who are willing to make prohibition a part of their avowed policy. The charge is probably often made by hesitating candidates as an excuse for their failure to take a decided stand. It is a poor excuse. If prohibition is right, public men should stand by it even though it meant to them loss instead of gain. If it is not right, then they ought not to be willing to espouse it for the sake of political support.

Nevertheless temperance men ought to leave no room for such an accusation. It is as much our duty to support our friends as to oppose our enemies. If it is right to work and vote against the men who opposed us in Parliament, it is equally our duty to work and vote for the men who stood by the cause to which we are pledged.

We will have plenty of opportunity for this inside the next year. There are at least 57 members of Parliament who stood up to be counted as against the side-tracking amendment by which the House evaded the clear issue set out in the Flint resolution. Some others who were absent from the division are known to be fully with us. These men have a claim upon prohibition electors.

We do not mean to say that the fact that any of these men voted right should ensure him the support of prohibitionists in a case in which he is opposed by a candidate known to be more sound and reliable from a temperance standpoint, but as against a candidate who will not commit himself to prohibition, such a representative has a right to the support of prohibitionists.

We do not claim that prohibition is the only issue that should command

the attention of right-thinking citizens, but we do claim that it is the most important of the public questions that are before us for settlement to-day. We can render our cause splendid service by standing loyally by the men who have stood loyally by us.

## LEGISLATION IN FRANCE.

The French nation has become thoroughly aroused to the terrible evils that it is suffering from the permitted liquor traffic. Of late years the consumption of ardent spirits has increased at an alarming rate.

The question has been recently before the National Assembly in different forms. A proposition for a state monopoly of the sale of distilled liquors and the exemption of fermented liquors from excise duty, seemed to find much favor.

Moving in this direction the tax upon ardent spirits has been doubled, and that on liquors containing less than fifteen per cent of alcohol has been abolished. The manufacture and sale of spirits or liquors declared by the Academy of Medicine to be dangerous is prohibited.

A special commission appointed by the Government has been inquiring into the best means of combating the evils of alcohol. It is expected that a report will be made recommending the introduction of temperance teaching in the public schools.

A temperance society has been organized under the auspices of leading medical men to oppose the use of spirituous liquors.

## NATIONAL DIVISION S. OF T.

The National Division, Sons of Temperance of America, held its 51st Session in Cleveland, Ohio, on the 10th and 11th of July last. M. M. Eavenson of Pennsylvania, M. W. P., presided. The report of the G. S. showed a membership of 50,680 which is a slight falling off from the membership reported a year ago.

The chief work of this session was the revision of the constitution and ritual. Subordinate Divisions may now have representatives apart from the usual officers, one for each division of a thousand members. The members may also wear a distinctive badge provided by the National Division, instead of the usual regalia.

Reference was made to the serious loss sustained by the Order in the death of John N. Stearns, P. M. W. P., Secretary of the N. T. Society, and one of the most earnest and devoted workers in the Order.

A resolution was also passed expressing great satisfaction at the selection by the National Temperance Society of Rev. C. H. Mead as Field Secretary. Mr. Mead is a P. G. W. P., of W. N. Y., and the national Division pledged to Brother Mead their hearty co-operation in his responsible work.

The next session will be held in July, 1896, at Washington, D. C.

## MISGOVERNMENT.

The enforcement of the Scott Act in Prince Edward Island is being vigorously pushed by friends of the law. They are however, hampered sadly in their efforts by the manifest hostility of the present government.

When the Royal Commission was in Prince Edward Island, its investigations unearthed a disgraceful condition of affairs in the town of Summerside. A vendor appointed to sell liquor for permitted purposes under the Scott Act, was clearly shown by his own admissions to be violating the law and defying all decency in his reckless manner of carrying on his business. Even the liquor favoring

members of the Commission expressed their strong disgust at his conduct.

A petition against the reappointment of this man to the position he holds, was signed by 1,200 persons. Protests from all parts of the province were made against his continuance in office. The government has however, re-appointed him, thus practically declaring its sympathy with law defiance. The Charlottetown Guardian, a journal not by any means conservative, but thoroughly honest with its dealings with public questions says:—

The Scott Act was carried in Prince County by the will of the people. Its violator receives the official sanction of the Government for his many breaches of the law. The voice of the people is mocked and muzzled. Officialdom snubs and thwarts the electorate. And this is called "Liberalism."

The government has also appointed three lawyers as stipendiary magistrates all known to be opposed to the Scott Act. Their salaries have been fixed at \$200 a year each and expenses. The absurd rule has been made that all evidence must be submitted to the Premier before cases are commenced. A statement published by temperance workers in Summerside says that:— "Prosecutors are appointed who do little but draw their salaries, which appears to give eminent satisfaction to the Government, and if one of them shows aptitude for the office and a zeal in his work he is snubbed or dismissed from office."

It is just such occurrences and conditions that interfere with the Scott Act. Then parties who are responsible for, or in sympathy with such outrageous interference with justice, are ready to point to the result of their misconduct as evidence that the Scott Act is a failure. Despite all these difficulties, however, Prince Edward Islanders still stand by the law. This all shows the necessity for total national prohibition as the only really effective method of dealing with the liquor traffic.

The action of the government has however, aroused temperance people to a course that may be effective. At the regular quarterly meeting of the Grand Division Sons of Temperance held at Irishtown not long ago, representing 48 Divisions with a membership of 2,400, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

That the local Government having appointed C. B. Saunders, Vendor of Summerside, against the protests of this Grand Division, the Prince County Temperance League, the petition of 1200 persons, and temperance workers from all parts of the province, we pledge ourselves to oppose by our votes and influence every member and supporter of the Peter's Government as they come before us for re-election.

## UNITING TO VOTE.

On July 17th there was held at Winnipeg a well attended Convention of Patrons and Prohibitionists. All persons signing a declaration favoring the co-operation of Patrons and Prohibitionists for the securing of prohibition were permitted to take part in the Convention. Resolutions were adopted declaring in favor of equal suffrage, condemning the Conservative party for accepting the Royal Commission Report, and condemning the Liberal party for refusing to definitely commit itself to prohibition, declaring the Provincial Government to be in sympathy with the liquor traffic, and calling upon Prohibitionists to support the Patron platform in the forthcoming Dominion election. Other resolutions requested Patrons to hold their conventions so as to give Prohibitionists a voice in the selection of candidates, and opposed any change in Manitoba School legislation. A committee was appointed to confer with the Patron Executive consisting of the following Prohibitionists: W. R. Mulock, J. C. McClellan, Rev. J. M. A. Spence, Rev. J. Hogg and W. D. Ruttan.