

THE CAMP FIRE.

A Monthly Record and Advocate of the Temperance Reform.

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NOTES OF NEWS.

ABOUT THE TEMPERANCE REFORM.

Getting Ready.

The National Prohibition Party of the United States is making a vigorous campaign in view of the approaching Presidential election. A campaign fund is being raised which up to the present time amounts to over \$7,000.

Another Vacancy.

W.C.T.U. workers in the United States are mourning the loss of Mrs. Anna Wittenmeyer, first President of the National Women's Temperance Union who died recently at her home in Sanatoga, Pa., aged seventy-two.

A Coming Convention.

The Quebec Branch of the Dominion Alliance holds its Annual Convention at Montreal on March 1st. During the past few months a vigorous organization campaign has been carried on by Dr. McKillop, and much interest has been aroused.

License Legislation.

Hon. Mr. Marchand, Premier of the Province of Quebec, has introduced into his Legislature a Bill to amend and consolidate the Quebec License Laws. It is not proposed to make any radical changes in the system, but merely to make existing legislation uniform and consistent.

Catholics Working.

In the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Paul, Minn., a lecture bureau has recently been organized by priests and laymen to promote the interests of Catholic total abstinence societies. Its members are ready to respond to invitations to address meetings and organize branches of the society.

A Useless System.

A striking evidence of the uselessness of the present system of dealing with inebriates is to be found in the case of Bridget McMullan, who recently appeared before the Stipendiary Magistrate of Liverpool, Eng., charged with drunkenness for the 377 time. Even then the penalty imposed was the old absurd penalty of a fine with the alternative of imprisonment.

Work in Manitoba.

Mr. John G. Woolley, of Chicago, has been campaigning in Winnipeg under the auspices of the Manitoba Branch of the Dominion Alliance. He spoke six times in all. At each of two meetings held in Winnipeg, hundreds had to be turned away. Manitoba prohibitionists are anxiously waiting the initiation of prohibition legislation by the new government.

Growing Fast.

The Rechabite Order of Total Abstinents made wonderful progress during the past year. In the United Kingdom 76 new adult branches were opened, and 79 juvenile branches. The total membership is over 160,000 adults and 90,000 juveniles. The organization is a beneficiary institution. Its annual income exceeds \$1,500,000, and its funds on hand amount to over \$5,000,000.

Some Samples.

Here are a few specimens of the work of the liquor traffic in only one of the United States during the months of November and December, as reported by the *Minnesota Issues*.

ELMER LAKE: Peter Malone, in November, while drunk, cut his throat with

a razor. **DULUTH:** A drunken man committed suicide, by hanging himself by the collar in his room. **BENSON:** Andrew Myher, drunk, walks into the front of a full speed train and is killed, December 30th. **BLUE EARTH CITY:** December 25th, Clifford Yeudes, drunk, frozen to death in an alley. **MOORHEAD:** Fred Phanning, once earning a \$3,000 per year salary, fell dead in a saloon drunk, on November 13th. **RED WING:** December 15th, Henry Dammaun, died of drunk mess alone in his room. **WEST CONCORD:** On December 5th, Gus. Marquardt and his team of horses all instantly killed. He was drunk, and the train ran into them. **HERMAN:** Vincenne Doubrase, December 5th, while drunk, fell dead in his buggy."

Drinking Women.

On this side of the Atlantic we have been complimenting ourselves for some time upon the sobriety of our women. Even in other countries where drunkenness is more common, it is generally supposed to be greater among men. It is not impossible however, that the condition of affairs may change. Evidence of a startling and deplorable development is to be found in a recent article of the *London Lancet*, a high British medical authority, in which the following strong statements are made. "One of the most painful features of the death rate from intemperance is the increase of alcoholism among women. The death from chronic alcoholism in the year 1897, as compared with the year 1878, in men, show an increase of 82½ per cent., those of females, 145½ per cent., and the deaths from cirrhosis in men, an increase of 12 per cent., and those from cirrhosis in females, of 26 per cent. The amount of disease which the consumption of spirit causes is beyond calculation. Statesmen may create for themselves theories that extenuate a national vice which yields the Exchequer so many millions sterling, but speaking from a medical point of view, we must point out that it is disgraceful and disastrous."

New Zealand News.

At the elections held in New Zealand on December 6th, a vote was taken upon the question of local prohibition. To each elector was given a ballot paper on which were printed the following statements.

I vote for licenses to remain as they are.

I vote for reduction.

I vote for no licenses.

Each elector is asked to strike out one or two of these statements and what remains is his opinion on the question. If a majority of the ballots cast is in favor of reduction, the existing number of licenses is reduced in a certain proportion. If three-fifths of the votes polled are in favor of no license, prohibition prevails in that district. Thus an elector may vote for both reduction and prohibition if he chooses so to do, and his reduction vote would count for reduction if prohibition failed to obtain the necessary three-fifths. It will be seen that prohibitionists are at a disadvantage in this voting, being required to poll a larger majority than their opponents before they can succeed.

Although the result has not been much gain in the extension of prohibition territory, the increase of the vote polled for prohibition, is remarkable. The total figures for the last three votings are as follows:—

	For Prohibition.	Against Prohibition.
1894	58,000	100,000
1896	98,000	139,000
1899	122,000	142,000

The prohibitionists are gaining steadily and must ultimately win.

Women vote in New Zealand.

A GREAT OFFER.

READ CAREFULLY

You need this paper. You will need it more and more as the prohibition fight gets hotter, and the 100,000 voters begin to get in their work. Read carefully what is said about it in column headed "Important" on page 4.

Although the price of the **CAMP FIRE**—**Twenty-five cents** per year—is very low, we have decided to make a special offer of premiums for subscriptions received during the months of February and March of the present year.

We have secured a line of interesting and attractive books which we propose to present to both old and new subscribers on the plan below set out. Those who are already on our list and send money to take advantage of this offer, may either have another paper sent them, or have their present subscription extended one year.

Each of the books named is among the very best of its class, the matter being selected with much care. Each contains 64 large double-column pages and is neatly bound in attractive paper covers. We will send a copy of any one of these books by itself on receipt of ten cents.

A DOUBLE PREMIUM.

For **Twenty-five cents** we will send **THE CAMP FIRE** for one year and any two books selected from the list.

THE WHOLE SET.

For **Fifty cents** we will send **THE CAMP FIRE** for one year and all six books.

A CLUB PLAN.

For **One Dollar** sent by any person for himself and three others, we will mail as above to each of the other three persons **THE CAMP FIRE** for a year and any two selected books, and will also mail to the sender of the money, **THE CAMP FIRE** for a year and **all six** of the books.

LIST OF PREMIUMS.

1. The Model Book of Dialogues.

A large and valuable collection of dialogues, dramatic and comic, suitable for public and private entertainments.

2. Famous Dialect Recitations.

A compendium of the most popular recitations in American, negro, German and other dialects. The cream of fifty of the ordinary recitation books. One of the best collections published.

3. Modern Entertainments.

A description of numerous forms of entertainment for evening companies, which have proved very successful everywhere, meeting the views of those who want to provide for evening parties without cards or dancing.

4. Fifteen Complete Novelettes.

A collection in one book of Novelettes by fifteen of the most famous authors of Europe and America. Extremely interesting in manner and diversified in style.

5. Famous Comic Recitations.

An entirely new book containing 110 of the best humorous recitations, as presented by the most famous elocutionists of the day.

6. A Cart Load of Fun. A lively book just published, containing 166 funny stories, anecdotes and jokes, by the most famous humorists of the age. A sure cure for the blues.

NOTE CAREFULLY.

This offer stands good only a short time. Those who are wise will avail themselves of it at once. Address,

THE CAMP FIRE,

52 Confederation Life Bldg, Toronto.

BURNING WORDS.

Had I 10,000,000 tongues, and a throat for each tongue, I would say to every man, woman and child here to-night, "Throw strong drink aside as you would an ounce of liquid hell; it scurs the conscience, it destroys everything it touches. It reaches into the family circle and takes the wife you had sworn to protect and drags her down from her purity into that home from which no decent woman ever goes alive. It induces the father to take the furniture from his home, exchange it for money at the pawnshop, and spend the proceeds in rum. It damns everything it touches. I have seen it in every city east of the Mississippi River, and I know that the most damning curse to the laborer is that which gurgles from the neck of the bottle. I had rather be at the head of an organization having 100,000 temperate, honest, earnest men, than at the head of an organization of 12,000,000 drinkers, whether moderate or any other kind. Every cent spent in the rum shop furnishes a paving-stone for hell. *Hon. P. V. Powderly.*

LORD CHESTERFIELD ON THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

"The noble lord has been pleased kindly to inform us that the trade of distilling is very extensive, that it employs great numbers, and that they have arrived at exquisite skill, and therefore, he says, the trade of distilling is not to be discouraged.

"It appears to me that since the spirit which the distillers produce is allowed to enfeeble the limbs, vitiate the blood, pervert the heart, and obscure the intellect, the number of distillers should be no argument in their favor, for I never heard that a law against theft was repealed or delayed because thieves were numerous.

"So little, my lords, am I affected by the merit of that wonderful skill which distillers are said to have attained, that it is, in my opinion, no faculty of great use to mankind to prepare palatable poison, nor shall I ever contribute my interest for the reprieve of a murderer because he has, by long practice, obtained dexterity in his trade. If their liquors are so delicious that the people are tempted to their own destruction, let us, at least, secure them from their fatal drought by bursting the vial that contain them. Let us crush at once these artists in human slaughter, who have reconciled their countrymen to sickness and ruin, and spread over the pitfalls of debauchery such a bait as cannot be resisted."—*Lord Chesterfield, in House of Lords, A.D., 1749.*

A Good Work.

In Great Britain the Sons of Temperance is a beneficiary organization. Last year important gains were made increasing the membership to 42,775. The Order paid over \$125,000 for sick benefits, \$18,000 for accident claims, and \$23,000 for funeral claims. It is rapidly growing in magnitude and financial strength.