

The Camp Fire.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF
THE PROHIBITION CAUSE.

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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, FEBRUARY, 1898

IMPORTANT.

Read this paper carefully. Then subscribe for it. You will need it in the coming plebiscite campaign. It will supply workers with facts and arguments they need. It will be the best kind of literature to circulate. It will make votes for prohibition. Kindly help us to get it into every corner of the country.

Read our offer headed CAMPAIGN EQUIPMENT

A WARNING.

The Dominion Parliament will open in a few days. It is anticipated that a Bill providing for the taking of a prohibition plebiscite will be introduced at a very early date.

Friends of prohibition will act wisely in watching for and carefully studying this bill. It is to be hoped that in it the direct question of prohibition will not be complicated with any other issue. The liquor men are specially anxious to have some such proposition as direct taxation put into the question to be submitted. Should this or any similar suggestion be presented in Parliament, we must promptly and vigorously protest.

The present Government has been placed in power with the distinct understanding that the opinion of the people on prohibition would be taken at an early date. In the minds of the electors there was a clear idea of what "a plebiscite" meant. The legislatures of different provinces had already taken votes on the question of prohibition. The questions submitted in the different cases were similar. The electorate took it for granted that the Dominion Parliament would submit the prohibition question as it had been submitted in the provinces.

Moreover, there is no danger of the public failing to consider, before voting, all the possibilities and probabilities of the situation. They will hear fully discussed the questions of revenue, enforcement, compensation and all other considerations which are urged as arguments against prohibition. These statements will be met by those who advocate the change. Before voters go to the polls they will have laid before them the strong arguments for and against prohibition from every standpoint. The injustice of putting any of these arguments in the official submission of the question is forcibly set out by the Toronto *Daily Globe* in the following terms:

"The safest and fairest way is to allow the people to vote squarely on prohibition and nothing else, leaving advocates and opponents of the measure to make out their case elsewhere. It is hardly fair that after both sides have done their best, and the voter goes into the booth to mark his ballot, he shall be confronted with an argument on one side of the case, printed on the ballot paper, and thereby vested with a sort of official sanction."

Read our offer headed CAMPAIGN EQUIPMENT

THE GRANT LETTERS.

Principal Grant's assault on prohibition has called forth many thoughtful and forcible replies, and has thus, no doubt, indirectly helped the cause of prohibition, securing the attention of the public to a controversy in which the arguments which he advanced have been utterly demolished.

Some of the most effective exposures of Principal Grant's unfair methods have been made by Mr. W. H. Orr, Treasurer of the Dominion Alliance, in a series of letters to the Toronto *Evening Star*.

Principal Grant had given figures intended to show that the State of Maine contained vastly more persons who were blind, deaf and dumb, and idiotic than did the Province of Ontario. He argued that prohibition in Maine had driven people to the consumption of obnoxious drugs, from which consumption these deformities resulted.

Mr. Orr has called attention to the fact that Principal Grant quotes for the State of Maine the census figures giving the whole of the idiotic, blind and deaf and dumb population, while for the Province of Ontario he only takes the figures of idiots in the Orillia Asylum, deaf and dumb persons in the Belleville School, and blind persons in the school for the blind of Brantford.

If the reverend gentleman imagines that all the people of Ontario who are afflicted in the manner mentioned are to be found in the institutions named, then he must be so obtuse and ill-informed as to make his opinions absolutely valueless. If he knew that he was really misleading the people by making the unjust comparisons given in his letter, then his conduct is absolutely inexcusable.

He must accept either one position or the other, and no matter how he explains the misrepresentation, of which he has been shown to be guilty, he utterly discredits his own reliability.

Mr. Orr's forcible letters are well worth preserving and will be found of much interest and value in the coming contest.

EXTENT OF THE DRINK TRAFFIC.

A Blue Book on the drink traffic of the world has just been issued by the British Board of Trade, containing tables compiled from fiscal statistics issued from the Governments of European and American countries.

France stands first on the list of wine producing and consuming countries. Bavaria leads in beer-drinking, the consumption being about fifty gallons per head. Germany consumes more spirits than any other of the great nations. The quantities per head in gallons of liquors consumed in four leading countries are as follows:—

	Wine.	Beer.	Spirits.
United Kingdom	0.40	30.7	1.01
France	20.50	5.2	1.85
Germany	1.06	25.5	1.94
United States	0.22	12.7	0.83

The figures are for the year 1896. It must be borne in mind that the consumption in beer in the United States is increasing with great rapidity. The total amount consumed by the four

countries already named in the above order, are as follows:—

Wine.	Beer.	Spirits.
15,776,000	1,211,529,000	40,076,000
1,137,224,000	199,122,000	70,181,000
55,198,000	1,333,090,000	100,780,000
15,578,000	900,161,000	59,186,000

It is estimated that in the United States the government derives about thirty per cent of its revenue from the liquor traffic, in Germany nineteen per cent, and in the United Kingdom thirty-five per cent.

A CALL TO ARMS.

In an article dealing with the approaching plebiscite, "Forward" the official paper of the Nova Scotia Sons of Temperance gives the following timely advice to prohibition workers:

We must have a majority so large that although politicians are credited with nerve for almost anything, no politician will be found in the whole of Canada who will have nerve enough to stand up in his place in parliament and vote against Prohibition. No trouble to get this majority if the temperance and Christian people of the land will do their duty. Where would the opposition to the prohibition of the liquor traffic be if this duty was done? Simply nowhere, and this in the face of our boasted civilization.

Let the Christian people of this land then rise in their might and not allow it to be said that they allowed this opportunity of striking for God and home and native land to pass without doing all in their power to stamp out the greatest curse that God's people stand face to face with to-day. And you temperance people who have for years and years been struggling with this mighty foe of mankind, see to it that you do your duty. The eyes of Canada and the world are upon you.

Read our offer headed CAMPAIGN EQUIPMENT

NEW ZEALAND'S DRINK BILL.

Rev. Edward Walker, of New Zealand, has made a careful computation of the amount of intoxicating liquor consumed in that colony for different years, and gives the following as the total. The fiscal year for the colony ends with March 31st.

Year	Gallons liquor consumed.	Cost to consumers.
1896	5,740,482	£2,120,119
1897	6,241,432	£2,265,900

The total population for the colony for the year ending March 31st, 1896-7 was 743,214, for the last year 757,563.

It will be noticed that the consumption for 1897 is about eight and one-quarter gallons per head, and the cost to the people over \$14.00 per head.

THE GRANT-LUCAS DEBATE.

A discussion on the question of prohibition was held in Kingston on the evenings of January 27th and 28th, between Rev. Principal Grant, of Queen's University, and Rev. Dr. Lucas. The question urged was whether or not "A law passed by Parliament prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, would promote temperance and public and private morality."

The discussion was opened by Rev. Dr. Lucas who urged in favor of the rightness and effectiveness of prohibition, giving illustrations of its success.

In reply, Dr. Grant argued that prohibition promoted perjury and hypocrisy. He charged prohibitionists with denouncing those who could not agree with them. While in favor of temperance, and believing in total abstinence, he did not think the sale of liquor was a sin. Men of British breed would kick against restrictions on their personal liberty, and prohibition would therefore encourage drinking. Prohibition has failed in the Scott Act and would increase drunkenness, put the liquor traffic into bad hands, increase illicit sale, encourage contempt for law, bribery, etc. He trusted more in the gospel than in the policeman.

On the second evening Principal Grant spoke first, dwelling at length on a comparison of the arrests in the

city of Fredericton under the Scott Act and the city of Berlin under license. Fredericton having a worse police record for drunks. He claimed that public opinion was opposed to the Fredericton law as shown by the lenient treatment of offenders while in jail. Prohibition would interfere with the revenue and prevent desirable emigration. He thought the right method of promoting morality was to lead men to resist temptation not to endeavor to abolish the temptation.

Dr. Lucas claimed that the Fredericton jail story was exaggerated. In reply to the argument about perjury he stated that we must not fail to do right because of unpleasant consequences. Perjury was committed in efforts to evade many laws. He quoted from different authorities to show that prohibition was effective in Maine and Kansas. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian church and other religious bodies endorsed the proposed measure. He presented much forcible evidence of the benefits conferred by partial prohibition and argued that national prohibition would be still more effective.

CAMPAIGN LITERATURE.

TORONTO, 1897.

DEAR FRIEND,—

You are respectfully requested to carefully examine **The Camp Fire**, a neat four-page monthly Prohibition paper, full of bright, pointed, convenient facts and arguments; containing also a valuable summary of the latest news about our cause. It is just what is needed in the plebiscite campaign to inspire workers and make votes.

The contest upon which we are entering, will be largely a literature campaign. Printed matter tells. It does its work continuously, silently, fearlessly and well. No form of literature is so generally read and so potential as the up-to-date periodical. It comes with the force and interest of newness and life. For this reason the form of a monthly journal has been selected.

This journal will be in every respect reliable and readable. Every article will be short, good and forcible, containing nothing sectional, sectarian or partizan. The literature of the old world and the new world will be ransacked for the most helpful and effective material. The price is very low.

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It will ply him with facts, arguments and appeals, that will influence, instruct and benefit him. It will set him thinking. This is half the battle. Its wide circulation will swell the victory that we are about to win. This is its object.

Your help is asked in this great work. Every society should subscribe for and distribute hundreds of copies. This is the easiest and surest plan of making prohibition votes. Look at the terms:

Twenty copies will be sent to any one address every month for six months, for ONE DOLLAR, payable in advance.

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