

# THE CAMP FIRE.

A Monthly Record and Advocate of the Temperance Reform.

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## ITEMS OF INTEREST.

### ABOUT OTHER WORK AND WORKERS.

#### THE CALL TO DUTY.

Under the above heading J. M. Walton, G.W.P. of the Sons of Temperance of Ontario has issued a ringing call to members of his Order to prepare for political action in view of the approaching Provincial election.

After quoting the strong declaration made by the Dominion Alliance at its mid-summer session regarding the duty of securing the nomination and election of prohibitionists, he goes on to say:

"We ask immediate attention to political affairs. See that the candidate or party selected to contest your constituency is sound on this great question. Our need is men who will promote our cause by legislation and by enforcement of law. Mortality and religion must not be subverted in politics. Every elector who is on the side of right must stand true and insist on his principles. Zeal, vigilance, and ceaseless activity are absolutely necessary to success."

An earnest appeal is also made for support of the Scott Act and local option by-laws and for action to secure the reduction of licenses in every locality in which such action has any prospect of success.

#### THE TRAIL OF THE SERPENT.

The month of August has been like the months that went before it, prolific in fearful results of the liquor traffic. The Toronto investigation into the great John Eaton fire, showed that the watchman the night of the disaster, had been furnished with a bottle of whiskey. Many fearful fatalities might be mentioned, among them the death of a Toronto man murdered by an angry bar-keeper in Chicago, the death by delirium tremens of a Russian at Milwaukee, the wholesale poisoning of a number of Indians by a mixture of whiskey and coal oil at Sitka, and a terrible drunken riot at a picnic near Kendall, Ark. in which one man was killed and another seriously wounded and a result of which was the lynching of six of the rioters. Still in Canada, the United States and other civilized communities the cause of these evils has the protection of the law.

#### THE W.C.T.U.

Preparations for the Dominion Woman's Christian Temperance Union Convention and the World's Bi-ennial W.C.T.U. Session, both to be held next month in the City of Toronto, are in a forward condition. An energetic local committee is superintending details, laying and working out plans with an energy that must preclude anything but success. In this work valuable help is being given by the *Templar* of Hamilton, which is publishing from week to week, interesting biographical sketches of the leaders who will take part in the conventions, announcements of the various officers, and full reports of the doings of the different committees. The City of Toronto Council is in hearty sympathy with the work of making the occasion one of unusual interest and has shown its practical sympathy with the efforts in this direction of the local white-ribboners.

#### NOVA SCOTIA SONS.

The third quarterly session of Nova Scotia Grand Division S. of T. held at Westport on August 3rd and 4th, is reported as being unusually enjoyable and interesting. The Committee on State of the Order reported that the results of extension work had been very successful. Strongly worded resolutions were adopted calling for energetic support of the prohibition bill to be introduced at next session of the Legislature and impressing upon members the importance of the approaching Plebiscite campaign.

#### MARITIME ROYAL TEMPLARS.

The Grand Council of the Maritime Province R. T. of T. held its 10th annual session at Gibson, N.B. on August 11th and 12th. The Grand Secretary reported finances in very good condition, but the membership is showing a slight decrease. The report of the Committee on Political Action strongly recommended independent action on the part of voters. A big platform meeting was held on the evening of the first day, addressed by a number of prominent workers. The principal officers elected for the coming year are: G. C., J. G. Simpson, Centreville; G. V. C., H. C. Creed, Fredericton; G. Sec., W. L. McFarlane, ashwaüksis.

#### PERMITTED LAW BREAKING.

Some time ago Sir Wilfrid Lawson called attention in the Imperial House of Commons to the fact that the liquor sold in the Parliament Buildings was sold contrary to law. The Attorney-General acknowledged that this was the case. Just before the prorogation of Parliament a bill to legalize this liquor selling was introduced into the House of Commons. It could only be pushed through without discussion by general consent. Sir Wilfrid refused to allow this to be done and accordingly the measure was laid over. The illegal sale of liquor still goes on and the Attorney-General refuses to suppress it.

#### S. OF T. IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The National Division of Sons of Temperance for Great Britain and Ireland, reports an encouraging increase in membership during the past year. There are now 514 Subordinate Divisions in operation with a membership of 37,619. The Juvenile department reports 362 sections with 16,300 members. The total membership gain in both departments during the year, has been 4,131.

#### A GREAT YEAR'S WORK.

The National Temperance Society of the United States reports receipts for literature sold during the past year of \$19,849. The total number of pages printed during the year is given as 18,026,350, making a total since the organization of the society of 982,071, 932 pages. Who can estimate the good done by this great agency?

#### SCOTLAND.

The *Good Templar* of Glasgow, Scotland, has come to hand with an extensive and interesting report of the 28th annual session of the Scotch Grand Lodge which was held recently at Stirling. A feature of the occasion was an out-door gathering at which 10,000 people were present and a great procession in which 6,000 Good Templars took part. At the head of this procession were five lodges each of which has a membership of over 200.

The Grand Secretary's Report showed a total membership of 73,453 adults and juveniles, being an increase of 5,408 during the past twelve months. The number of Subordinate Lodges now working is 800 and the number of Juvenile Temples 408.

#### AWAY BEHIND.

A striking evidence of the difference between the temperance sentiment of

Canada and Great Britain is shown in the reports published in English papers of the proceedings of the Wesleyan Conference recently held at Leeds. A memorial was presented to that body praying for legislation debaring manufacturers of intoxicating liquor from holding official positions in churches. The Conference refused to endorse the proposal.

#### THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY ON DRINK TEMPTATIONS.

His Grace the Archbishop, when presiding at a Temperance Congress as Bishop of London, some years ago, made the following observations in the course of his opening address:

"We desire legislation for one main purpose—viz, the removal of temptation. We do not desire to coerce people to join us. We have not the smallest desire to coerce people either to moderate or to be total abstainers, but we do very earnestly desire to remove temptation as far as we possibly can out of the path of a very large number who now are showing that they have not the strength to resist it if they meet with it. What we find spoiling almost all our efforts that are made by all the preachers of temperance, by the ministers of the Gospel, by the most devoted and fervent servants of Christ in this work—what we find the great obstacle and hindrance to all their work is that, go where you will, they are surrounded, they are beset, they are *haunted by temptation*. A man cannot take a walk from his house towards the country in any of our great towns without passing temptation again and again; and if he has any weakness in the direction of self-indulgence, the temptation which he might resist, if it were once or twice, becomes irresistible when it is so frequently repeated. We desire, if we can, to set all men free from this haunting, this perpetually besetting tyranny of the presence of temptation at every turn. That is the great aim we have before us in regard to all legislation. It is, of course, very commonly said that our aim is to interfere with liberty; but this is not so. What we desire is that, if possible, weak men may be upheld, for they are, as things now stand, positively compelled to face temptations that have proved in so many thousands of instances too great for their strength." —*League Journal*.

#### PROHIBITION IN KANSAS.

A paragraph has been going the round of the press to the effect that for the first time in sixteen years a public-house has been publicly opened in the State of Kansas, which had been running since May, 1881, on prohibition lines. This was said to forebode the end of prohibition in the State. Even the *Church of England Temperance Chronicle* reproduced the item without one word of suggestion that it might be required to be confirmed or modified before being believed. Agents of the liquor traffic are proverbially mendacious as regards their calling. A few persons opened a saloon in the principal streets of Topeka, which is the capital of Kansas. But with what result? Hear what Judge Welsh, of Topeka, has to say about the matter: "I wish you could have seen the people when they heard of it. A dozen mad dogs turned loose could not have created greater excitement. A great mass meeting was at once held, and the public officials were asked to do their duty or step down and out. The proprietor and bar-tender were in goal in twenty-four hours. Other arrests followed, and to-day there is not even one 'Joint' in our city." The people soon made short work of the action of what are called "Jointists." The Judge adds—"All the talk of prohibition or its enforcement being abandoned

in Kansas is false. Kansas is a sober State, and she will never again tolerate the saloon." —*Western Temperance Herald*.

#### LATEST NEWS.

The quarterly meeting of Wentworth and Lincoln Lodges, I.O.G.T., was held in the Workmen's hall on Saturday afternoon and evening. Every lodge in the District was represented, and the reports of the various delegates were most encouraging. Prominent among the visitors present were Mrs. S. A. Mitchell, P.G.V.T.; Mrs. Dr. Millward, P.D.V.T.; A. Newell, P.G.M., and A. Bouslaugh, P.D.G.C.T. During the coming quarter the D.C.T. and D.C. will visit every lodge in the jurisdiction, and the indications are that there will be a revival of Good Templary in the District during the ensuing term. A. Murray, of Costa Rica, an old and valued member of International Lodge, was present at the evening session and gave a short address. A letter of regret at not being able to attend was read from G. Spence, G.C.T., of Toronto, and considerable disappointment was felt at the absence of the chief executive officer. The next meeting of the District Lodge will be held at Hamilton on Saturday, November 20.

The Grand Superintendent of Juvenile Temples, Bro. F. S. Morison, paid a visit to the city last week and called on the G.S. and G.C.T. Some important juvenile topics were discussed, and arrangements were made for increasing the territory of District No. 16.

#### SMOKING.

##### *Dialogue for Two Boys.*

ALFRED.

Johnny, why don't you learn to smoke? You're such a funny, sad old poke! The boys all round our house, they say They're going to learn to smoke to-day.

JOHN.

I'd like to see them, then, to-night. I guess they'll all look like a fright; Pale-faced, red-eyed, and stomachs sick, They'll find it's but a sorry trick.

ALFRED.

Oh, yes! but when they've learned it well, They each can then cut such a swell, And be so manly; don't you see? It's just as fine as it can be.

JOHN.

And next they'll learn to swear and chew; Those are the things that some men do, And is it manly, do you think, To smoke and chew and swear and drink?

ALFRED.

A man can smoke and leave the rest; A man can do what he thinks best; He's not obliged to do the whole— A man should have some self-control,

JOHN.

Yes, that is true, and so I think, If one would never learn to drink, He'd better never learn to smoke, Though he be called a "sad old poke,"

I want my body and my brain Should be kept pure and free from stain; I want my money to buy books; I want to keep my own good looks.

Yes, you my laugh, but never mind, I don't mean to be left behind By any really manly man; I'm bound to do the best I can.

ALFRED.

I guess you're right, and here's my hand; Johnny, with you, I'll take my stand; I'll try to be a manly man, And do, like you the best I can. *Elizabeth T. Larkin in The Banner.*