

# 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, SEPTEMBER, 1895.

## GETTING READY.

The Christian reformers of Canada have nailed the flag of prohibition to their mast. They will keep up the present fight until they win. Legal sanction and encouragement of the liquor curse will be ended.

In this warfare the result we seek to obtain is the embodiment in practical legislation of the right sentiment of the community towards the liquor traffic. It must not be forgotten that the sentiment must precede the legislation.

We are prone to criticize politicians who fail to take high ground on this question. We are right. Let it be remembered, however, that politicians who would take such ground in advance of public opinion would soon find themselves out of practical politics.

There devolves upon us the two-fold duty of demanding from legislators a recognition of public opinion, and the bringing of public opinion up to the point of consistently and practically demanding what is right.

It is discouraging, but it is nevertheless true, that we have not as yet reached the point at which a majority of our electorate are prepared to sink party prejudice and sacrifice other considerations in an effort to secure the election of political representatives who will recognise prohibition as the principal public question of the day, and demand that it be recognized as such.

There is still to be done a great deal of education of public sentiment. Of course one of the important methods of educating public opinion is the pressing upon public men their duty towards Prohibition and insisting upon their honest action. This is, however, only one of the methods. Pulpit, platform, press and every other agency, must be enlisted in more earnest effort to spread the principles and practice of total abstinence, and the knowledge of the nature of the liquor traffic, as well as to quicken public conscience and stir men and women to more zeal for what is right.

## THE NEED FOR ORGANIZATION.

Everyone will admit that a weakness of our cause is a lack of organization and cohesion.

That part of the voting power of the community which is actuated by right motives and full appreciation of the prohibition question is not combined so as to make it effective.

The liquor traffickers, the men who

are anxious to keep the business going, are numerically few compared with the prohibitionists, those who are anxious to see it exterminated.

Between these two parties there lies the great mass of the people, comparatively indifferent, with varying degrees of inclination in one direction or the other. They can be moved either way and they it is who must decide the question.

With this great balance-of-power part of the community, the liquor traffic has more influence, power and success than have the prohibitionists. Why?

Simply because the liquor traffic is better organized, more thoroughly in earnest and more ready to liberally support its own side of the question.

The traffic does this selfishly for the sake of making gain. The work of the prohibitionists is done unselfishly, often at considerable cost and discomfort.

It may not be easy for us to raise more money, or act with more zeal, but it will not be hard for us to keep closer together, to become wisely united, to go into the fight much better off from the standpoint of organization.

## ORGANIZATION METHODS.

We have too many societies. Knights and leagues and circles and unions and lodges crowd upon us to bewilderment. Shall we add one more to the great array, in the form of a prohibition club?

Not if by a prohibition club is meant another society with regular weekly meetings and continuous demands upon the time and attention of those who have already more work than they can perform.

It is not in this way that political organization is accomplished. In our prohibition work we will act wisely in learning from the methods which politicians have found successful, as long as we sacrifice no principle in so doing.

How are the political parties of this country at present organized? In every locality there is a skeleton organization, a party association, with meetings once a year, or once in six months, or as may be thought necessary, when no immediate contest is on. It has its officers, its name, its constitution. It is the nucleus round which the forces centre when the time for action has arrived.

This is the kind of prohibition club we ought to have in every city, town, village or other centre in the Dominion.

The organization of such a union of workers may be attained easily and inexpensively. Half a dozen workers may unite in calling a meeting at which may be adopted a simple form of constitution, at which members may be enrolled, officers elected, and thus an agency established which will be ready for work when the working time comes.

In addition to these local clubs there must be, of course, a union of workers in a more comprehensive organization for each electoral district. This organization must also have its officers. It will call conventions, formulate plans, question candidates, initiate action and rely upon the rank and file, the clubs and societies and churches, for active work.

We give in another column a simple form of constitution for a prohibition club, one that has been found sufficient in many cases, and which may be modified or altered so as to suit any locality or judgment.

The form of organization is not nearly so important as the fact. Earnestly we appeal to our friends to get ready at once for the coming campaign.

## THE MONTREAL PLATFORM.

The basis upon which prohibitionists have united to co-operate in electoral action was set out in a clearly worded report adopted by the great National Convention held in Montreal, July, 1891. This declaration is generally spoken of as the Montreal Platform. It is a statement of the course which the convention decided it would be wisest at present for prohibitionists to pursue. Friends of our cause are respectfully requested to study and act upon it as far as in their power. The principal resolutions of the report named, are the following:—

That this convention believes that prohibitionists ought to firmly stand by the position that in political matters they will support only known, avowed and reliable prohibitionists.

That to aid in securing the nomination and election of such candidates, our friends everywhere are urged to organize prohibition clubs, which will take advantage of every opportunity to plan and work for the carrying out of the objects above set out.

That it is recommended that in order to secure the nomination of prohibition candidates, our friends take a more active part in political organization, so as to secure the nomination, by all parties, of men who can be depended upon to support our cause, giving it to be understood distinctly that any other candidates will have our active opposition. That no candidate for Dominion Parliament or Local Legislature receive our support who will not publicly pledge himself to work in the interest of prohibition at every opportunity, regardless of fealty to his political party.

That where such prohibition candidates cannot be nominated by any political party, our friends nominate independent candidates, and make special efforts to secure their election.

## THE TEST.

It is somewhat difficult to put in precise terms the kind of declaration which should be required of political candidates before they can be considered acceptable to prohibitionists. It is easier to set out general principles than to specify details. In each locality the earnest friends of the cause will be themselves the best judges of what is necessary and desirable.

The Montreal platform describes the candidate who has a direct claim upon the suffrages of prohibitionists. He is to be reliable, outspoken, and more anxious to secure the triumph of prohibition than even to gain advantage for his political party.

It would not be reasonable to expect representatives, under any circumstances to take any action which would be a breach of faith towards their constituents. Such a course on the part of a member of parliament would not be honorable, nor even honest. We therefore seek the election of men who go to parliament with the understanding that they propose giving to this great reform a prominent position and a hearty support.

We need men then who are avowed prohibitionists; who have publicly declared their purpose to support the cause. Even this is not sufficient. Sometimes, let us hope rarely, election promises are not seriously meant. The Montreal platform calls upon us to support candidates "who can be depended upon."

In short, the candidate who fully meets our wishes is the reliable, outspoken prohibitionist, who will stand by the cause even if his party associates disapprove of his course.

Keeping this idea in mind our local workers should endeavor to make their influence strongly felt in the selection as well as in the support of political candidates who will be true to our cause. We must be prepared to make the party sacrifices in their support that we ask them to make if they are elected.

## SUGGESTED CONSTITUTION FOR PROHIBITION CLUBS.

### 1. NAME.

This organization shall be known as the ..... Prohibition Club.

### 2. OBJECTS.

The object of the Club shall be to call forth and direct an enlightened public opinion to procure the total suppression of the traffic in intoxicating beverages.

### 3. METHODS.

With this object in view the Club shall work for the adoption and enforcement of all available prohibitions and limitations of the liquor traffic and the election to all legislative and executive positions of representatives who are known, avowed and reliable supporters of the principles and methods of the Club.

### 4. MEMBERSHIP.

Persons of good moral character who reside or vote in the municipality shall be eligible for membership.

Persons desiring to join the club may be proposed at any regular meeting, and a two-third vote will be necessary to elect them. They shall then become members on signing the following:

### Declaration.

We, the undersigned, approve of the principles, platform and methods of the ..... Prohibition Club, and agree to work together in promotion of the same in accordance with the constitution of the said Club.

### 5. FEES.

The membership fee shall be ..... per year, payable in advance.

### 6. OFFICERS.

The officers of this Society shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. They shall be elected yearly at the annual meeting, and shall hold office for one year, and until their successors are elected.

### 7. COMMITTEES.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers named and other persons elected at the same time. This committee shall meet at the call of the President and Secretary.

A Finance Committee shall also be appointed to audit accounts and generally supervise the financial affairs of the Club.

Other standing or special committees may be appointed from time to time as the Club may deem necessary or advisable.

### 8. MEETINGS.

The annual meeting of the Club will be held on the first ..... of the month of ..... Other meetings will be held at the call of the Executive Committee. ..... members shall form a quorum for the transaction of business.

If at the annual meeting of the Club there are not present sufficient members to form a quorum, then the next meeting at which there are present enough members to form a quorum shall be considered the annual meeting.

### 9. BY-LAWS.

This Club may enact any By laws or adopt any order of business deemed necessary for the carrying out of its objects or the transaction of its business.

### 10. AMENDMENTS.

These rules shall be amended only by a two-third vote of the members present at a regularly called meeting of the Society.

## HE KNEW THE RITUAL.

The late Bishop Doane of New Jersey was strongly opposed to temperance, and his sideboard was lined with brandy, wine, etc. On one occasion Rev. Mr. Perkins, of the Sons of Temperance, dined with the bishop, who, pouring out a glass of wine, desired him to drink with him.

"Can't do it, bishop. 'Wine is a mocker'"

"Take a glass of brandy, then."

"No. 'Strong drink is raging.'"

By this time the bishop, becoming excited, remarked to Mr. Perkins, "You'll pass the decanter to the gentleman next to you?"

"No, bishop, I can't do that. 'Woe unto him that putteth the bottle to his neighbor's lips.'"—*Prohibitionist.*