

THE CAMP FIRE.

A Monthly Record and Advocate of The Temperance Reform.

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Please read this paper carefully, and get your children and friends to read it also.

GENERAL NEWS

OF THE PROHIBITION REFORM.

CANADIAN.

Royal Templars have announced camp-meeting to be held during the coming summer at the city of Hamilton.

Prohibitionists in the Maritime Provinces are in many places pledging political candidates to the principle of prohibition.

The report of the Royal Commission has been completed and forwarded to the Government at Ottawa. The conclusions of the report have not however, been made public.

Rev. J. H. Hector, the black knight, has been addressing large and enthusiastic meetings in the Province of Quebec. He has a number of engagements in Ontario during the present and coming months.

A joint committee of prohibitionists and Patrons of Oxford, had a consultation in reference to candidates for that county. The meeting was harmonious and adjourned to May 11th, to complete its work.

The Canadian Temperance League closed their series of Pavilion meetings in Toronto, on April 14th. The large building was crowded. The officers presented interesting reports of the winter's work.

Mrs. James Crane, widow of the farmer who was drowned at Hespler in December last, while intoxicated, has secured a verdict for \$900 damages against the liquor-sellers who sold her husband drink before his death.

Prohibition conventions are being held in the different constituencies of Manitoba. The temperance people in many places are endorsing the Patron candidates, the Patrons having declared in favor of prohibition.

The Toronto Temperance Reformation Society is commencing a series of summer Sunday afternoon Gospel temperance meetings in the Pavilion. It opens on April 21st with a great mass meeting to be addressed by the noted evangelists, Messrs. Crossley and Hunter, and the black knight, Rev. J. H. Hector.

An interesting meeting was held recently in the Toronto Temperance Hall, to which representatives of all temperance and church organizations had been invited. A prohibitory union was formed to assist in making the prohibition question a factor in Toronto politics.

Mrs. J. K. Barney, of Rhode Island, one of the most effective of American prohibition workers, who has also been warmly received in Great Britain, is now visiting Canada. She has held a series of meetings with much success, under the auspices of Montreal W.C.T.U. workers.

The liquor traffic is making a strong effort to get a foot-hold upon the island in the bay at Toronto, application being made for a license to take effect thereon. Prohibitionists are resisting this proposition, which would largely interfere with the safety and comfort of the island as a pleasure resort.

A WORKER GONE.

The March number of the Ottawa Woman's Journal contained a stirring appeal from the Dominion W.C.T.U. President, Mrs. Ella F. M. Williams, urging White Ribbon workers to more earnestness in their efforts to promote the different reforms endorsed by the W.C.T.U. organization. Hardly had the appeal reached those for whom it was intended till the sad news was heard of the death of the writer.

Williams was widely known and devoted as one of the most able and devoted laborers in the temperance ranks. Her death leaves a sad vacancy

A DISGRACEFUL PROPOSAL.

The *Orillia Times* is making a laudable fight against an application for the granting of a license for the sale of liquor to the Gaudaur Rowing Club of Orillia. The granting of such a license at the present time would be little less than an insult to the growing temperance sentiment of the community. Right thinking people are becoming arrayed against the liquor traffic, the tendencies of legislation is to dissociate that traffic from all places of public recreation. The club is one of the most seductive, dangerous and uncontrollable agencies through which the traffic works. The *Times* publishes a list of those who have signed the petition, and in which are set out the names of a number of church officials of various denominations and even a member of a temperance society.

FOREIGN.

Five distinguished physiologists of Germany, Drs. Bunge, Gaule, Hoffman, Forel, and Fick are total abstainers.

The Catholic Total Abstinence Union sent out during the Lenten season nearly 500,000 Sacred Thirst cards, to encourage the practice of total abstinence during Lent.

Dr. Ballinger, who examined two thousand persons in the hospital at Munich, says he found that eight per cent died of excessive beer-drinking.

Ten years ago the annual consumption of the terrible stimulant absinthe in France was 57,700 hectolitres. Last year it reached a total of 165,000 hectolitres.

Some important political victories have been won in different parts of the United States by union of the prohibitionists with other political organizations.

The fight against Sunday selling in New York goes bravely on, Catholics and Protestants uniting to oppose the attempted outrage.

Two clergymen of New York, Rev. Dr. J. H. Ryland, and Rev. Dr. W. S. Rainsford, are openly advocating the legalization of Sunday liquor-selling.

Over one thousand persons in Kent, Ohio, signed the pledge and put on white button or blue ribbon of the Railroad Temperance Association, during the meetings held by Jennie Smith, national railroad evangelist.

The State of Minnesota has passed a law prohibiting the sale of liquor on or within a mile of the State Fair Grounds. The legislature has also been petitioned to submit a prohibitory constitutional amendment to the people.

Desperate efforts were recently made by the liquor party to secure resubmission of the liquor traffic question to the people in the prohibition states. They were defeated everywhere except in South Dakota where a vote will be taken next November.

The *New York Sun* says that 6,000 of the 7,000 saloons in New York are controlled directly or indirectly by one of the great liquor monopolies, and the saloon keeper is practically subject to the demands of these monopolists.

Fourteen bills relating to the liquor traffic have been introduced into the British House of Commons during the present session.

In several state legislatures in the U. S., measures have been proposed providing for the compulsory treatment with the gold cure, of habitual inebriates, the state paying the expense of the treatment when the inebriate is not able to do so.

A DYING RACE.

The *Western Christian Advocate* says: "The Hawaiian race is dying out rapidly. The missionaries have done much to elevate the natives; but

intoxicating drinks and the accompanying vices bid fair to exterminate the race. The saloons have more power to destroy than the churches have to save."

ANOTHER VICTORY.

A measure intended to weaken the New Hampshire prohibitory law was before the state legislature at its recent session and was defeated by a vote of 202 to 82. The legislature passed an act increasing the penalties for violation of the prohibitory law.

WHAT KILLS THEM!

The report of the N. H. Railroad Commissioners show that 90 per cent. of the deaths caused by railroads last year were due to intoxicating liquors. On ten of the twenty-four persons killed were found bottles of liquor, while many of the others bore marks of drinking and were likely intoxicated at the time of death.

COMMENDABLE CO-OPERATION.

Archbishop Kain of the Roman Catholic diocese of St. Louis, on the occasion of the recent Y. conference in that city, informed the officers of the Queen's Daughters, the local Roman Catholic charitable organization, that it was his earnest request they should accept the invitation to conference and co-operate with the Y. W.C.T.U.

A SORROWFUL WAIL.

The *Wine and Spirit Gazette*, a U. S. liquor organ says: "The stringent law and prohibition are rapidly driving the saloon from Mississippi. A saloon will soon be a rarity if they decrease at the present rate. During 1894 only thirteen counties sold whiskey legally. The revenue tax was \$107,600, a decrease of \$22,800 as against 1893, and in the number of counties a reduction of nearly 50 per cent."

A HUNDRED SERMONS.

Through the efforts of Miss Gorham, national superintendent of the evangelistic work in the British Woman's Association (Lady Henry Somerset, President) one hundred pulpits have already been secured for meetings in connection with the third biennial convention of the world's W.C.T.U., to be held in London, June 14-21. It is expected that no fewer than one hundred White Ribbon women will be present as delegates.

PUNISHING WIFE-BEATERS.

In Germany the problem of how to treat wife-beaters has been solved in a far wiser way than in most other countries, for there the brutal husband must work all through the week then turn over his wages to his wife on pay day and go to jail Saturday night and Sunday; about two weeks of this sort of experience has a most salutary effect on the savage wife-beater.

GOING AHEAD.

North Dakota legislation defeated re-submission and passed a bill defining intoxicating liquors which will assist in enforcing prohibition; passed the bill subjecting any person found intoxicated in the street or any public place to fine or imprisonment; gave county commissioners authority to send habitual drunkards to a reputable gold cure at the county's expense; enacted an anti-cigarette law; raised the age of consent from fourteen to sixteen years; passed a law suppressing obscene literature and pictures and papers devoted to reports and stories of vice and crime.

PROGRESSIVE LEGISLATION.

The legislation of California has enacted an anti-cigarette law; raised the age of consent to eighteen years; prohibited saloons within two and one-half miles of any soldier's home; defeated the uniform license bill; created sanitary districts, putting into the hands of residents therein the power to exclude saloons in San Francisco; prohibited the adulteration of drugs, foods and drink, including the watering of whisky and other liquors, which gives an important leverage against the

saloon; and voted to submit a woman suffrage amendment to the popular vote.

A GOOD MAN GONE.

The prohibition movement in the United States has suffered a heavy loss in the death of W. Jennings Demorest, who died at his home in New York city, on April 9th. Mr. Demorest was one of the most indefatigable and liberal of temperance workers. He was active in the Washingtonian movement, took a prominent part in the Sons of Temperance, and was one of the leaders of the prohibition party. He is entitled to the gratitude of all prohibitionists for the establishment of the Demorest medal contest system, which has been referred to very often in the *CAMP FIRE*. The National Prohibition Bureau for Speakers and Literature was sustained mainly by him, as was also the National Constitutional League, through which he was endeavoring to secure a declaration of the Supreme Court of the United States against the constitutionality of licensing the liquor traffic.

PROHIBITION IN JAPAN.

Mr. J. E. Budgett Meakin writes from Tokio, Japan, to the *Alliance News* an interesting account of a prohibition experiment in the far east. He says:—

"From a pamphlet by a native gentleman in quaint and curious English I have learned the interesting fact that for nearly ten years a little island off this coast called Okushiri has, by common consent of its inhabitants, adopted a strictly prohibitive law against all intoxicating liquors, and that with eminent success. In 1884 its 240 inhabitants (117 of whom were adult males) consumed no less than 880 casks of saki, or rice, wine, at the cost of over 350 dol., but a wise governor having pointed out the waste this meant in an island threatened by famine when the herring fishery, which is their chief support, failed, that year every one of the 117 men signed a contract 'to relinquish the buying and selling of alcoholic liquors altogether.' The contract further provided that any one selling, buying, or using alcohol, should be ostracised and heavily fined, the fines to go for the purchase of rice for the public granary. New comers were only to be admitted on a full understanding of the law in force, and on becoming subject to it, even if on a visit or on official business.

"A new governor having been appointed who was too fond of his bottle, the inhabitants of the island petitioned the authorities to honor him with a more worthy position than the head officeship of so forlorn an island. Tempter and tempted suffer alike, and informers receive one-third of the fine. This contract was to remain in force for five years as an experiment, but at the end of that time the benefits it had brought upon the island were so numerous and so great that it was renewed for another five years, and now the end of this term is drawing near, we hope for it to be renewed indefinitely.

"During the first five years the law having been vigorously enforced, the population had increased five-fold, and the capital invested in fisheries ten-fold, four large public granaries had been filled, and every family had its own besides. They reported that they had enough to provide for their wants, even though not a herring was caught for three or four successive years. Roads have been built, schools increased and improved, and crime and debauchery had notably decreased. A new industry had been established in the cultivation of hemp for their nets, which had previously been imported. Thatched roofs had been exchanged to wooden ones. Their success had been so marked that a large community of colonists on the mainland had adopted a similar constitution, though not enjoying the facilities of maintaining it afforded by the insular position of Okushiri."