

The Camp Fire.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF
THE PROHIBITION CAUSE.

Edited by F. S. SPENCE

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, OCTOBER, 1900

THE ELECTIONS.

The Dominion elections have been announced. Voting will take place on October 31st and polling on November 7th.

The duty of prohibitionists is clear. The action recommended at the Conventions last summer is definite and wise. There can be no advantage to our cause from the support of either party as a party. We can only hope to help our cause by securing the election of members who will support prohibition regardless of mere partisan considerations.

The Conservatives when in power, refused to do anything for prohibition. They sidetracked our appeals by the farcical Royal Commission. They treated us with hostility and contempt.

It was hoped that better things would have come in with the advent of the Liberal party. Although as a party no declaration had been made in favor of prohibition, many Liberal members had been strong prohibitionists while in opposition. Power changed them. After misleading prohibitionists by the Plebiscite, the new Government refused to do anything to carry out the mandate which they had invited. With few exceptions the Liberals who had been strong prohibitionists in opposition, supported the unjust course taken by the Government. The Liberal party has given us no more ground for hope that has the Conservative party.

The situation has been carefully considered in view of these discouraging facts. It is clear that with the vast majority of Members of Parliament the success of the party is more desirable than the success of the prohibition reform. To succeed we must change these conditions. We must secure the election of men of such high principle that prohibition will be put before party or else we must secure such a development and demonstration of public opinion as will make favor for prohibition an essential to the success of a party candidate.

In other words prohibition must be made a dominant political issue. This can only be done under our present party system by the carrying out of the policy declared by last summer's Conventions in the following appeal:—

Friends of the temperance cause are therefore earnestly urged to take a more active part than ever in political affairs, identifying themselves with political organizations, attending political primaries, and conventions, and doing their utmost to secure the nomination and election for the Dominion Parliament of men who can be relied upon to be true to the prohibition cause.

THE METHODIST CHURCH.

The standing committee on temperance, prohibition and moral reform (Ontario section) of the General Conference of the Methodist Church has issued a stirring call to Christian people for energetic action to secure the return of prohibitionists to the Dominion Parliament in the approaching general elections.

This earnest appeal urges the people "to take a deep and fervid interest in the elections and in their results, striving from the beginning and in all consultations and meetings at every step, and in all canvass for votes, and record and returns of the votes, to have men nominated and elected to parliament who will represent the best sentiment of our country on the prohibition of the liquor traffic, and who will be true to the temperance reform."

The appeal goes on to quote the well-known deliverances of the General Conference against the liquor traffic and in favor of the nomination and election of municipal and parliamentary candidates known to favor and support prohibition. It also quotes from and cordially commends the following clauses of the Address recently issued by the Dominion Alliance.

"The prohibition question is of more importance than any of the other political issues of the day, and patriotic citizens are earnestly urged to unite, regardless of mere partisan considerations, to secure the election of those who will stand by the right and by the people, and the defeat of those who have treated this great movement with hostility and contempt.

"Friends of the temperance cause are, therefore, earnestly urged to take a more active part than ever in political affairs, identifying themselves with political organizations, attending political primaries and conventions, and doing their utmost to secure the nomination and election for the Dominion Parliament of men who can be relied upon to be true to the prohibition cause."

PUNISHING THE LIBERALS.

We have the utmost respect for the opinions of those friends of our cause who believe that we would be advantaged by the defeat of the Liberal party as a punishment for that party's treatment of the temperance question.

We cannot however, follow these friends in the course which some of them advocate of uniting to support all Conservative candidates and defeat all Liberal candidates, because we see no prospect of securing any advantage to our cause from such a policy.

We must spend our energies in work for the cause. We would be foolish in wasting our time in merely punishing the Liberal party if there was no prospect of any gain to our cause from the punishment.

The only wise and practical policy is the Alliance plan of opposing all candidates regardless of party who are not known and avowed prohibitionists and of working for the nomination and election regardless of party of such men as can be relied upon to do all in their power to secure the enactment and enforcement of a prohibitory law.

The soundness of this position is well shown in the following forcible paragraphs taken from a recent issue of "Forward" the official organ of the Sons of Temperance in the Maritime Provinces.

If Kruger and his unsubjected followers asked permission to settle in Canada with immunity for past and future rebellious acts, and it was known that in the coming election many candidates of both parties were friendly to his cause, and

both parties were, as a whole, according to the declaration of the leader of parliament, opposed to prohibiting freedom to rebels to rebel, would he advocate voting for one of the parties whose adherents were in league with the enemies of our country? If so, which one?

Would not voting for a party dependent upon Kruger's friends for support be equivalent to voting regardless of prohibition of Krugerism? Would it not actually be voting in favor of Krugerism?

If, under such circumstances, the voter has no power to control his representative, is not any effort on his part to control parliament hopeless?

Would not every loyal voter demand a pledge from his candidate, or would he give treason a free scope?

Have we any right or reason to expect prohibition of the distilling and brewing trade from a party composed of distillers, brewers, and their friends and political partners and comrades?

Is it not a fact that both parties are enslaved by the rum power, and that voting for either party without making prohibition an issue and having it "burn its way to the topmost place at an election," is simply voting for a repetition of the cowardly evasion of a quarter of a century?

Do not both parties represent, are they not partners with those engaged in the "gigantic crime of crimes?"

France is the most drunken country in the world to-day. Which party endeavored to introduce light wines, the devil's kindling-wood, into Canada, that has given France such deplorable pre-eminence?

Is it really true that either party, as a whole, is opposed to prohibition?

Is not their failure to comply with the Vox Populi, Vox Dei, due to failure on the part of the Vox Populi to speak at the ballot box for candidates true to the public conscience?

If the Vox Populi speaks emphatically at the ballot-box, will any government dare to resist the public conscience speaking through a majority of representatives in Parliament?

Did Sir John Macdonald know what he was talking about when he told us we could and would get prohibition when we sent a majority of prohibitionists to parliament to vote for it and its enforcement?

Is it reasonable to expect the 249,944 prohibitionists to unite with either party and hold allegiance to it irrespective of that party's record or policy for one, two or three decades, or until the conspiracy against the public weal is suppressed, and corruptibility puts on incorruptible purity?

Is it not the duty of that 249,944 to form a unit of resistance for all time to tyranny, injustice and iniquity, the destruction of home and the church?

In Prince Edward Island the government introduced a prohibitory measure, and as the result of following the Dominion Alliance method they have the support of the opposition. Does not that afford a brighter outlook than if opposition was leagued with the traffic?

A BRAVE MAN BEATEN.

Prohibitionists the world over will learn with regret of the defeat of Sir Wilfrid Lawson, leader of the English prohibitionists, in the election campaign that is now about drawing to a close.

Sir Wilfrid is President of the United Kingdom Alliance for the suppression of the liquor traffic. He represented the Cockermouth division of Cumberland. His sympathies were with the anti-Imperialist party in England, and he believed that the South African war was unnecessary and wrong. The combined opposition of his political opponents, the war advocates, and the liquor party was too much for the veteran.

To Sir Wilfrid is largely due the strength of the local veto party in English politics. His persistently forced local veto measures upon the House of Commons and his defeat will be a serious loss to the temperance cause.

IMPORTANT.

TORONTO, 1900.

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 to **inspire workers and make votes.**

The victory won in the plebiscite was only the opening of a campaign in which the liquor traffic will do its utmost to block, delay, and if possible prevent our securing the enactment and enforcement of prohibitory law. We have plenty of hard fighting ahead of us. We must keep posted and equipped, knowing all that is being done by our friends and foes, and sophistry and misrepresentation that will be advanced.

The Camp Fire will be one of the best aids you can have in the struggle. It will contain nothing but what you need. Every number ought to be preserved. You cannot afford to be without it, and the subscription price is only nominal, **Twenty-five cents per year.**

While a necessity to every prohibition worker the **The Camp Fire** will also be of special value for distribution. Literature won the plebiscite victory. We must keep up the educating work. Printed matter tells. It does its work continuously, silently, fearlessly and 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 partisan. 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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