

THE CAMP FIRE.

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DOMINION ALLIANCE COUNCIL.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Council of the Dominion Alliance was held in the Temperance Hall, Toronto, on July 15th. There was a good attendance of representative prohibitionists present. Much interesting discussion took place on the present position of the prohibition movement. The deliverances of the Council on the different questions dealt with were as follows:—

1. That, as the present Dominion Government is pledged to submit the question of prohibition to the people in the form of a plebiscite, it is essential that a central fund be raised for the dissemination of literature throughout the country, and that every province and locality be urged to immediately perfect organization to secure that plebiscite such a victory as will ensure us the speedy enactment and thorough enforcement of a prohibitory law for the Dominion.

2. That we learn with great pleasure of the organization effected by brother prohibitionists in the Province of New Brunswick and of the active part taken in the recent elections, and we extend to them the right hand of fellowship, and invite them to co-operate with us in the dissemination of literature and all other temperance work.

3. That whereas there are, so far as known to our committee, several provinces not yet organized for active work, we recommend that the provinces be earnestly requested to effect immediate organization, either in affiliation with the Alliance or by some other name, to further the interest of the prohibitory cause.

4. Your committee learns with pleasure the preparation of a digest of important parts of the report of the Royal Commission, to be used for information in campaign work. We suggest the distribution of this digest in public libraries and temperance societies and church courts, with requests to carefully read the same. Further, that it be used by the Literature Committee which may be appointed for the campaign work, and in every other way that would benefit the temperance cause.

5. That the Dominion Alliance appoint a deputation to wait on the Dominion Government as early as possible to plead for prohibition. If the Government promise early action on the plebiscite policy it be an instruction to prepare for the campaign. If no such promise is given, that the deputation be instructed to consult with friends of prohibition in the House and endeavor to secure an immediate re-introduction of the Flint resolution.

6. That it be an instruction to the incoming Executive to arrange with temperance and church bodies for the perfecting of organization for the plebiscite campaign, in provinces where general organization does not exist.

ONTARIO ALLIANCE.

ANNUAL CONVENTION.

An immense Convention gathered in the Horticultural Pavilion on Thursday, July 16th, to discuss the present situation of the prohibition movement and plan for future action so far as the Province of Ontario is concerned. Dr. J. J. Maclaren called the meeting to order. A Business Committee was appointed which reported a permanent organization for the Convention naming R. J. Fleming for President, and a number of Vice Presidents and Secretaries. Full reports of the proceedings have already been published in the different daily and weekly papers and are familiar to most of our readers.

A deputation waited upon the Provincial Government to ask what was proposed in the way of legislation in view of the Privy Council decision. The Government declined to accept the decision of the Privy Council as authorizing the Province to prohibit the liquor traffic, but promised a measure of restrictive legislation. Subsequently the Convention adopted a great many recommendations for improvements in the existing License Act. Local Option work was also endorsed and recommended. The action of the Dominion Council in reference to the proposed plebiscite and prohibition was approved.

A stormy discussion took place over a proposition to remove the name of Hon. G. W. Ross from the list of Vice Presidents named in the report of the Nominating Committee regarding the officers for the Alliance for the coming year. The proposition was defeated by a large majority. The officers elected are as follows:—

President, Dr. J. J. Maclaren; Vice Presidents, Hon. A. Vidal, Hon. J. O. Aikins, Hon. Geo. W. Ross, Mrs. A. O. Rutherford, Mr. Geo. A. Cox, and the Provincial heads of the W.C.T.U., Sons of Temperance, Good Templars and Royal Templars. Secretary, F. S. Spence; Treasurer, Mayor Fleming; Executive Committee, Rev. W. A. Hunter, H. O'Hara, Rev. Dr. Parker, Rev. Dr. Dewart, W. H. Orr, W. W. Buchanan, Geo. Wrigley, E. J. Davis, M.P.P., G. F. Marter, M.P.P., J. A. Middleton, M.P.P., Miss E. Wills, Rev. Geo. Washington, Mrs. Vance, Hon. S. H. Blake, Rev. Dr. Potts, Mrs. Wiley, Benj. Allen, John T. Moore, Rev. Dr. McKay, Thomas Urquhart, Rev. I. Tovell, D.D., Rev. W. H. Hincks, Ald. J. J. Graham, Ald. J. Jolliffe, Rev. W. Kettlewell. Four of these, namely, Messrs Kettlewell, Wrigley, Buchanan and Lees, tendered their resignations from the Executive. The resignations were referred to the Executive Committee elect.

DECLINE OF ALCOHOL AS A MEDICINE.

Thoughtful observers recognize that alcohol as a medicine is rapidly becoming a thing of the past. Ten years ago leading medical men and text-books spoke of stimulants as essentials of many diseases, and defended their use with warmth and positiveness. To-day this is changed. Medical men seldom refer to spirits as remedies, and when they do express great conservatism and caution. The text-books show the same changes, although some dogmatic authors refuse to recognize the change of practice, and still cling to the idea of the food value of spirits.

Druggists who supply spirits to the profession recognize a tremendous dropping off in the demand. A distiller, who, ten years ago, sold many thousand gallons of choice whiskeys almost exclusively to medical men, has lost his trade altogether and gone out of business. Wine men, too, recognize this change, and are making every effort to have wine used in the place of spirits in the sick-room. Proprietary medicine dealers are putting all sorts of compounds of wine with iron, bark, etc., on the market with the same idea. It is doubtful if any of these will be able to secure any permanent place in therapeutics.

The fact is, alcohol is passing out of practical therapeutics because its real action is becoming known. Facts are accumulating in the laboratory, in the

autopsy room, at the bed-side, and in the work of experimental psychologists, which show that alcohol is a depressant and anarcotic; that it cannot build up tissue, but always acts as a degenerative power; and that its apparent effects of raising the heart's action and quickening functional activities are misleading and erroneous.

French and German specialists have denounced spirits both as a beverage and a medicine, and shown by actual demonstration that alcohol is a poison and depressant, and that any therapeutic action it is assumed to have is open to question.

All this is not the result of agitation and wild condemnation by persons who feel deeply the sad consequences of the abuse of spirits. It is simply the outcome of gradual accumulation of facts that have been proven within the observation of every thoughtful person. The exact approximate facts relating to alcohol can now be tested by instruments of precision. We can weigh and measure the effects, and it is not essential to theorize or speculate; we can test and prove with reasonable certainty what was before a matter of doubt.

Medical men who doubt the value of spirits are no more considered fanatics or extremists, but as leaders along new and wider lines of research. Alcohol in medicine, except as a narcotic and anæsthetic, is rapidly falling into disfavor, and will soon be put aside and forgotten.—*Journal of Inebriety.*

TO WINE MERCHANTS AND DISTILLERS.

The following advertisement is taken from *The Union*, an English newspaper published in Berlin as "An Independent Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Export and Import Trade." It was specially addressed to wine merchants and distillers:—

For the production (without either factory or apparatus) of all kinds of spirits and various wines, we beg to offer our highly concentrated extracts and carefully compounded essential oils, with which and by means of which excellent products can be made after our receipts in the most simple (cold) way, for which we undertake any guarantee, and mention in particular that rum, cognac, absynthe, benedictine, chartreuse, hollands, anisette, curacao, boonecamp, angostura-bitters, whisky, German brandy, arac, gold-water, gilka, marasquino, rose liqueur, cherry brandy, brandy, gin, masticia di chio, etc., made from our preparations, and after long storage cannot be distinguished, or at least with great difficulty, from the genuine articles. The great success attained by us not only in Europe but also in transmarine countries proves the truth of this assertion.

It will not be necessary to draw attention to the great advantages derived from the possibility of making rum, cognac, wormwood-wine, and other spirits and wines in one's own country and on one's own premises, and merely point out that, apart from the great intermediate profit, the freight, duty, and other expenses make the articles mentioned much dearer, and as the materially greater part of many spirits consists of water, for which the greater part of the above expenses have to be paid, it may well be assumed that articles made on the spot from our preparations will prove, according to the duty and excise rates of the country in question, 40 to 90 per cent. (and even more) cheaper than when imported from Europe.

We beg to recommend in particular extract of wormwood, 1 tin of which, containing 1,500 gr. and costing 10 sh., suffices to make 100 litres of excellent wormwood wine (vino wermouth), which is better and more aromatic than those made at Turin, and are about 75 per cent. cheaper than Italian or French wormwood wines. Besides, musk-powder, 1 box of which is sufficient to make 100 litres of muscadine.

Price 8 sh. Wine-vinegar, 1 kilo suffices to produce 40 litres of table vinegar. Extracts of wine-bouquets for madeira, mulaga, muscadine, hock, port, sherry, etc., wines.

FROM FOREIGN LANDS.

There are 183 parishes in Scotland where liquor selling is prohibited.

London spends \$100,000,000 for liquors. No wonder a commission is inquiring about the effect of the liquor business.

Great Britain sent 4,000,000 gallons of spirits to Africa last year besides a large number of missionaries.

On Oct. 6, a church congress is to be held at Shrewsbury, Scotland, and on the opening day the topic to be considered is, "The Drink Traffic."

During the last week in July, a national conference of temperance advocates was held in London, at which 5,000 delegates were in attendance.

The Good Templars of Scotland have just held their 27th annual session at Paisley, and report an increased membership of nearly 70,000.

A son of Lady Henry Somerset is in attendance upon all sessions of the Royal Commission for investigating the liquor traffic in Great Britain.

A bill has been passed by the Second Volksraad in the Transvaal prohibiting the sale of liquor to the natives. It must pass the First Raad before becoming a law.

The Church of England is doing good work along temperance lines in England. The Lord Bishop of London is president of the National Temperance League.

The Temperance Ironsides is the name of a new temperance organization organized in England for the purpose of inducing the church to take an active hand against the liquor traffic.

The United Kingdom Alliance offers a reward of ten guineas for the best essay on "Prohibition by the Direct Popular Veto." The essay must not exceed 10,000 words, and must be handed in to the secretary not later than October 1.

The New Zealand Prohibitionist, published at Christchurch, is now seven years old, and celebrated its anniversary by welcoming home its editor, Rev. M. Issit, who has been travelling in Europe, and passed through the United States on his return.

The "single issue" has struck New Zealand. At a recent Prohibition convention held at Taranaki, the following resolution was passed: "That while temperance reform is impeded by license fees being made a source of local revenue, it is not desirable, in the interests of Local Option, that progress should be retarded by the discussion of minor issues."

The British Empire is abounding in "commissions." Besides the one investigating the liquor traffic, there is a royal commission probing the opium trade in the far East, India and China.

Lawson A. Browne, the president and one of the founders of the Irish Temperance League, is dead. For 40 years Mr. Browne has been at the front of temperance work in Ireland, and his loss is sorely felt.

Last year, the people of New South Wales spent more than \$2,000,000 for liquor, which amounted to more than \$15 per head. Last year the convictions for drunkenness in this same country amounted to 14,630.

Dr. Hirschfeld, a well-known physician of Magdeburg, Germany, was recently arrested on a charge of malpractice. The specific charge was that he had refused to give one of his patients alcohol who was supposed to need it. The doctor, like the more advanced German physicians, is discarding liquor from his practice, and made such a hot defence of the charge that the court not only discharged the physician, but assessed the cost of the defence against the prosecution.