

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, AUGUST, 1899

PROHIBITION IN PARLIAMENT.

Mr. Flint's resolution was talked out. There was evidently very little approval of it in the House of Commons. It had too much prohibition in it to please the friends of the liquor traffic, and was too weak to satisfy ardent prohibitionists. Probably no body of temperance workers in the Dominion would have fully endorsed it. It fell far short of being what the Dominion Alliance desired and expected. It was a foregone conclusion that a Government that had refused to introduce prohibitory legislation, would not accept Mr. McClure's amendment. The anti vote of Quebec had made its adoption for the present impracticable. Had a vote been taken, it is probable that Mr. Parmelee's amendment would have carried.

No member of Parliament proposed action upon the strong, definite, reasonable plan unanimously approved by the Dominion Alliance Conventions.

The result justifies the carrying out of the Alliance policy. Our only hope is in the election of men who can be trusted to wisely and loyally stand by the sound principle of total prohibition, and insist upon carrying it as far as possible at once.

THE PLATFORM.

The series of seven resolutions found on our last page may be fairly termed the platform of the prohibition party. They set out the conclusions deliberately arrived at by one of the most representative gatherings ever convened to discuss the question of prohibition. These declarations were adopted by a unanimous vote.

The political position and duty of prohibitionists is more clearly defined at the present time than probably it ever was before. That position is also so strong as to be unassailable from any reasonable standpoint. Our object is total prohibition for the Dominion of Canada, and our present demand is the immediate enactment of such legislation as will secure prohibition for every part of Canada except Quebec.

We base this demand upon the same sound reasons on which it has always rested, strengthened by the fact, that a majority of 108,011 electors favors the legislation we seek, and for which we have carried 121 out of 148 parliamentary constituencies.

The first resolution will no doubt give offence to politicians who are Liberals before they are prohibitionists. Taken

with clause 5 it strongly censures the present Government, and practically the Liberal party, for the unjust way in which the prohibition question has been treated. The censure is not too strong. The Liberals used the temperance question as a means to attain power, and then refused to do anything at all to carry out the expressed will of the people, which the leaders of the party had promised to respect.

The third clause is unsatisfactory to politicians who are Conservatives before they are prohibitionists. It proposes practical legislation which Parliament ought to grant. The politicians in question dread any practical, useful result of the Plebiscite. They want to use the Government action in relation to the Plebiscite as a means of rousing public opinion against the Liberal party. They want to concentrate the attention of prohibitionists solely on the bad faith of the Government, and they fear to have it directed to anything else. They do not want to face the issue of their own duty, and they are strongly disposed to resist every attempt to secure the kind of legislation which the Plebiscite really warrants.

Clauses 6 and 7 of the platform are the most important. They propose action that must result in benefit to our cause. Liberal politicians seek to belittle the prohibition vote and keep out of sight any possible action short of total national prohibition, which they say the vote does not warrant. Conservative politicians are anxious to have the Government blamed and to keep out of sight any possible advantage that might result from the Plebiscite, so as to make the blameworthiness the greater. We have to oppose both these unworthy dodges.

Intelligent men, not biased by prejudice, must see the wisdom of the Alliance method. It is our duty to force that method on the attention of aspiring politicians and compel them to take a stand in relation to it.

Liberals will try to make it appear that we are working in the interests of the Conservative party. Conservatives will try to make it appear that we are lowering our standard. Both these misrepresentations must be met by unswerving loyalty to our cause, which now demands us to take the wise position set out in our platform, and not that which both parties would like to have us take.

CANTEEN LIQUOR SELLING.

The regulations governing Volunteer Militia Camps definitely and totally prohibit the sale at those camps of intoxicating liquor.

These regulations are systematically and shamefully violated. Mrs. Thornley, President of the Provincial W. C. T. U., at the Alliance Convention forcibly pointed out this shameful lawlessness. In the House of Commons the Minister of Militia impugned the accuracy of Mrs. Thornley's statements. Later on Mrs. Thornley furnished the Minister with details regarding the violations. The Minister has failed to lay before Parliament the information, which would fully justify Mrs. Thornley's statements.

There is a technical sense in which the Minister of Militia could claim that he has no evidence of violation of the law against liquor selling in military camps. He has not received any statutory declarations or affidavits proving the charges that were made. The facts however stand. They are known to thousands of reliable citizens, who will not deny the truth when questioned, but who are disinclined to voluntarily make sworn statements regarding the

matter. If the Minister of Militia, if the Dominion Government would make an official inquiry, as could be done by a Committee empowered to take evidence under oath, the facts would, we are certain, justify the statements made at the Alliance Convention.

Newspapers and persons have often made charges of unlawful liquor-selling and drunkenness in military camps. Legal action ought to be taken against these journals and individuals if they are guilty of slander. Why is no action taken? Doubtless because such action would establish the truth of the unsworn charges, which it is more convenient to deny. It is one of the many cases in which law breakers and their backers presume upon the difficulties that law enforcement always involves.

We sincerely hope, however, that Mrs. Thornley's fearless action will result in much good. It is, of course, too late now to take steps that are usually taken to secure evidence of persistent law-breaking, when private parties who have knowledge of it are unwilling to voluntarily take action. If the Government will not investigate the charges made, they will no doubt be compelled to exercise more care next year to prevent the recurrence of the disgraceful law-defiance which was not prevented at the military camps of 1890.

THE ALLIANCE CONVENTIONS.

The annual meetings of the Dominion Alliance Council and the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance were gatherings full of encouragement and inspiration.

At the Ontario meeting on July 11th about four hundred delegates were present, nearly every section of the province being represented. The deliverances made in regard to Parliamentary and Political Action were almost identical with those adopted the following day by the Alliance Council, and which are fully set out in the article on the last page of this paper.

There was a stirring time over a resolution calling attention to liquor selling at military camps. Mrs. Thornley told of what she had learned of the harm resulting from this sale. Others gave testimony of knowledge of evil results. The resolution in a slightly altered form was adopted.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance on hand, after an expenditure of over \$8000, mainly in the Plebiscite Campaign.

Dr. J. J. Maclaren retired from the presidency and was tendered a cordial vote of thanks for the valuable services he had rendered the Alliance. Rev. W. A. McKay, D.D., was elected in his place.

Delegates from about twenty-five provincial temperance bodies, and representative church courts were present at the meeting of the Alliance Council on July 12th. The venerable President, Hon. A. Vidal, was absent on account of his parliamentary duties. He asked to be relieved from the position which he had held for many years, so the Council made him Honorary President, and elected J. R. Dougall, of Montreal, in his stead.

The principal question before the Council for consideration was that dealt with in the series of resolutions already mentioned, which are reproduced elsewhere. Their importance was strongly felt by the Council, and they were adopted by a unanimous vote.

Public-houses are the curse of this country. I never see a sign licensed to sell spirits, but I think it is licensed to ruin souls. They are the yawning avenues to poverty and rags, the short cut to hell. —Rev. R. McChyne.

IMPORTANT.

TORONTO, 1899.

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 last year 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 partizan. 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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