

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, MARCH, 1896.

WHOM SHALL WE SUPPORT.

At the approaching Dominion election our friends in some constituencies will probably be in some perplexity as to whether or not certain candidates ought to receive their support. Generally speaking the question ought to be decided by a wise consideration of what action, all things considered, would be most advantageous to the prohibition cause.

The Montreal platform declares that an acceptable candidate is one who is a known, avowed, and reliable prohibitionist, and who will publicly pledge himself to work in the interests of prohibition at every opportunity, even though such action may not be in harmony with the views or methods of his party colleagues.

Where such candidates can be secured the duty of prohibition voters is clear. There will be however, cases in which no candidate is quite up to the mark, and in which our friends do not deem it best to take independent action, and yet in which one of the candidates nominated is decidedly more favourable to our cause than any of the others. What then?

Our first duty is to endeavor to secure the nomination by present political parties of candidates who will be fully acceptable. Failing this, wherever practicable, we are to nominate and support independent candidates. In either case we are to do our best to secure the election of our selected candidate. In every case we must simply, unitedly consult and act according to our judgment and the circumstances of the case.

No hard and fast rules can be laid down to regulate the action of prohibitionists in every place. What is needed is zeal for our cause, cool common sense, and then aggressive action. Only the workers on the spot are qualified to determine the kind of action that it is best to take.

OUR FRIENDS.

There are a number of our present Members of Parliament who have always voted for prohibition. They have voted against the Royal Commission evasion, and against every movement to side-track, postpone or evade the direct issue. Some of these men are not active members of our temperance societies; they are none the less true friends of our cause.

In not a few cases these men, who have acted solely from principle, have not met with the appreciation and the consideration on the part of temperance electors that their loyalty to the right should have commanded.

We would be farther on to-day if temperance electors had taught politicians the lesson that they, the electors, are always ready to sacrifice partisanship in earnest support of men who are true to the prohibition cause.

Such action on our part would have strengthened the hands of our friends, would have given us greater strength in Parliament, would have placed us much nearer victory than we are.

From every standpoint from which we can view it, this duty of loyalty to our friends is seen to be one of the most important that we can recognize and act upon. Every man who has helped us in Parliament has a right to expect and receive, the loyal, hearty support of every elector who believes that prohibition ought to be the dominant issue in Canadian politics.

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES.

There is hardly a constituency in the Dominion of Canada in which twenty earnest, judicious prohibitionists could not influence the action of either political party so as to secure the nomination of a staunch prohibitionist.

Such action would rally in support of a representative of our cause the immense force of political favoritism that is now so often arrayed against us.

Such action can only be taken by men who are willing to co-operate with a political party, making their support and influence necessary to that party's success, and yet putting their prohibition principles above mere party considerations. On this plan such men will be sure to win.

There will be many cases in which, though no man comes exactly up to our standard, we can best help our cause by supporting a candidate who has helped us in the past, or whose sympathies are certainly with us, though he may not comply with all the conditions of our plan and platform. There are worthy Members of Parliament who stand by us in every division, who have never publicly made the exact avowal that we have declared to be necessary. In many cases the election of such men would be manifestly to our advantage.

There will be however, other cases in which no candidate will comply with our conditions or in any way favor our cause. It is in such cases that the duty is imposed upon us of nominating and supporting independent candidates. It must be borne in mind however, that the cases are few in which wise action in time will not save us from this emergency. We have also to face the difficulty that where our friends are not sufficiently earnest wise and united to prevent such a condition, they are not earnest, wise and united enough to make independent action successful.

The open hostility of party candidates, nominated through machinations that we cannot cope with, may sometimes make it desirable to nominate independent men simply by way of protest; and to stand by and fight for our cause even with very doubtful chances of success. Such contests may unite our friends, strengthen our cause and show politicians that we cannot be ignored.

Independent action, where needful, is our policy. Let that action be invariably taken where it can aid our cause. Let it be avoided and opposed wherever it can do harm. It is a method not a principle.

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.

Such a meeting should be made as representative as possible. To it every church and society should be asked to send delegates. All in sympathy with the movement should also be invited.

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.

TOTAL ABSTINENCE AND LONGEVITY.

Another contribution to the great array of evidence that has been accumulated on this question is made in a recent letter to the Manchester Alliance News, to which the following is the principal part.

It may perhaps interest your readers to learn the results just brought out by the Sceptre Life Association of London, which has for over thirty years registered its abstaining members in a separate department. The mortality actually experienced in the year just expired, in each branch, compared with that expected on the basis of the Institute of Actuaries H.M. Mortality Table, was as under:—

	Expected deaths	Actual deaths	Per-centage.
Abstainers	79	50	63.29
Non-abstainers 123	95	77	77.23

For the past twelve years similar results have been experienced, as indicated by the following record:—

MORTALITY EXPERIENCE, TWELVE YEARS, 1884-95.

	Expected deaths	Actual deaths	Per-centage.
Abstainers	661	385	58.24
Non-abstainers 1,274	1,025	804	78.45

As more than thirteen thousand lives were under observation, we may fairly conclude that the practice of taking alcoholic liquors, even in quantities

conventionally termed moderate, has an unfavourable influence on longevity; whereas total abstinence would appear to realise for its adherents the promise of the Psalmist, "By me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased."

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.

MAD WITH DRINK.

On Monday, March 9th, a fearful tragedy was enacted at Brockville, Ontario. Uri Lapointe, a farmer who lived about six miles from the town, crazy with strong drink, took up a position on the street, armed with a breech-loading double-barrelled shot gun, and with wild yells opened fire upon all coming near. One man was instantly killed, two were fatally wounded and seven others seriously injured. The drunken maniac was shot himself before being over-powered.