

# 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.

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NOTE.—It is proposed to make "THE CAMP FIRE" 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, FEBRUARY, 1895.

## PROHIBITION CLUBS.

Now is the time to organize them. Every locality ought to have a club, or league, or alliance, it matters little what it is called. It ought to be a union of prohibitionists for the purpose of seeing that a prohibition candidate is before the electors and that every candidate who comes out is made to declare himself definitely upon the prohibition question.

The simpler the organization the better. Only let us have the organization. Any one desiring any information or assistance in this work is invited to correspond at once with F. S. Spence, Secretary Dominion Alliance, 51 Confederation Life Building, Toronto. Now is the time for work.

## THE DOMINION ELECTION.

Special attention is called to the manifesto of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance, published on the first page of this paper.

We have reason to be thankful that the importance of the prohibition question is to some extent recognized by Canadian politicians and legislators.

Before the last general elections the Dominion Alliance issued an earnest appeal to Canadian prohibitionists to press this great reform upon the attention of prospective candidates. This was done in many constituencies, and no doubt thousands of electors were influenced in marking their ballots by the attitude towards prohibition of the candidates appealing for support. Shortly after the election the Hamilton Templar reviewed the situation in an extensive article giving the names of earnest prohibitionists cordially supported by temperance workers, who were successful in the election, and mentioning many gains for the cause in the new Parliament.

When the question came up for discussion in the House of Commons, it was found that there was a strong feeling of the necessity of action, in view of the sad character and great extent of the liquor evil and the anxiety of the people for remedial legislation. The Royal Commission stratagem, however, side-tracked the great issue for the time being, there not being in Parliament a majority of members true enough to the prohibition cause to demand immediate, definite, effective action regarding it.

We need more strength in Parliament. We need more members alive to the necessities of the situation, earnest in their opposition to the liquor curse, and determined to fearlessly insist upon its prohibition.

The plan of action laid down in the manifesto has been thought out with much care. It has been advocated for years by the Dominion Alliance. It was endorsed unanimously by the great Montreal Convention of last July. It will do greater things than ever before if rightly worked in the approaching election campaign.

Earnestly do we appeal to every friend of right, every lover of humanity every true Canadian patriot to do all possible to secure the success of this important movement.

## LOCAL OPTION.

The British Parliament is in session, and the Government has declared its determination to press forward the Local Option measure for the enactment of which prohibitionists in the old land are so anxious.

The measure is modelled to some extent on the same lines as are the different local option laws in force in the Dominion of Canada, the main differences being that the British Local Option will require a larger majority of the electors than is required here to secure its adoption or repeal, and that the electors are also to have an option of voting on the question of reduction in the number of licenses.

Local prohibition, wherever fairly worked, has been a temperance agency of remarkable value. It has limited the evils of the liquor traffic and has been a strong educator of public sentiment.

It has always, however, been disappointing to certain persons who had formed exaggerated ideas of what it would accomplish. This was notably the case with the Dunkin Act and the Scott Act in the province of Ontario.

The fact of a bare majority being sufficient for repeal, naturally led to the loss of the Act on a second vote in many localities before time had been fairly given for the measure to prove its worth. Had repeal of the Scott Act required a two-thirds majority, the Scott Act would in all probability be still the law of a great part of this province. Where sentiment has been strong enough to sustain the law for a number of years, public opinion stands fairly by it, as is the case in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

One of the disappointments that prohibitionists have had to meet has been the readiness with which our friends become disheartened by temporary defeat. When the Scott Act was repealed in Ontario, thousands of temperance men declared that it was gone forever, and for years we have left idle a weapon with which powerful blows might have been dealt the liquor evil.

We have also been impatient. We wanted broad results. In our anxiety for national prohibition and provincial prohibition we have been impatient of measures that promised less, although they would have been more easily attainable.

There should be no slackening in our zeal, no lowering of our standard, no hesitation in our demand for right laws for Canada and for every province. Our earnest desire that legislators should do their full duty does not however, absolve us from the exercise of all the power that we already have.

The best kind of liquor law for Canada would be a law of total national prohibition. For this we must earnestly pray and work. We will not, however, hinder the result of our work, nor the answer to our prayers, by doing what we can every where, every time, to bind down the liquor evil by the shackles of available legislation, that we may impose upon that traffic if we will.

Our remissness in this matter in this land, has already been forged into a weapon with which the liquor traffic is fighting the advancing prohibition army in the old world. Our temporary abandonment of local option is paraded by British brewers as an evidence of the failure of partial prohibitory law. Anything that weakens the cause in the mother land must react upon that cause in Canada. We are weaker in Canada to-day than we would have been had we done our whole duty in regard to this matter.

Local option is not, however, the immediate issue upon us. The Scott Act is available now. The Ontario Local Option Act is available now, and may be still stronger after the decision of the Privy Council, which is expected in June. But the most pressing duty of the moment is the election of a Parliament that will give us better legislation than any now upon our statute books.

Let us then for the time being, bend every energy to the important work of electing sound prohibitionists to the Dominion Parliament.

When that work is done, we must turn again to the always present duty of using the legislation we have and steadily pressing our legislators for more.

The ruin that intemperance is making in many thousand Canadian homes, the insidious efforts of the liquor traffic to entrench itself more strongly, all the present circumstances and phases of this warfare in which there is "no discharge" emphasizes the necessity for prohibitionists remembering that the fight is always on, and that the time for action is always now.

## ANOTHER CHAMPION OF THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

The Marquis of Lorne, Ex-Governor General of Canada, addressed a letter on January 15th to the National Conservative Temperance Union Meeting at Manchester, Eng., in which he condemned prohibition in language that certainly was, strictly speaking, neither temperate nor truthful. Among other things he said:—

"Prohibition has been tried over and over again in the United States and in Canada, and has failed. What reason is there to expect that it would be successful here? It may be imagined that the circumstances are dissimilar. They are not. Among constituencies the counterpart of those here, this thing has been tried, not once, but many times—not in one place, but in many places—and has failed. They who have voted for it have, on experience voted against it. They have done so, not because they have changed their convictions, or have become anti-temperance, but because they have found temperance is not promoted by the plan of prohibition. The people who vote for it here are either ignorant of what can be done, or imagine that in this liberal age a few politicians, well-meaning, perhaps, and not wanting in conceit of themselves, should be given tyrannical and autocratic powers to make men do what pleases those few gentlemen to decree. To make their prohibition effectual they would probably ask powers to employ a large detective service, pry into all men's business, stop suspected traffic in street or roadway, and dance attendance on every man going to his dinner."

To Canadians this outburst of denunciation is remarkable not only on account of its absolute lack of harmony with facts, a lack which needs no demonstration, but because it is so utterly at variance with former statements made by the same noble lord. In a book published by him some time ago, entitled "Canadian Pictures," on page 105, is the following statement:—

"Whiskey is thebane which drives the savage wild, and is the fruitful cause of every crime amongst white men in the American western villages, and the prohibition placed upon its use does much towards preserving order among the young communities on

Canadian soil. You do not hear in villages in our land, as you do hear it said further south, that 'shooting was pretty lively here last night.'"

Sir Wilfred Lawson has publicly stated that some time ago he inquired of Lord Lorne how prohibition had worked in Canada, and the Marquis replied "Why the fact is it makes the whole difference between civilization and barbarism."

The tenacity with which the maritime provinces, that have had some experience of the Canada Temperance Act, adhere to that measure, is in itself a complete refutation of the misrepresentation that those "who have voted for it, have on experience voted against it." The further statement that this change was because the voters "have found temperance is not promoted by the plan of prohibition" is completely met by the overwhelming majorities recorded in favor of the principle of prohibition in all the provinces that have voted, even Ontario in which the Scott Act was repealed, giving a majority in favor of prohibition.

It is practically impossible that Lord Lorne should be in absolute ignorance of the attitude of the Christian sentiment of Canada toward the liquor traffic, or that he should have completely forgotten what he saw while here. The effect in Canada of his tirade will simply be to make him ridiculous. It is possible, however, that he may mislead some of those in the old land who do not know how absurd and foundationless his statements are.

## CHARLOTTETOWN.

The chief city of Prince Edward Island has now had six months experience of the Scott Act after its interregnum of permitted liquor-selling. The Guardian publishes the following interesting table giving the number of convictions for drunkenness during the six months since the Act came into force and the number for the corresponding period of 1893. It is as follows:

	1893.	1894.
August .....	20	6
September.....	43	16
October.....	18	11
November.....	22	10
December.....	11	8
January.....	5	4
Total .....	119	55

An interesting little book, "The Gatling, with Ammunition for the Temperance Warfare," by Rev. D. Rogers, with an introduction by Rev. John Potts, D.D., is what its name suggests, a weapon for warriors in the fight against the liquor evil, embodying a great collection of facts and arguments convenient for reference and use. About fifty different articles, many of them attractively illustrated, are condensed into the space of 142 pages and sold in neat and attractive form, paper binding, for only fifteen cents, English cloth with gilt lettering, thirty-five cents. We have much pleasure in commending it to Camp Fire readers. It may be ordered from the author, Dungannon, Ontario, or from our office.

Here is what Miss Francis E. Willard states as her view of the present social struggle that is going on:—"We believe there is no way out of the labyrinth of misery and sin in which the masses of the people wallow except by opening the sluiceways of the law and pouring in the pure and steady current of Golden Rule legislation until the classes built on artificial distinction shall be blotted out and the masses shall rise to the utmost that their inherent powers of brain and heart and hand can work out under a co-operative rather than a competitive system of industry, finance and law.