

The Camp Fire.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF
THE PROHIBITION CAUSE.

Edited by F. S. SPENCE
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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, JULY, 1897.

THE PLEBISCITE.

Church Conferences, Synods, Unions, Assemblies and other bodies, have been holding their annual meetings. In nearly all of them the prohibition question has been under discussion. Many of them have passed resolutions relating to the proposed plebiscite campaign. Declarations have been made mainly regarding two points, (1) the form of the plebiscite, (2) the duty of Christians in the contest.

There has been an overwhelming expression of disapproval of any complication of prohibition with other questions. Attention has been forcibly called to the fact that the political leaders who are promoting the plebiscite, declared their intention to have it taken on the simple subject of prohibition, free from entanglement with other political issues. Very forcible statements have been made demanding an honorable fulfilment of this understanding. There is no doubt at all that the Christian churches are opposed to anything else than a square vote on the straight issue.

In this connection it may be noticed that there has been in many quarters an avowed acceptance of the plebiscite, as an opportunity for promoting the temperance cause. Different bodies so worded their resolutions as to declare or imply approval of the plebiscite proposition. It must be remembered that temperance organizations did not ask for this vote. It is all the more interesting to note that temperance workers have declared themselves ready, when challenged to the ballot box test of preparedness for the enactment of a prohibitory law.

It would hardly be possible to frame more definite deliverances than those that have been made regarding the duty of Christian voters in the plebiscite. Almost unanimously have temperance and church organizations united in calling upon their members to do all possible in a supreme effort for the annihilation of the legalized traffic. Never was there a more general array of the different agencies working for the up-lifting of humanity in a solid phalanx of aggressive hostility to our country's curse.

All this is full of encouragement. Our prospects to-day are even brighter than they were a year ago. It may be that the results will show that the plebiscite delay has been after all a benefit, that the postponement by Parliament of legislation will give us that legislation in a better form, and will give us just the time needed for full preparation for the great conflict that will soon be upon us.

THE ALLIANCE CONVENTIONS.

At the time of writing this article, the prospects for the success of the Dominion Alliance Conventions in Toronto, on July 13th and 14th unusually bright.

Credentials have been received from about a score of Provincial Temperance Organizations, Synods, Conferences, etc., appointing delegates to the Council meeting on the 14th. It is known that a number of other bodies have appointed representatives whose credentials have not yet come to hand. The Council meeting will no doubt be the most thoroughly representative in its character that has yet been held. It will be just such a body as ought to be convened in view of the present important situation, with the great plebiscite campaign ahead of us.

There have also been received a large number of lists of delegates to the Ontario Provincial Prohibition Convention to be held on July 13th. This body will have on its hands not only the duty of arranging for plebiscite organization, but also other important duties imposed upon it by the present position of the temperance cause in Ontario. The Ontario Government at its last session failed to carry the Legislature with it in important propositions for improvement of the license law. Methods must be devised to secure from the Legislature a fairer recognition of public opinion in regard to this matter. An election for the Legislative Assembly is not far away, and if temperance electors can in no other way secure the legislation which they have a right to expect, they must organize for the return of a Legislature abreast of public opinion, and willing to crystalize as far as possible into law, the strongly declared hostility of the Ontario electorate, to the liquor traffic.

The Provincial Convention will open at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 13th in the Horticultural Pavilion. Delegates who prefer to do so may go straight to the Pavilion upon arriving in the city. Arrangements will probably be made by the Toronto W.C.T.U. by which meals can be obtained on the premises. Delegates remaining over night may then secure hotel accommodation later in the day. Delegates may take the street cars from the Union Station and conductors will instruct them how to transfer so as to reach the Pavilion.

One of the features of these conventions will be the public mass meeting in the Horticultural Pavilion, on Tuesday evening, which will be addressed by Rev. Dr. Carman, President of the Methodist General Conference, Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education, and a number of other leading representatives of different denominations and interests. There will no doubt be large audiences at this and all the other convention meetings. Friends of our cause are earnestly urged to attend as far as possible, and in every way do what they can to make these meetings widely known and successful.

DOES IT PAY.

BY REV. D. V. LUCAS, D.D.

The liquor traffic contradicts every principle of political economy. When our politicians make a study of this great question which is now being considered by many, they will find this traffic to be one of the greatest hindrances to national prosperity; a clog to the wheels of the commonwealth; an incubus; a great wen or tumor on the neck of the body politic. No child grows because of a tumor, though if he be otherwise sound he may grow in spite of it. No thanks to the liquor traffic for national prosperity, or even for the smallest contribution towards it.

What are the two great pillars on which the commonwealth rests? Muscle and money.

These are twin sisters which should ever go hand in hand. The State suffers when they do not.

Of these twin sisters, muscle is the elder born, because there was muscle before there was money.

The fish swings his tail gracefully in the water. What is it worth? Nothing—absolutely nothing, until you touch him with the power of human muscle.

Coal, by millions of tons, lies beneath your feet. What is it worth? Nothing, absolutely nothing, until you pour elbow grease upon it.

The tall pine bends with perfect rhythm in the wind. What is it worth? Nothing absolutely nothing, until the muscled axeman swings his edged implement against it.

God has ordained that nature should, in crude form, confront our race, to be turned into usefulness and wealth only by the application of human muscle to its crude condition.

Paralyze that muscle under alcohol and what is it worth to the state? Paralyze it again and again, until finally you turn it into your jails, and what is it worth to the State then? Instead of being, as it should, a wealth producer it becomes a wealth destroyer. It becomes a burden to the State, clogging the wheels of the commonwealth, instead of helping to roll it on to higher and greater prosperity.

What is that healthy young man worth as a wealth producer? I look at my own father, who settled seventy-five years ago on land worth three dollars per acre. When we carried our venerable father to his grave a half-century later, that land was worth one hundred dollars per acre. Here was wealth production. What raised the value of that land from three to one hundred dollars? My father's muscle, his neighbors, about him.

What is such a young man worth to the State? Well, I should say at least \$5,000.

Turn such men into criminals by the thousand, as the traffic in intoxicants does (and who dares to deny it?), and see how you wrong the State. Turn such men into corpses long before their time (and who dares to deny that you do?), and see how you rob and wrong the commonwealth.

A young couple in Lower Canada, thirty years ago, married and went into the hotel business. About fifteen years later the husband drank himself to death. The wife secured a license renewal and went on as before, marrying again a year or two afterward.

Some five years after her husband's death, her two sons drank themselves to death.

I said, "Please don't tell me they drank themselves to death if they died of typhoid fever or some other disease."

"Oh," was the reply, "you can tell that they literally drank themselves to death. There was no disease but drink."

Some three years later the second husband kill himself with drink.

We all expect to live to seventy years. Why? God has so taught us "the days of our years are threescore and ten."

Look! Those four men should have lived 280 years in all.

Sum up the years of their actual lives, and deduct that sum from 280, and find that your liquor traffic has robbed you from under one roof only of more than 100 years of muscle, which should have joined yours in making your country more prosperous and wealthy. Then we encourage our Legislature to vote \$175,000 a year for immigration purposes; that is, to bring over the sea more muscle to take the place of what we have destroyed by our stupidity.

DOMINION W. C. T. U.

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Manager.

LITERATURE FOR THE PLEBISCITE CAMPAIGN.

TORONTO, 1897.

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 in the plebiscite campaign **to inspire workers and make votes.**

The contest upon which we are entering, will be largely a literature campaign. Printed matter tells. It does its work continuously, silently, fearlessly and well. 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.

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Address,

F. S. SPENCE,
51 Confederation Life Building,
Toronto

A POISON.

Alcohol is a poison; in chemistry and physiology, this is its proper place, it kills in large doses, and half kills in small ones. It produces insanity, delirium, fits. It poisons the blood, and wastes the man. The brain suffers most injury, both in structure and function; but there is no vital organ of the body in which there is not induced, sooner or later more or less disorder and disease.
—Professor Miller.