

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, OCTOBER, 1898

THE PLEBISCITE RETURNS.

Returns of the votes polled on September 20th, will not be complete for some time. There are remote constituencies in some provinces in which the receiving of returns from the different polls, and the transmission thereof to Ottawa will occupy some time. These are however, so few that they will not affect the general result. Complete figures are available for the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and Ontario. All Quebec constituencies have reported except Gaspé which may give a majority of 2,000 against.

The following table, gives the complete majority for each of the provinces named, and an estimate of the probable majority for prohibition in the Northwest Territories and British Columbia, from which places sufficient returns have been received to show that at least the estimate made will be realized.

	Majority for Prohibition	Majority against Prohibition
Ontario	30,224	
Nova Scotia	20,243	
New Brunswick	15,850	
Prince Edward Island	8,315	
Manitoba	9,371	
Northwest Territories	2,500	
British Columbia	1,500	
Quebec		93,005

Total 106,003 93,005

Net Prohibition Majority 12,008

PROHIBITIONISTS AHEAD.

There is ample evidence that in some cities improper practices by some antis were effective in making the vote against prohibition larger than it had a right to be. It is not possible to estimate the extent of this increase, which however failed to defeat us. The fact of a majority for prohibition is clear. The Dominion of Canada has declared against the liquor traffic.

A POLITICAL COMPLICATION.

It is also claimed that a political consideration materially lessened the prohibition vote, making the majority secured less than a full expression of the desire of the people for a prohibitory law, this consideration being an anxiety to relieve the Government from the necessity of promoting legislation against the liquor traffic, and so making an enemy of that active and unscrupulous power. It is said that this fear was specially potent in Quebec, the energetic campaigning of French-Canadian members of the Government and other Liberal political leaders

against prohibition being adduced as evidence

Apart from these matters however there are important features of the vote regarding which there can be no difference of opinion, which are both interesting and important, and which ought to be carefully considered. Only a few of them can be dealt with just now.

THE CITIES MAINLY ANTI.

As was expected a majority of the cities and largest towns, the strongholds of the liquor traffic, voted "No." There are exceptions. Halifax, St. John, Brantford, Winnipeg and some other large towns voted "Yes," but as a rule the urban constituencies went against prohibition. The partly rural constituencies of Victoria, B. C., Lincoln, and East York owed their "No" majorities entirely to votes in the cities of Victoria, St. Catharines and Toronto, respectively. The voting strength of the prohibitionists is greatest in agricultural districts and in the villages and smaller towns.

GERMAN AND FRENCH OPPOSITION.

The German and French elements of our population were found to be hostile to prohibition, the English, Irish and Scotch strongly in its favor. Outside of the cities of London, Hamilton, Kingston, three ridings of Toronto, and the three partly urban constituencies mentioned in the last paragraph, every constituency in the Dominion that has not a large French or German vote, declared in favor of prohibition. This is the most striking and probably the most important detail of the vote.

Nine anti-prohibition constituencies have just been named in which an electorate of British origin voted "No." German voters defeated prohibition in five constituencies in Ontario. French votes defeated prohibition in five constituencies in Ontario, three in New Brunswick, one in Nova Scotia and fifty-seven in Quebec. The remaining hundred and twenty-five constituencies all voted "Yes."

THE VOTE BY PROVINCES.

There are seventeen electoral districts in Nova Scotia. The only one that voted "No" is Richmond, in which there is a large French population. The anti majority in this district was 28. The other sixteen constituencies voted "yes" by an aggregate majority of 20,271.

New Brunswick has thirteen separate constituencies. Three of these, Gloucester, Kent and Victoria, with large French elements, voted "No" by a majority of 835. The remaining ten counties gave a majority of 10,085 for prohibition.

Prince Edward Island has five constituencies, every one of which voted a very emphatic "Yes," their aggregate prohibition majority being 8,315.

Ontario has 80 constituencies. Eighteen voted "No." Nine of them, entirely English-speaking, have been named. Those in which German votes are numerous are East Bruce, North Perth, North Waterloo, South Waterloo and Welland. Those in which French votes are strong, are South Essex, Nipissing, Ottawa, Prescott and Russell. The aggregate anti majority in these eighteen was 15,806. The 60 others gave a net prohibition majority of 33,957.

Manitoba has seven constituencies all of which gave substantial majorities for prohibition. The aggregate majority for the Province was 9,371.

In the North-West Territories there are four constituencies, all of which went for prohibition. Full returns of the voting have not yet been received.

British Columbia contains five constituencies. Four gave majorities for prohibition. One gave a majority against. We have not yet learned the exact figures of the majorities.

Quebec is the only Province that went against prohibition. It contains 65 constituencies. Eight of these gave majorities for prohibition aggregating 4,018. The other 57 gave anti majorities aggregating about 97,000.

REPRESENTATION.

There are in the Dominion 205 constituencies, represented in the House of Commons by 213 members. Seven constituencies, namely, Victoria, B.C., London, Hamilton, West Toronto, Ottawa, St. John, N.B., Pictou, Cape Breton and Halifax, elect two members each. The constituencies in favor of prohibition far outnumber those opposed. They have a much larger population. If we take the record of the plebiscite by Provinces—calling the Territories for convenience a Province, and by constituencies, and then list the members of Parliament by the constituencies they represent, we get the following interesting table, which ought to be considered along with the table of the "Yes" and "No" votes polled, which will shortly be published in official form:

	For Prohibition	Against Prohibition	Majority for.
Provinces	7	1	6
Constituencies	124	81	43
Representatives	128	85	43

THE SITUATION.

The situation is serious, but it is definite. The progressive spirit and high moral aims of the Anglo-Saxon race are in advance of those of our fellow-citizens of continental origin. We must live side by side in unity, sustaining and aiding each other, sacrificing personal prejudices to amity and the broad, high patriotism that sinks individual preferences for the common good. There cannot, however, be any sacrifice of principle. No progressive Canadian community must be subjected to peril of property or character or life, because a minority lags behind in the march of progress.

Statesmanship has a problem to face, but true statesmanship will not hesitate to face it. Nor need there be any fear that the majority will fail to have the utmost respect and consideration for their dissenting brothers, who in turn will be too wise and too honorable to refuse recognition of the rights of those who are in the majority. Only in this way can we maintain the splendid record that our country is making to-day, and attain the broad position that our nation must win out of her great opportunities, if we are only united, forbearing towards each other and fearlessly loyal to the right.

AN IMPORTANT MEETING.

Following up the Dominion Prohibition Plebiscite, a meeting of the Dominion Alliance Executive Committee was convened on Tuesday, October 4th. A very large attendance of members was present, presided over by Chairman, Dr. J. J. Maclaren.

After a careful and thorough discussion of the recent vote, and the present position of the prohibition movement, the following resolutions were adopted by a unanimous vote:—

Resolved that this meeting of the Dominion Alliance Executive Committee desires to express its satisfaction at the victory achieved on September 20th, in the recording of so substantial a majority in favor of the total prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating beverages, and is specially gratified to find in favor of such legislation, not merely a strong majority of voters, but a large majority of all the constituencies represented in Parliament,

and seven out of the eight provinces of the Dominion.

"That this meeting desires to acknowledge with much pleasure the many congratulations received in view of the victory, manifesting as they do, the wide-spread interest taken in the recent campaign, and the satisfaction with which the friends of moral reform in different countries, hail the fact that the people of the Dominion of Canada are resolved to rid their country of the wrong and shame of legislation sustaining the liquor traffic.

"That the secretary be instructed to write immediately to the different Provincial Campaign Committees urging them all to perfect and make permanent their provincial and local organizations so as to unite the prohibitionists in wise and earnest work, following up the advantage that has been gained, until a law of total prohibition is thoroughly enforced in every part of Canada.

"That the chairman and secretary of this Executive Committee be instructed to make arrangements for a deputation representing the prohibitionists of the Dominion, to wait upon the Government as soon as practicable after full returns are received, to call attention to the majority recorded in favor of prohibition, and ask for the speedy embodiment of the will of the people in definite and effective legislation.

"That this Executive Committee desires to place on record its high appreciation of the loyalty, earnestness and ability of the workers in the different provinces who so harmoniously and effectively united to secure the expression of public opinion in favor of prohibition, that has been so generally and unmistakably made."

The secretary presented a statement showing that the total expenditure on literature account had exceeded \$5,000, and that when all collections were made there would be a deficit of about \$1,000 to be voted to the literature fund.

The secretary also stated that the total quantity of campaign literature supplied through the Alliance office during the contest, besides a large number of official communications, were as follows.

	Number.	Pages.
4-page leaflets,	3,725,000	14,000,000
2-page leaflets,	4,300,000	9,720,000
Pointers,	672,000	1,344,000
Total,	8,757,000	25,064,000

Cartoons, 40,000.
Posters, 10,000.

THE NEXT STEP

In accordance with the instructions of the Executive Committee the officers of the Dominion Alliance have communicated with the Dominion Government asking for an interview at which the attention of the Government will be called to the result of the voting, and a request made for the speedy enactment of a prohibitory law.

All the peculiarities of the situation will no doubt be carefully considered. It is unfortunate that any part of the Dominion or any section of the population should be found hostile to a proposition that has received such general and strong endorsement. No one for a moment could however justify a suggestion so unreasonable as that the progress of moral reform should be interfered with because Quebec is so far behind the rest of the Dominion.

We may rely upon the earnestness, resoluteness and wisdom of the Dominion Alliance Executive. They have already declared their opinion in no uncertain terms. It is reasonable and right that the Government should be given an opportunity to consider the situation. It is not likely that there will be any unreasonable delay.

Meantime we must remember that the battle is not over. A prohibitory law has yet to be enacted. It has then to be enforced. The present duty is to perfect and make permanent our organizations, to prepare for more work and even harder work. If we are true to the responsibilities now resting upon us, we may look for such further speedy results as may give our Dominion a still more advanced position as the civilized nation that is freer than all others from the terrible curse of intemperance.