

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, 1900

THE VOTERS' LEAGUE.

We desire particularly to call the attention of our readers again to the necessity for pushing to a speedy completion the canvass for signatures to the Voters' Pledge.

In nearly every instance in which this work has been taken hold of, those who prosecute it are surprised as well as delighted with the result of their efforts. The people are ready to act and only waiting to be asked.

Time however, is flying fast. The work ought to be complete long enough before next Dominion election to enable the pledged voters to unite for action. No one can tell when the election may come. It is specially desirable that all who have lists in hand should have them made complete and sent to the Secretary of the Dominion Alliance without any further delay.

MANITOBA.

The most important Canadian Prohibition event in the month of February was the promising of the new Premier of Manitoba that a prohibitory law would speedily be introduced into his Provincial Legislature.

This was the result directly of the success of the Conservative Party in the last provincial election. It will be remembered that at a general Provincial Convention previously held, the party had adopted the following resolution as a part of the party platform:—"That a measure be adopted to give effect to the will of the people regarding the prohibition of the liquor traffic which measure shall go as far in the direction of prohibition as the powers of the Province will allow."

The Manitoba Branch of the Dominion Alliance and the Grand Council of the Royal Templars sent a joint deputation to wait upon the new Premier and ask the fulfilment of the promise quoted. In reply the Hon. H. J. McDonald gave a definite promise that at the approaching session of the Legislature a prohibitory law would be introduced by his Government. The statement was received by the delegation with the utmost enthusiasm.

The action of Manitoba will be watched with intense interest. Whatever Manitoba can do the other Provinces that have voted for prohibition can do as well, and it is not likely that the Government of any English speaking Province will be allowed to lag behind the Government of Manitoba.

BY THE SEA.

On February 20th a Prohibition Convention for the Maritime Provinces was held at Moncton, N.B. A number of delegates from different organizations were present and a public meeting was held in the evening.

The result of the Convention was the formation of a permanent organization to be known as the Maritime Prohibition Association, the duty of which shall be to plan and push prohibition work throughout the Province of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

The plan of action adopted was similar to that of the Dominion Alliance, namely, the election of prohibition representatives to the Dominion Parliament. Friends of the cause were urged to make special effort to secure the nomination of prohibitionists by the existing party organizations.

It was decided to employ an organizer to push work. The Secretary was instructed to communicate with members of Parliament representing the Maritime Provinces, and ask them to support a prohibitory law in the House of Commons. The following officers were elected: Pres., Rev. E. Crowell, Yarmouth; Vice-Pres., A. B. Fletcher, Truro; W. L. McFarlane, Fredericton; N. L. Fowler; Secretary, W. T. L. Reid, Fredericton; Treas., J. A. Simpson, Amherst.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The friends of temperance reform in Great Britain are agitated by a controversy over the peculiar position in which they are at present placed. The minority report of the Royal Commission on the Liquor Traffic has been endorsed by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, leader of the Liberal party, who claims that in certain of Lord Peel's proposals "the friends of temperance have a code of reform which may be widely adopted as meeting the immediate necessities of the case." The proposals thus endorsed are in the main as follows:—

1. For a great reduction in the number of licensed houses.
2. That no money compensation shall be paid from the public rates or taxes.
3. That an annual license rental of considerable amount shall be immediately imposed, in addition to the present fees.
4. That a statutory maximum of unlicensed houses shall be fixed, not exceeding one to every 750 persons in towns and 400 in country.
5. That in England and Wales a term of, say, seven years, and in Scotland of five years, shall be fixed as the basis of a time notice and compensation arrangement.
6. That the reduction in the number of licensed houses should commence immediately.
7. That the compensation paid for licenses withdrawn before the end of the time notice shall be raised by a tax upon the licensed houses that remain.
8. That at the end of the time notice a wide measure of direct popular control might be applied, under proper safeguards, to Scotland and Wales.

Thirty of the most influential temperance leaders have signed a formal declaration of their intention to support this programme. Others, including the Good Templars and a number of the stringent prohibitionists, refuse to accept the proposed compromise, having special fear that evil will result from the compensation provision. The discussion over the new policy at the present time is very hot. If the Liberal party follow

their leaders there is likely to be a very strong party in favor of an early measure of extensive licensing reform.

EXPANSION.

One of the results of the conquest made by the United States in the recent war, is an immense increase in the amount of intoxicating liquor exported. Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippine Islands, are rapidly progressing along the line of liquor consumption, and enormous quantities of strong drink are being shipped to those places.

The total export of malt liquors for the first eleven months of each of the three years just closed is thus reported in the United States Treasury Statistics.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 1897 Value in malt liquor exports | \$ 647,733 |
| 1898 " " | 843,713 |
| 1899 " " | 2,018,189 |

The Temperance Committee appointed at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church appointed last May has recently forwarded to President McKinley a strongly worded memorial calling attention to this tremendous increase in the consumption of drink in the new territories, and earnestly urging him to use his influence to check the evil. In this memorial they quote the deliverance of the General Assembly which was as follows:—

"Resolved, That this General Assembly, having heard with indignation and pain of the unholy activity of brewers and distillers in introducing alcoholic liquors into the territory newly acquired by the nation, instruct its permanent temperance committee to investigate existing conditions and, if it be deemed wise, to address in the name of the Presbyterian church in the United States of America the President of our republic asking his power to the prevention of this great wrong."

IN PARLIAMENT.

On February 14th, Mr. T. B. Flint, M.P., for Yarmouth, gave notice in the House of Commons that he would introduce the following resolution:

"That this House has affirmed the principle that the prohibition of the liquor traffic is the right and most effectual legislative remedy for the evils of intemperance, and has also declared that as soon as public opinion would sufficiently sustain stringent measures it was prepared to sustain such legislation; "That the plebiscite of 1898, wherein a majority of votes polled throughout the Dominion, including substantial majorities in all the provinces but one, was ascertained to be in favor of such legislation, as well as satisfactory evidence from other sources, shows that such measures will be thoroughly supported by the people of Canada; "That this House is now of the opinion, in view of the foregoing facts, that it is desirable and expedient that parliament should, without delay, enact such measures as will secure the prohibition of the liquor traffic for beverage purposes in at least those provinces and territories which have voted in favor of such prohibition."

It will be noticed that the wording of these resolutions is somewhat different from that approved by the Dominion Alliance and published in the CAMP FIRE last month. The legislation aimed at by Mr. Flint is however, the same as that aimed at by the Dominion Alliance. It is to be hoped that he will vigorously push this resolution so as to secure a vote upon it at the earliest possible date.

The proposed legislation is so eminently reasonable that it is hard to see how Members of Parliament can vote against it. Parliament after full discussion, asked the electors to express their opinion upon the question of total prohibition. A good majority of all voting throughout the Dominion declared themselves in favor of a change. Legislation abolishing the liquor traffic in those

Provinces having majorities in favor of such legislation is the very least that Parliament could be asked to enact.

Friends of prohibition, church congregations, and temperance bodies will act wisely in letting their representatives in Parliament know that Mr. Flint's proposal has the cordial support of a large and influential section of the electorate.

FIGURES THAT SPEAK VOLUMES.

For many years the Chicago Tribune has kept a record of the known murders in the United States. In 1889 there were 3,568; in 1896 there were 10,652, an increase in seven years of nearly 300 per cent.

A few years ago Gen. Brinkerhoff, President of the National Prison Association, stated that at the meeting in St. Paul, in the prisons of this country there were in

| | | | | |
|------|--------|---------------|-------|----------------|
| 1870 | 6,737 | or 1 to every | 3,442 | of population. |
| 1860 | 19,086 | or 1 " " | 1,617 | " " |
| 1870 | 32,901 | or 1 " " | 1,171 | " " |
| 1880 | 58,609 | or 1 " " | 855 | " " |
| 1890 | 82,329 | or 1 " " | 757 | " " |

The swell has been continuous, and is growing: what is the chief cause of this alarming trend of the nation?

On October 10th, 1884, the New York Tribune made this declaration: "An army of young ruffians, worse barbarians than uncivilized countries can show, is being trained to vice and crime throughout the country by rum and its allies." This is a terrible indictment, not merely of the nation's young manhood, but also of American civilization itself.

Take the terrible per capita of the increased consumption of intoxicating drink during these years, and you have at once the New York Tribune's statement confirmed:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-------|--------|
| 1850, per capita in U.S. | was | 4.08 | galls. |
| 1860, " " | " " | 6.43 | " " |
| 1870, " " | " " | 7.69 | " " |
| 1880, " " | " " | 10.09 | " " |
| 1890, " " | " " | 15.53 | " " |

Here the swell has been continuous. A careful comparison of those two tables will disclose a suggestive fact. The ratio of increase is almost identical; in the former a little more than 400 per cent., and in the latter a fraction less.—*National Temperance Advocate.*

LIQUOR WASTE.

The liquor manufacture is unprofitable to the working classes. It is a notorious fact that no industry in the country employs a smaller number of work people in comparison with the amount paid by the consumers for the manufactured article. Were the earnings of the industrial classes diverted from the till of the publican to that of the grocer, or tailor, or furnisher, employment would be given to at least four times the number of individuals that are at present engaged in connection with the liquor traffic. The reason is not far to seek. It is easy to destroy anything, but it takes brains and muscle to develop or to produce. Two or three men in a distillery can destroy the produce of as many score of farm workers, just as two or three men can pull down a house which required scores of men to build. Some few years ago the amount of spirits produced at the Caledonian Distillery, Edinburgh, was 40,000 gallons weekly, or about 2,000,000 gallons per annum, which should have brought a cash turnover, at the wholesale rate of 15s per gallon, of £1,500,000. The total number of workmen, however, was only 150. Contrast that with the Atlas Iron and Steel Works in Sheffield. The revenue of that great company was just about half that of the Caledonian Distillery, and it employed 4000 hands.—*League Journal.*

On the one side are God and sobriety and the best interests of the world, and on the other side is the sworn enemy of all righteousness, and either rum must be defeated or the Church of God and civilization.—*T. De Witt Talmage, D. D.*

Christian men, who are not total abstainers, must be taught that they are bound by every principle of honor and Christian integrity to remove temptation out of the way of others moving in the higher circles, and then they might hope to succeed in their efforts to reform the lower classes.—*Hon. William E. Dodge.*