

THE CAMP FIRE

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Every friend of Temperance and Prohibition is respectfully requested to read carefully the article entitled "Plan of Campaign," on the last page of this paper.

ORGANIZATION.

The immediate and urgent duty of Canadian prohibitionists is thorough organization to secure the election of a Parliament that will honorably and fearlessly embody in effective legislation the will of the people as expressed at the polls.

We desire to cordially congratulate the friends of the temperance cause upon the splendid work done and the magnificent victory achieved in the Prohibition Plebiscite campaign of last year. No such victory was ever won before, and there is reason for thankfulness and encouragement in view of this united and emphatic protest of all English-speaking Canada against the continuance of the liquor traffic.

In this campaign the prohibitionists fought the battle forced upon them in a spirit of reason and moderation that must commend itself to every lover of fair play, and with zeal and energy that ought to win the approbation of all who desire the complete success of the temperance reform. Through careful management, and the liberality of their friends, the Alliance Executive were enabled to meet all the heavy expense of this costly contest, and to close the year without any debt beyond that of gratitude to those who supported them so loyally and liberally.

We are deeply disappointed that the Government and Parliament will not respond to the mandate of the people. It was reasonable to expect some legislation in view of the sweeping majority of 108,011 in favor of prohibition, out of the total large vote of 391,877 polled in the English-speaking provinces and territories. Yet the result is absolutely nothing. The prohibition question has been treated as if this great victory had been won by the liquor party.

This injustice must not be permitted to continue. It is evident that political leaders do not look upon prohibition sentiment as a political force. They believe that they can safely disregard our great vote. It is clear that we can only obtain the legislation to which we are fairly entitled, and which our country so sorely needs, by convincing these men that they are wrong. This can only be accomplished by such united electoral action as will secure the return to Parliament of representatives who can be relied upon to deal honorably with the majority that voted for prohibition, and patriotically in relation to the terrible drink evil. Thousands of earnest electors have declared their determination to sink all

partisan prejudice in a supreme effort to secure this result.

To accomplish what has been proposed we must at once take steps to thoroughly organize the prohibition electorate. The well-informed workers of each constituency must wisely decide what plan they will adopt and what candidates they will support. The Dominion Alliance proposes to send competent men to inspire, unite and organize them for this work. This plan was unanimously approved at the recent Convention. We hope that it will so influence the coming elections that wise and useful legislation will speedily follow.

The friends of prohibition throughout the Dominion are respectfully urged to give immediate attention to this important matter. Those who desire further information or assistance regarding it should write to the Secretary of the Dominion Alliance, who will cheerfully and promptly respond to all such inquiries. Address: F. S. SPENCE, 52 Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

HOW TO ORGANIZE.

In any constituency not already organized, a few earnest workers should form themselves into a Provisional Committee to call a convention of all friends of the cause for organizing purposes.

When practicable the call for such a convention should be signed by leading workers of different societies and denominations.

Special care should be taken to secure the co-operation of as many churches and temperance organizations as possible.

The Provisional Committee should secure a suitable hall and make all railway arrangements, plans for billeting delegates, and holding evening mass meeting; all of which should be as complete as possible.

The call should be widely circulated, and the convention well announced through the local press, churches, temperance societies, and in every other way possible.

The convention should be called to order by the chairman of the Provisional Committee, and should then elect a chairman and secretary for the time being. The chairman, Dominion Alliance organizer, or some other well posted worker should explain the object of the convention. A business committee should be appointed to report to the convention a plan of permanent organization, and to nominate persons for election as permanent officers. A constitution or set of rules should be adopted as simple in form as possible. Permanent officers should be elected. The convention should then fully discuss the question of what line of action it is best to adopt to secure the object in view. After a decision has been reached the carrying out of details may be left to the permanent Executive Committee.

A well announced, rousing mass meeting should be held in the evening, to explain and advocate the policy agreed upon by the convention.

NOTES OF NEWS.

A GREAT SWEEP.

The town of Grand View, Texas, has declared for prohibition by a majority of 190 votes, only 12 ballots being marked for license.

ALL FROM DRINK.

As the result of an investigation covering ten years' records, the *Chicago Tribune* declares that the saloon business of the United States is directly chargeable with a total of 58,130 murders between 1886 and 1896.

WORSE THAN WAR.

Visitors to the new possessions of the United States, acquired in the war with Spain, state that in all them the increase of drunkenness is enormous. In Manila alone 300 new saloons have been started.

ENFORCING THE LAW.

Mrs. Totten has been elected Mayor of Beattie, Kan. All the Council and the City Clerk are women. One of the first measures of the new Council was the closing up of the gambling dens and saloons that before had been tolerated. Prohibition is a success in Beattie now.

NO LIQUOR ALLOWED.

At the recent great volunteer review, in Windsor Park, England, at which the Queen was present and reviewed the troops, the Prince of Wales took command of the Hon. Artillery Company of London. It appears that the authorities issued the following order, in italics: "Cold water or tea is to be carried in the water bottles. It is to be distinctly understood that no alcoholic liquors are to be carried in the water bottles."

A GOOD MOVE.

A United States exchange informs us that it has been decided by the Government to expel all white men and others who sell liquor to the Pillager and Chippewa Indians from the reservation at Bear Island, Leech Lake, Minn. An investigation shows that whisky was at the bottom of the trouble which occurred between the Indians and whites last October, when Major Wilkinson and six soldiers were killed. All saloons have been ordered removed, and if any one is found selling liquor to the Indians, he will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

THE WAY THEY FIGHT.

The *Good Templar's Watchword* tells of a recent riot in Tongowa, a little town in Oklahoma Territory, over an attempt of the churches, led by the Baptist denomination, to drive out the saloons. Eli Blake, a Baptist deacon and postmaster at Tongowa, who began the agitation against the saloons and has led the fight, was waylaid the other night on his road home from the office, and beaten to death by a gang acting at the suggestion of the saloon men. Blake had been receiving letters for a week warning him that his life was in danger.

WHAT "CIVILIZATION" MEANS.

In reply to a question in Imperial House of Commons, on July 18th, regarding the importation of spirits into the African territory controlled by the Royal Niger Company, Hon. Mr. Chamberlain said: "The number of gallons of spirits imported in 1896 was as follows:—Lagos, 1,906,704 gallons; Niger Coast Protectorate, 1,164,108 gallons; Niger Company's territories, 176,068 gallons. Steps have recently been taken to check the importation of spirits into these regions by raising the duty to 3s. per proof gallon, and the exclusion of spirits from Northern Nigeria will be maintained."

SOME SAD SAMPLES.

Among the worst tragedies caused by drink, reported for last month are: the murder of his bride and the suicide of a newly-married American soldier at Hong Kong; the death at New York of a three-year old child from delirium tremens caused by drink administered on a doctor's instructions; the death in a police cell at Victoria, B.C., of a drunken prisoner, said to be the son of an English judge; the deliberate burning to death of his baby by a drunken ruffian at Coatsbridge, Eng., and a number of other cases nearly as sad as these.

MASTERS MADE SLAVES.

One thing that led me to make up my mind never to touch liquor was the rum which I saw it bring to some of the finest minds with which I have ever come into contact. I have seen, even in my few years of professional life, some of the smartest literary men dethroned from splendid positions, owing to nothing else but their indulgence in wine. I have known men with salaries of thousands of dollars a year come to beggary from drink.

Only recently there applied to me for any position I could offer him one of the most brilliant editorial writers in the newspaper profession—a man who two years ago easily commanded one hundred dollars for a single editorial in his special field. That man became so unreliable from drink that editors are now afraid of his articles, and, although he can to day write as forcible editorials as at any time during his life, he sits in a cellar in one of our cities writing newspaper wrappers for one dollar per thousand. That is only one instance of several I could recite. I do not hold my friend up as a terrible example. He is but one of a type of men who convinced me, and may convince others, that a clear mind and liquor do not go together.

I know it is said when one brings up such an instance as this: "Oh! well, that man drank to excess. One glass will not hurt anyone." How do these people know that it will not? One drop of kerosene has been known to throw into flame an almost hopeless fire, and one glass of liquor may fan into flame a smouldering spark hidden away where we never thought it existed. The spark may be there and it may not be. Why take the risk? Liquor will never do a healthy boy or young man the least particle of good; it may do him harm. A man who will wittingly tempt a young man whom he knows has a principle against liquor is a man for whom a halter is too good.

Then, as I looked round and came to know more of people and things, I found the always unanswerable argument in favor of a young man's abstinence; that is, that the most successful men in America to-day are those who never lift a wineglass to their lips. Becoming interested in this fact, I had the curiosity to inquire personally into it; I found that of 28 of the leading business men in the country, whose names I selected at random, 22 never touch a drop of wine. I made up my mind that there was some reason for this. If liquor brought safe pleasures, why did these men abstain from it? If, as some say, it is a stimulant to a busy man, why do not these men, directing the largest business interests in this country, resort to it? And when I saw that these were the men whose opinions in great business matters were accepted by the leading concerns of the world, I concluded that their judgment in the use of liquor would satisfy me. If their judgment in business matters could command the respect and attention of the leaders of trade on both sides of the sea, their decision as to the use of liquor was not apt to be wrong. —Edward W. Bok, Editor *Ladies' Home Journal*.