

The Camp Fire.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF
THE PROHIBITION CAUSE.

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ADDRESS - - TORONTO, ONT.

Subscription, TWENTY-FIVE CENTS a Year.

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, DECEMBER, 1895.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

The elections are at hand. In the different municipalities of Ontario candidates will be nominated on December 30th, and voting will take place on the 6th of January. Now is the time for action. Our friends by being wise and aggressive may secure a much stronger hold upon our municipal representatives than we at present have.

The importance of this matter cannot be overestimated. If Local Option is sustained by the Privy Council, as it is expected to be, the matter of the submission of by-laws will rest entirely in the hands of the Councils now about to be elected. Should the decision of the Court be as indicated, then it is manifest that the election of good Municipal Councils means the enactment of prohibition in hundreds of municipalities.

Even if the decision should not go so far as to sustain Local Option there will still remain in the hands of municipal councils a great deal of power in dealing with the liquor traffic and that power may be still further extended during the coming session of the Legislature. The limitation of the number of licenses and the imposition of some further restrictions upon the traffic is already within the power of municipal bodies. These bodies have also important authority in the appointment of police officials whose duty it is to carry out the liquor laws as well as other legislation.

There is not a moment to lose. We sincerely hope that our friends will be alive to the necessities of the situation. Our cause is well worth a little effort and sacrifice on the line just pointed out. That effort can be made to tell to great advantage. Let us be up and doing.

THE PRIVY COUNCIL DECISION.

Much to the disappointment of many anxious prohibitionists in Canada, the expected decision of the Imperial Privy Council on the question of provincial jurisdiction is still delayed.

It was confidently anticipated that before this time we would have known definitely where we stand. In all probability the Court will now adjourn for the holiday season without rendering judgment. This will mean a delay till the latter part of January or the beginning of February before we know our exact position.

It is earnestly to be hoped that the judgment will come before the meeting of the Provincial Legislature so that our friends in the Legislative Assembly will have their hands free to take some decisive steps towards dealing with the pressing problem of liquor legislation.

MILITARY TEMPERANCE IN INDIA.

Through the courtesy of the Adjutant-General of the British Army in India, the Rev. Mr. Bateson, General Secretary of the Army Temperance Association, has compiled some statistics on the subject of military offences which are very suggestive, as showing the remarkable effect which temperance has in the diminution of crime in the army:

1. *Trials by Court-Martial.*—The figures supplied by the Adjutant-General show:

Abstainers	91
Non-abstainers	2,131

Taking the number of total abstainers, as shown by the Adjutant-General, as 20,675 and the number of non-abstainers as 40,758, the convictions, per thousand, are as follows:

Abstainer	4.51
Non-abstainers	42.82

Thus so far as serious crime is concerned there were, during the year 1894, nearly ten times as many convictions per thousand among drinking men as among total abstainers.

2. *Number summarily punished for insubordination.*—The statistics under this head are not so distinctly in favor of the members of the association, though they show that the convictions among non-abstainers per thousand are almost double those among abstainers.

Abstainers,	900 or 46.86 per thousand.
Non-abstainers,	4,610 or 92.84 per thousand.

3. *Convictions for minor offences.*—The entries among abstainers in certain representative corps for the three months ending March 31, 1895, were 22.2 per thousand, whilst those among non-abstainers were 90.7 per thousand.

In this connection take the following testimony from a letter addressed to Rev. C. A. Gillmore by General Dandridge, commanding the Peshawar District in 1886. General Dandridge says:

I have already recommended very strongly the provision of tents for a separate temperance canteen on the line of march. I am very much pleased to find that so many of the Rifles are joining the temperance societies. I spoke to them after parade a few days ago, and I told them a little experience which befell me whilst I was at Umbella in the hot weather. It may interest you too, so I give it below. A regiment I had to inspect had in the year before the previous inspection 175 courts-martial, and the fines for drunkenness amounted to £300. In the ensuing year, up to the time of my inspection, the number of courts-martials had dwindled down to 32, and during the last five months there has been but five all told. And the fines for drunkenness has decreased in like ratio. *This good effect was the result of upward of 400 of the men having joined temperance societies.*

STUNTED BY SALOONS.

A press despatch from Des Moines, Iowa, dated October 6, states:—

"The return of the saloon has been disastrous to prosperity. There are hundreds of empty houses here, business is stagnant, except in the drug shops, and the population, instead of reaching 80,000 as was expected and as doubtless would have been the case had prohibition continued, is shown by the State census to be hovering in the neighborhood of 57,000, an increase of about 7,000 in the last five years, as against an increase of 17,000 in the preceding five years of solid prohibition. Business men, who clamoured for saloons as the method of making a city of Des Moines, see the sudden stoppage of immigration of the best classes from the small towns of the State, and from other parts of the country, yet are apparently loath to admit the error which led them into the great mistake of lowering the civic tone of our municipality. You may look for an uprising against the saloon as soon as the leaven of adversity permeates the community, and brings it to the point of action."

CIGARETTES THE CAUSE.

The school board of Santa Anna found that for some reason the boys in the public schools were nowhere nearly as proficient in their studies as the girls, and an investigation was instituted to discover the cause, whether the boys were being neglected by their teachers, or whether a lack of discipline was

chargeable with the fact that the boys were not doing well. The investigation was had, and it was found that 90 per cent. of the boys between the ages of twelve and fifteen years, who attended the public schools, smoke cigarettes. The investigation did not require to be pushed any further. It is sufficiently well known that cigarette-smoking blunts the intellect as well as undermines the constitution, and if 90 per cent. of the Santa Anna boys stay with the habit, 90 per cent. of the Santa Anna boys will be failures in life, and no help for it."—*Palo (Cal.) Mail.*

BEER DRINKING IN GERMANY.

The advocates of beer drinking have been in the habit of pointing to Germany as a particularly sober country, which has been in no way injured by the general and very large use of its favorite beverage.

And yet the drink question has become an important one in the political economy of that country. Prof. Schmoller, of Berlin, an able political economist, thus writes: "Among our working people the conditions of domestic life, of education, of prosperity, of progress or degradation are all dependent on the proportion of income which flows down the father's throat. The whole condition of our lower and middle classes—one may, even without exaggeration, say the future of our nation—depends on this question. If it is true that half our paupers become so through drink it gives us some estimate of the costly burden which we tolerate. No other of our vices bears comparison to this."

A German military critic, commenting upon the unsatisfactory condition of a detachment of reserves suddenly called out for the autumn manoeuvres (1892), and attributing their poor condition and absolute incapacity for vigorous drill to their inactive, beer-drinking habit of life, said: "Unless Germany redeems herself from the saloon, she will look in vain for competent defenders when the test of war is to be met. A man cannot rise from his *kneipe* and fight for his fatherland." It has been estimated that the military efficiency of the German army has been depreciated 15 per cent. on account of the beer-drinking habits of the German soldiers.

One of the latest utterances is that of Mr. Brendell, in March, 1894, before the Anthropological Society of Munich. Among other things he said: "Germany spends at present 2,500,000,000 marks annually for the alcoholic beverages (about \$625,000,000). Although large quantities of beverages were drunk formerly, still only in the last century, and more especially in the last decade, in which the brewer's art was perfected, drinking has become universal. It has spread everywhere and increased to a frightful, most alarming extent. It has been introduced even into country communities, and the only inevitable consequence will be the thorough degeneration of the human race, if the evil is not checked before it is not too late. Although it is contended that beer contains less alcohol than either wine or whiskey, it is nevertheless as injurious as either of them, while its vaunted nutritive value stands in no proportion to its price. When a man is required to perform the greatest feats of corporeal exertions, in battle, sport, explorations, etc., the baneful effects of alcohol is most strikingly shown. English life insurance companies divide their risks into two classes, the non-drinkers and the drinkers and the average of expected mortality has for several years been only 71 per cent. of the former, therefore 29 per cent. less than that of the latter. Taking the rate of mortality at one thousand, of this unit die: farmers, 630; brewers, 1,301; saloon-keepers, 1,521; waiters (of both sexes) in bar-rooms and saloons, 2,205. In spite of the marvelous advantages of our present age, a great retrogression, in an ethical sense, is undeniable, the chief cause of which is principally due to the increase of drunkenness, because the beer saloon has become the centre and focus of social life."

It is not surprising, in view of the foregoing statements, that much anxiety is felt among the thinking people of Germany and that remedies are being sought for the evils. Temperance organizations—the Blue Cross Society and the Good Templars—have been at work for several years, endeavouring to promote total abstinence. But the most important association is that known as the

"Verein Gegen Den Missbrauch Geistiger Getränke," (A Union to prevent the Misuse of Liquors). It was organized in 1883. It numbered at the last report about 10,000 members grouped in local associations in various parts of the country. Total abstinence is not a condition of membership. It is designed, rather, to awaken the people to see the social danger which threatens the country from the prevalent excessive drinking habits, and to unite them so for the correction of the evil. The society has much social importance. Its membership is almost wholly recruited from the educated and influential class. Among its first supporters were the Emperor Frederick, Gen. Von Moltke, Field Marshal Herwarth Von Bittenfeld, and the Oberbürgermeister Miquel, late Prussian Minister of Finance, and one of the most important persons in Germany. It has also among its members many physicians, prison officials, directors of asylums, pastors concerned with missionary work, charity experts like Dr. Emminghaus of Gotha, economists like Professor Bohmert of Dresden, and many other persons brought professionally or by their philanthropic activity into close relations with the question of drink. The present Emperor, following the example of his father, has formally expressed his approval of the society, and his hope that it may succeed.

Moved by the gravity of the situation, the Emperor has proposed a new measure for the regulation of the drink traffic, the object being to reduce the evils now so manifest. The measure has not yet become law, but the fact that it has been proposed is very significant. The *Reichsanzeiger*, one of the leading papers of Berlin, which published in full the proposed law against the "abuse of spirituous liquors," presenting reasons for its passage, stated that in the year 1880-90 there 2,270,825 hectolitres (22 English gallons is one hectolitre) of pure alcohol consumed in Germany, or 4.64 litres for each man, woman and child in Germany; of wines about 6.44 litres, and of beer an average of 90 litres per head for each human in Germany, were consumed annually. There had been a large increase in the number of cases of chronic alcoholism and of delirium tremens treated in public institutions, from 4,272 in 1877 to 10,300 in 1885. The alcoholic cases furnish about 20 per cent. of nearly all the cases treated in public hospitals. Of the prisoners in Germany penitentiaries convicted of murder, 40 per cent. used liquor, and 41 per cent. were habitual drunkards; of those who committed manslaughter, 63 per cent. were drinkers; violent assault 74 per cent.; rape 60 per cent.; and other crimes varied from 40 to 68 per cent. by habitual drinkers.

These facts and figures do not seem to bear out the statement so often made that there is no intemperance in Germany.—*Minority Report, Royal Commission.*

RALLY DAY.

Rally Day! Here is something for all the lodges. Originally the idea comes from Brother Starn, of Steuben county, and is a good one.

Appoint an evening, right away, now when the people are settling down for fall and winter work, have an open meeting, ask in by special invitation—a nice card of invitation is not a bad thing—all that have ever affiliated with the lodge, and all that you would like to have join. Give time and labor to make up a first class programme, and don't forget the refreshments. Lay yourself out to make everybody have just as good a time as possible, and cater to their *best* impulses.

Not an old member of the lodge but remembers with pleasure the hours spent in the lodge room, and many a one would gladly renew them, if only the way was made agreeable for him to do so, while many who have not been members know nothing of the joys of lodge night, and seeing them, will cheerfully give their names and take hold of the work with energy.

The secret of success will be in not sparing time, labor or expense, in having everything worthy of the occasion. In nothing will the old adage be truer, "what is worth doing is worth doing well," than in this. The public is keenly alive to real value and knows a bogus penny on sight. Aim high and you will succeed.

Many a lodge thin in members, low in spirit, down in finance, may in the above lay a foundation for a prosperous winter's work, while all will find it every way hopeful. Interest, work, and sacrifice in place of debt, are conditions paramount.—*Official Organ.*