

## 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, 1901

### STEADY PROGRESS.

Impatient people sometimes grow weary of effort, because they do not see immediate and great results from their labors. In their disappointment they are almost ready to abandon a cause that has done and is doing much for humanity. Others call for changes of policy and new experiments. Is this impatience wise?

Hitherto, in Canada, friends of the temperance cause have been generally agreed that the wisest method of dealing with the drink evil was the advocacy of total abstinence from intoxicants as a personal practice, and the prohibition of the liquor traffic as a legal method.

Working along such lines, these advocates have so far failed to reach the goal of total prohibition, but have succeeded in securing the delocalization of the liquor traffic in many localities, the limiting of the number of licenses in other places, and the incorporation of various prohibitory features in the license laws of the different provinces.

The prohibition principle has so far prevailed that at the present time in the province of Nova Scotia there are only two counties out of eighteen in which licenses are issued. In New Brunswick nine counties out of a total of fourteen are under prohibition. The liquor traffic is prohibited throughout the whole province of Prince Edward Island. Outside the large cities, Quebec has 603 municipalities without licenses, out of a total of 935. The greater part of Manitoba is under prohibition. In Ontario there has been a steady reduction in the number of licenses issued. For the year ending in 1875 the total number was 6,185; for the license year ending in 1900 the number was 2,950.

Along with a steady restriction of the liquor traffic there has been going on for many years a falling off in the record of drunkenness. A striking instance is seen in the following table giving the last published year's convictions for drunkenness in the Dominion of Canada and the Province of Ontario, compared with a year's convictions five and ten years ago:

Year.	Canada.	Ontario.
1889	13,893	7,059.
1894	11,358	3,267.
1899	11,099	2,764.

In considering these figures it must be remembered that during the period mentioned the population was steadily increasing, so that proportionately to the population there has been a great falling off in criminal drunkenness as

well as a large increase in the operation of prohibition.

The progress has been continuous. Immediately upon the repeal of the Scott Act there was of course an increase in the number of licenses issued in Ontario. Since that time, however, every year has witnessed a reduction, notwithstanding the growth of the population.

Our progress has not been all that some of us expected. We may have underestimated the character and strength of the forces that are working against us. We have been disappointed in some of the men in whom we trusted. We have had checks and reverses. Nevertheless, we are winning and shall win. It is no time and we have no reason to be fainthearted. We have abundant reason to "thank God and take courage."

### IMMEDIATE LEGISLATION.

It is our imperative duty to refuse to accept as a settlement of the liquor question anything short of total prohibition. It is at the same time our right to expect the Legislature, pending the settlement of the question of jurisdiction, to exercise at once its unquestioned power of restriction, by such revision and improvement of the License Law as is manifestly reasonable, and much of which is absolutely necessary to remove unjust discrimination in favor of the liquor traffic as against the general public, and to make effective the plain intention of the law. Among the amendments which ought to be made are the following:

(a) A majority of the electors in a polling subdivision ought to have the right by a signed petition to prevent the renewal of a license in their locality at the end of a license year.

(b) The sale of liquor to minors ought to be absolutely prohibited. The law now allows sale to little children on orders from parents, guardians or employers.

(c) Persons to whom liquor has been sold unlawfully ought not to be punished if they give straightforward evidence in prosecutions against the law-breakers. Their present liability to punishment interferes badly with law enforcement.

(d) A municipal council ought not to have power to prevent the taking of a vote on the question of local prohibition. A twenty-five per cent. petition of the electors should compel the taking of a vote.

(e) There ought to be a change in the law which now makes a tavern license that has been issued unlawfully as valid and effective as if legally granted.

(f) Inspectors and magistrates ought not to have unlimited power to keep on continually imposing only first offence penalties upon offenders who have been many times convicted of law breaking.

(g) Provision ought to be made to prevent the continued renewal of licenses to persons who have been repeatedly convicted of violating the law.

### THE GOTHENBURG SYSTEM.

There seems to be a great deal of misunderstanding about the so-called Gothenburg system of dealing with the liquor traffic. Many persons imagine that this system is government ownership, and that under it the liquor traffic is carried on by officials who have no interest in its financial success. The following are the actual facts of the case.

Up till the middle of last century Sweden and Norway were notorious for spirit drinking and intemperance. These countries had practically free trade in the manufacture and sale of liquor. There were in the year 1829, in Sweden alone, 173,124 spirit stills in operation.

Shortly after the middle of the century laws were adopted by both these countries, giving municipalities power to prohibit the liquor traffic, and also

authorizing the granting of licenses for the sale of spirits, to companies to be formed for the purpose of managing the liquor traffic, for the public benefit.

The first of these companies was established in Gothenburg in 1865, hence the name given to the method. The profits of its shareholders were limited to six per cent. of the capital invested. All money earned by the business above that amount was to be devoted to public purposes.

In Sweden the surplus profits were to be paid to the municipality to lighten taxes. In Norway they were to be voted by the company for the establishment and maintenance of gardens, parks, hospitals, temperance societies and various other philanthropic enterprises. A recent change in the law in Norway applies much of the surplus profits in that country also to the lightening of taxes.

Under the new legislation a great improvement has taken place in both Norway and Sweden. All through the rural parts prohibition has been adopted. The "company system" prevails in most of the towns of Sweden, and in about one-half the towns of Norway; the other Norwegian towns have prohibition.

In the towns in which the Company system prevails drunkenness still continues, though to less extent than under the old free trade system, but to a much greater extent than in similarly situated Canadian towns and cities.

The Company system does not apply to the sale of beer, in which a great many private parties engage. Other parties than the companies are also licensed to sell spirits not to be drunk on the premises on which they are sold. This is an accurate, though condensed, statement of the Gothenburg System, which is sometimes and more correctly called the Company System.

### RESULTS OF THE COMPANY SYSTEM.

It is difficult to estimate the real value of a system which is so incomplete, which is hampered by so much free sale of liquor in towns, and helped by so much prohibition in the country.

The annual Swedish per capita consumption of spirits is eight litres, and of beer 45 litres. Stating the consumption in gallons and comparing it with that of Canada, we get the following table:

	Gal's spirits.	Gal's beer.
Sweden . . . . .	1.76	9.90
Canada . . . . .	.66	3.99

The population of Gothenburg in 1899 was estimated at 122,376. The quantity of spirits sold in that year by the companies amounted to 1,958,193 litres, equal to about 430,802 gallons, or three and one-half gallons per head of the population. This does not include the liquor sold by other parties, nor beer and wine, of which the consumption is also large.

The arrests for drunkenness in the city of Gothenburg for the same year amounted to 58 per thousand of the population. In the same ratio arrests for drunkenness in the city of Toronto would be 12,876, whereas the actual number of arrests made in Toronto was 4,269.

Comparative statistics of arrests for drunkenness do not always convey correct impressions because of the different methods of dealing with drunkenness in different cities, and differences in the character of the population. It is instructive, however, to note that the number of arrests per thousand of the population has been diminishing in Toronto and increasing in Gothenburg.

## IMPORTANT.

TORONTO, 1901.

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 to **inspire workers and make votes.**

The victory won in the plebiscite was only the opening of a campaign in which the liquor traffic will do its utmost to block, delay, and if possible prevent our securing the enactment and enforcement of prohibitory law. We have plenty of hard fighting ahead of us. We must keep posted and equipped, knowing all that is being done by our friends and foes, and sophistry and misrepresentation that will be advanced.

**The Camp Fire** will be one of the best aids you can have in the struggle. It will contain nothing but what you need. Every number ought to be preserved. You cannot afford to be without it, and the subscription price is only nominal, **Twenty-five cents per year.**

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