

THE CAMP FIRE.

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. Manifesto .

TO THE PROHIBITIONISTS OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO :

Another step has been taken in the settlement of the question of the jurisdiction of Provincial Legislatures over the liquor traffic. The Supreme Court seems to be equally divided.

It is of the utmost importance that this matter should be speedily settled. The immediate future of our cause in Ontario depends upon the final decision regarding it. The Provincial Legislature cannot be expected to enact laws regarding which their authority is uncertain. Even in reference to the passing of local option by-laws, there is anxiety and uncertainty as to our position.

A deputation from the Alliance Executive recently waited upon the Ontario Government and was assured that the appeal to the Privy Council would be pressed with all possible despatch, and it is hoped that a decision will be arrived at in June of the present year. We shall then know exactly where we stand, and will be in a position either to call upon the Provincial Government to redeem the pledge given a year ago to prohibit the liquor traffic as far as the courts would warrant them in going, or else to urge upon them a radical reform of our licensing system, so as to restrict the liquor traffic far within its present limits.

In view of this uncertainty it has been thought wise to defer the annual convention of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance until the decision of the Privy Council. There will then be issued immediately a call for a general convention to which every temperance and prohibitory organization, every church and young people's Christian society will be asked to send delegates, and at which the whole situation will be considered with the full knowledge then in our possession, and we can decide upon a definite policy of immediate aggressive provincial prohibition work.

In the meantime a most important duty is upon us. A general election for the House of Commons will be held before long, and it is imperative that prohibitionists should be thoroughly organized and active so as to make that election tell for the advancement of their cause.

It is to be regretted that neither of the political parties as such, has taken the position upon this question which its importance demands, and which the advanced public sentiment of the Dominion would warrant. The Government at Ottawa refuses to deal with the subject until there has been an opportunity to consider the report of the Royal Commission, a report which has been most unreasonably delayed, and which, judging from the composition and course of the Commission, is not likely to be fair to our cause. The Liberal party has declared in favor of a Dominion plebiscite, which policy that party still advocates, although votes have already been taken in most of the provinces, clearly showing an overwhelming public opinion in favor of prohibition.

It is manifest that to obtain a fair consideration of the prohibition question in the Parliament about to be elected, we must secure the return of members who can be depended upon to support our cause altogether regardless of party exigencies, who will put their prohibition principles before any mere partisan considerations.

The representative National Convention held in Montreal in July last, adopted a political platform embodying the following resolutions:—

That prohibitionists ought to firmly stand by the position that in political matters they will support only known, avowed and reliable prohibitionists.

That to aid in securing the nomination and election of such candidates, our friends everywhere are urged to organize prohibition clubs, which will take advantage of every opportunity to plan and work for the carrying out of the objects above set out.

That it is also recommended that in order to secure the nomination of prohibition candidates, our friends take a more active part in political organization so as to secure the nomination, by all parties, of men who can be depended upon to support our cause, giving it to be understood distinctly that any other candidates will have their active opposition. That no candidate for Dominion Parliament or Local Legislature receive our support who will not publicly pledge himself to work in the interest of prohibition at every opportunity, regardless of fealty to his political party.

That where such prohibition candidates cannot be nominated by any political party, our friends nominate independent candidates, and make special efforts to secure their election.

The carrying out of the important plan of action detailed in this platform must devolve upon the friends of prohibition in the different localities, who are again earnestly urged to take immediate steps to see that there is before the electors in every constituency a candidate who complies with the conditions above set out.

In every constituency where such action has not already been taken, there should be held forthwith a conference of representative prohibition workers to consider and decide upon what ought to be done in regard to the matter mentioned. A "Call" for such conference might be signed by a few representative temperance and Christian workers, taking care to have as far as possible, different churches and temperance societies represented, in persons signing such "Call." Special care should be taken to keep such action entirely free from any political partizanship.

The liquor curse is still rampant in our Dominion, loading us down with an awful weight of disaster, wretchedness and crime, the consequences of which fall heavily on many who are entirely innocent of any complicity with that traffic. We owe it to these to do our utmost in their behalf. There is sentiment enough against this evil. We want such unhesitating, determined and judicious action as the necessities of the case demand. Let there be no time lost in responding to the call.

Organization for the election and preparation for the Convention need not interfere with each other. They may help each other.

In view of the urgency of the present situation, and the opportunity that it offers for materially helping on the prohibition movement, YOU are earnestly and respectfully urged to consult with other friends, and do what you can to secure the working out of the principles which have been laid down.

On behalf of the Alliance Executive Committee.

F. S. SPENCE,

Secretary.

JOHN J. MACLAREN,

Chairman.

THE FIELD OF FIGHT.

WHAT OUR FRIENDS AND FOES ARE DOING.

Twenty-two newspapers in Kansas are edited by women.

A local option bill is being considered by the New York State Legislature.

A woman suffrage amendment has been submitted by the California legislature.

Submission of a prohibitory amendment will be asked of the Michigan legislature.

The W.C.T.U., of Alabama, is working for the passage of a general prohibition law.

The Local Control Bill has been unanimously endorsed by the Women's Liberal Federation of England.

Within twenty-four hours at Christmas, nearly five hundred arrests for drunkenness were made in Philadelphia.

The Manitoba Prohibitory League has passed a resolution endorsing the action of the Patrons in making prohibition a political plank.

The temperance workers of New York State are making a splendid fight against the proposition to authorize the sale of liquor on Sundays.

A bill is before the Colorado Legislature providing for the submission to the electors of the State of a prohibitory amendment to the constitution.

In all the ninety-five grammar schools of New York City the Anti-Cigarette League has been organized, and now has a membership of 40,000 boys.

In Utah, a movement is on foot to secure a popular vote on the question of prohibition at the same time as the vote is to be taken on the adoption of the State constitution.

The Street Railway Company of Hamilton has issued a regulation prohibiting their employees from entering saloons either when they are on or off duty.

In Carleton County, N.B., the prohibition party men have formed a permanent organization and nominated Mr. J. K. Fleming, of Woodstock, as a candidate for the House of Commons.

The prohibitionists of King's County N.B., and the prohibitionists of York, N.B., have tendered to Dr. Joseph McLeod nominations as candidate for the House of Commons.

The Quebec Branch of the Dominion Alliance will hold its 16th Annual Provincial Convention at Montreal, Monday, February 26th, beginning at 10 o'clock in the parlors of the Young Men's Christian Association Building.

General Booth, the great Salvation Army leader, received a cordial reception in Toronto. He received addresses from different temperance organizations and spoke on the question of temperance in Massey Hall on the afternoon of Sunday, Feb. 10th.

W.C.T.U. workers of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, carry on a lunch and oyster room that is very popular and successful, furnishing a much valued place of resort for country people visiting the city.

The prohibitionists have come out victorious in North Dakota in the fight over the re-submission to the people of the prohibition question. The re-submission bill was defeated in the House of Representatives by a vote of 34 to 32.

The British Government have declared their determination to stand unflinchingly by the Liquor Traffic Local Control Bill giving districts the power to say whether or not they shall have the liquor traffic continued.

L'Electeur, a French-Canadian paper, declares that the violation of liquor laws in the Province of Quebec is "simply immense," that thousands of illicit stills are running, and that smuggling is being carried on on a vast scale.

Manitoba Patrons have adopted prohibition as a plank in their political platform. The organization in Quebec has done the same, and it is expected that the grand association for the Province of Ontario will follow suit. This will practically give us a political party pledged to prohibition.

The Inland Revenue Returns for the year ending June 30th, 1894, show that the amount of spirits entered for home consumption in Canada during the year, was 2,749,108 gallons. The quantity of malt liquor manufactured was 18,290,636 gallons. There was an increase in spirits consumed of about 1400 and an increase in malt liquors of about 1,000,000 gallons.

Read carefully the **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT** on the third page.