

# THE CAMP FIRE.

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## ORGANIZATION.

From nearly every part of the Dominion comes news of preparation for the coming plebiscite campaign. It is evident that prohibitionists are not going to be caught unprepared.

The Quebec Branch of the Dominion Alliance is pushing organization in the different counties of the province. Mr. J. H. Carson, the energetic secretary, is superintending the work which is being taken hold of with much enthusiasm by the rank and file of the workers.

The Province of Ontario has the advantage of the experience gathered and the machinery brought into operation at the time of the Provincial plebiscite. Much of this will be available. A number of counties have preparation under way. The whole Province will pretty certainly be organized on municipal lines.

New Brunswick has a Provincial organization headed by Rev. Dr. McLeod of Fredericton. It was formed a year ago at a representative convention. The annual meeting for 1897 has not yet been announced. It will probably be held in time to constitute a rallying point for the commencement of the great struggle.

The different temperance Orders in Nova Scotia are doing excellent work. Here also there is the advantage of the drill of a recent provincial campaign. It is probable that a union of forces in some form will be constituted when the fight is fairly on.

In Prince Edward Island the capita] is already organized and arrangements are made for a Provincial Convention. The whole province being already under prohibition, and the general opinion of the people utterly opposed to anything in the shape of license legislation, a sweeping victory for the temperance cause is anticipated.

Manitoba has a branch of the Dominion Alliance which is already perfecting plans for the contest. The W.C.T.U., R.T. of T. and I.O.G.T., are also strong organizations and are all preparing to do their share.

Special organization has not yet been undertaken in the North West Territories and British Columbia. The W.C.T.U. and the various temperance organizations have a strong hold in the widely scattered population of these places. It will be difficult to get general central conventions. Already however, steps are being taken towards perfecting arrangements for local work which will probably result in some form of co-operative action between different localities.

## LEGISLATION IN ONTARIO.

A STRONG FIGHT BEING MADE FOR EFFECTIVE MEASURES.

The month of March was one of stirring interest in temperance circles in the Province of Ontario. A bill for the amendment of the Provincial License Law had been introduced into the Ontario Legislature on Feb. 25th. This measure had been eagerly looked forward to by friends of the temperance cause who expected to be radical and effective. The Bill introduced fell very far short of what was anticipated and a perfect storm of protest broke out in every part of the province.

The Executive Committee of the Dominion Alliance called a conference to consider the situation. This meeting was held in the Guild Hall, Toronto on March 11th, and was attended by about five hundred men and women, nearly every part of the country being represented. The conference was presided over by R. J. Fleming, Mayor of Toronto, and resolutions were adopted expressing strong dissatisfaction with the proposed legislation and asking for measures more up to the public sentiment. In the afternoon a deputation waited upon the Provincial Government and presented a strong protest the principal points of which will be found in the Alliance circular printed on the first page of the **MARCH CAMP FIRE**.

The result of this action was good. The proposed bill was practically withdrawn and for it was submitted a measure much more advanced in its character, although still falling far short of what the friends of temperance desired.

If the bill as proposed becomes law, it will cut off about one hundred and fifty existing licenses and go a long way towards preventing any further increase. It prohibits the sale of liquor to persons under twenty-one years of age, imposes rigid restrictions upon the sale of liquor by druggists, prohibits clubs from supplying liquor to persons under twenty-one years of age, prohibits the issue of new licenses to take effect near churches or school-houses, and has some other slightly restrictive clauses. The most valuable feature of the bill however, is the provision authorizing Municipal Councils to limit the hours within which intoxicating liquor may be sold on licensed premises.

It would take many columns of space to even mention the vigorous protests that have reached the office of this journal in the form of resolutions adopted by churches, C. E. Societies, temperance organizations and other bodies, some of them couched in extremely strong terms, all expressing disapproval of the failure of the Government in the first place to meet the requests of the convention of last July by more effective legislation, and also urging the speedy enactment of effective restrictive legislation.

Many earnest workers have taken part in this campaign. We cannot give them the special publication that we would desire.

## NOTES OF NEWS

Father Murphy of Gold Cure Fame, died at Montreal on Saturday April 2nd. He had established many institutions for the cure of drunkenness.

New Brunswick Grand Division Sons of Temperance, will be fifty years old in the coming fall. The Jubilee will be celebrated by a big campaign against the liquor traffic.

A number of temperance organizations in different parts of the world are planning for great temperance demonstrations in connection with Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

In March General Neal Dow, the father of the Maine Law, celebrated the Ninety-third Anniversary of his birth. He was deluged with congratulations from leading moral reformers in every part of the world. Many mass meetings were held in honor of the event.

The Manitoba Legislature has passed a bill amending the Liquor License Act. One clause provides that the right of a householder to petition for or against, or protest for or against a license, shall be vested in his wife in case he is absent from the municipality for more than thirty days before the time of signing.

A terrible accident occurred in the City of Montreal on April 5th, in which three men, employees in Dow's brewery, were asphyxiated by carbonic acid fumes in a beer vat which was being cleaned out.

A great national prohibition convention is to be held at Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, during the present month. It is the first large gathering of the kind ever held in the country. The programme is unusually extensive and full of interest, covering nearly every phase of temperance work and representing nearly every part of the civilized world.

Dr. Dawson Burns has published a carefully compiled estimate of the liquor bill of Great Britain and Ireland for 1896. He sets down the cost of liquors consumed as being £148,972,230. This represents an increase. The cost for 1895 was estimated at £142,414,812. The quantity of alcohol consumed is estimated at 2 13 gallons per head and the outlay as £3. 15s. 6d.

## LET'S DOWN THE SALOON.

Nearly all the crime committed in this country is in some way connected with whiskey and the saloon. Not only do we have the crime itself, but we have the ruined characters of the criminals, the suffering of their innocent parents, wives and children, the cost of the courts and the prosecuting officers, of the jails and deputy sheriffs, and all other costs connected with the searching for and punishing those who commit crimes. And then we must remember, that for pay—for the license fees—we authorize a lot of saloon-keepers to breed all this crime and misery. By thus licensing them we throw the protection of the law over them, and, in fact, go into partnership with them and share their ill-gotten gain. How long are we going to be willing to be partners in this wretched, low-down business? We ought to be ashamed of ourselves.

—Michigan Independent.

## A PICTURE.

In a recent *Ram's Horn* is a picture representing a home; in the front at the right a saloon-keeper, bloated and fierce, with horns growing from his head, is holding the limp form of a young boy under his arm; the boy has a beer mug in his hand; and a woman,

evidently the mother, with a face as pale as death, is making a desperate struggle to rescue her boy, but apparently with no more success than as if he were in the embrace of Satan himself. A man, evidently the father, sits in the back-ground leaning his head on his hand, but doing nothing more. He may be just as helpless as the mother, but it seems as if he might try to do something. What are we to think of men who boast of their political and patriotic honor, yet who do nothing to help mothers to rescue their boys from the awful grasp of the saloon?

—Wesleyan Methodist.

## ONE YEAR IN ONE CITY.

During the year, 5,807 men and 2,395 women found themselves in the Belfast police court. Of these 85 per cent. were brought into trouble through drinking. Mr. J. Coulter, the missionary in constant attendance at the courts, secured 1,500 signatures to the pledge. Mr. A. Leech reported a total of 2,500 men and 1,300 women brought up before the Cork police court for drunkenness or offences arising therefrom. Thus in two cities drink brought to the dock 12,225 persons, the aggregate fines on whom amounted to £4000.

## DESTROYED BY HIS WIFE.

Mrs. Chapin, one of the W.C.T.U. workers, was once entertained in Mississippi at the home of a young married couple, and the wife said to her:—"Now, Mrs. Chapin, I'm willing to entertain you, but I don't want you to talk temperance, for if you should convert my husband, then I'd have to banish wine from our table, and all my friends would call me a crank."

Mrs. Chapin spoke at the public meeting, and then made her way through the audience trying to get signers to the pledge. She begged the young husband to sign, and he was reaching for the pencil to do so, when his wife objected, and, with a smile, he shook his head and said: "No."

Six years afterward, Mrs. Chapin passed through the same place. She was the guest this time of another family, but after her address was over a weeping woman and a gibbering drunken man came up to greet her. It was the same couple who had entertained her six years before. "Oh," said the wife, "try to get my husband to sign the pledge." "No," he cried, "I wanted to be saved once, but you wouldn't let me. Now no one can save me, not even God in heaven."—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*.

## A HELPING HAND

A cabman signed the pledge for Rev. Charles Garrett, but soon after broke it. Conscience-stricken and ashamed, he tried to keep out of the way of his friend, but Mr. Garrett was not to be put off.

One day he found the poor, miserable man, and taking hold of his hand, he said:

"John, when the road is slippery and your cab horse falls down, what do you do with him?"

"I help him up again," replied John. "Well, I have come to do the same," said Mr. Garrett affectionately; "the road was slippery, I know, John, and you fell, but there's my hand to help you up again."

The cabman's heart was thrilled. He caught his friend's hand in a vice-like grip, and said:

"God bless you, sir! you'll never have cause to regret this. I'll never fall again."

And to this day he has kept his word.—*National Temperance Advocate*.