

## The Camp Fire.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL  
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF  
THE PROHIBITION CAUSE.

Edited by F. S. SPENCE

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, JANUARY, 1899

### PERSONAL.

The editor of the "Camp Fire" is confined to his bed through a serious illness. This has led to the January paper's being much later than would otherwise have been the case.

### A TIME OF HARVEST.

The year 1890 will be a memorable one in the history of the prohibition reform. Towards it have been gathering events, the result of which cannot longer be delayed. Its work will be the definite embodiment in legislation of a public opinion that has been steadily growing for many years.

There was much of pioneer work, there were many long periods of patient seed-sowing, there was careful cultivation of a sometimes unpromising soil, but the faithful toilers faltered not and from their work to-day we have a mighty national sentiment in favor of the absolute overthrow of the legalized liquor traffic.

The old liquor traffic was rooted strongly in prejudices, habits, customs and greed. Its evil day is nearly over. In the clearer soil of a more enlightened sentiment it is now our work to plant the seed of better legislation more in harmony with modern ideas, better adapted in its fruition to supply the great world wants of the day.

The new era will be one of intense interest and importance. On the steps to be taken during the next few months will depend the character and influence of the liquor laws of Canada for many years to come. We have a task before us now that needs judgment, patience, courage and faith. If we are true to the great responsibilities imposed upon us the work to be done in 1890 will be a work of rich benediction for the ages that are to follow.

### WAITING WISELY.

No reply has yet been received from the Dominion Government in reply to the request for legislation following up the victory won in the Dominion Plebiscite. The air had been full of assertions by those in favor of the liquor traffic and unfortunately in a few cases, by expressions of mistrust by those who ought to have been jubilant over the results. These boastful antis and weak-hearted prohibitionists agreed in the theory that the vote for prohibition was not large enough to warrant legislation. The folly of this position was forcibly shown in the facts of the case when

fairly presented, as well as in the avowal of the Government and in the careful consideration which they declare the situation demands.

We ought not to complain about the delay. The change that we expect will be one of the most far-reaching in its results of the political changes that have taken place in Canada. It is well that every point and detail of such an undertaking should be considered. To our minds, the Government is wise in studying the whole situation before declaring a policy, and men and women will be wise in waiting patiently for a deliverance that now certainly cannot be long delayed.

Some earnest prohibitionists are of the opinion that pending the reply from Ottawa, we should make an immediate raid on the Provincial Legislatures and demand from them all the provincial prohibition that it is constitutional for these bodies to grant. We do not agree with this policy. Ottawa is the storm centre now. Round it the interest of the public gathers. There can be no thorough, careful provincial campaign until we have a definite yes or no from the Dominion Government.

It may be that there is provincial legislation yet to be sought for. The character of that legislation will however, be determined by the action of the Dominion Parliament. We may have a prohibitory law that will require executive provincial action to secure its effective enforcement. We cannot tell what provincial legislation we shall need until we know what Dominion legislation we shall get.

Even if, which is unlikely, the Dominion Government should simply tell us that the vote does not warrant immediate parliamentary action, it would still be right for us to wait for such an answer before taking any provincial action. We are strong in Canada to-day. If our lately demonstrated strength is to be turned into provincial channels then we must have a programme of provincial prohibition that will be far more sweeping and effective than any demand which any representative body is at present authorized to make.

The question will also come up of whether or not we are to go on on provincial lines or unite in a supreme effort to place prohibition sentiment in control of the Dominion Parliament as it is now in control of the Canadian electorate.

But we trust that neither of these last contingencies will arise. We are looking to Ottawa with hope, and hope that rests on a strong foundation, a foundation that legislatures always respect and parliaments are slow to ignore. It is wise just now to wait.

### "AS OTHERS SEE US."

In the Canadian plebiscite on the liquor traffic there was a majority of 13,925 "in favor of the passing of an Act prohibiting the importation, manufacture, or sale of spirits, wine, ale, beer, and all other alcoholic liquors for use as beverages." By some process of reasoning which it is not easy to follow, this has been described by some strong partisans of the liquor interest in England as a defeat for Prohibition. What would they have said if the liquor party had obtained a majority, however small? The details show how baseless this contention is. From the voting it is clear that the French Canadians differ from the Anglo-Canadians as to the best means of promoting sobriety, though we do not doubt that each section is friendly to Temperance, each according to its own lights. But Anglo-Saxon Canada has shown itself ready to apply heroic

remedies to the evils wrought by the liquor traffic. The result of the Dominion vote must be to strengthen and encourage the workers for Temperance all over the world.—*Manchester Guardian*.

### NORTH DAKOTA.

#### "THEN" AND "NOW."

The latest testimony to the success of Prohibition comes from North Dakota, and from no less an authority than Judge Pollock, of Fargo. In answer to an enquiry from a bishop he has made a valuable statement of the working and of the results of the Prohibitory law in Fargo. He contrasts the condition of the city and county before and after the adoption of the law. In 1886 there were 41 licensed saloons in the city, which was then, as now, the metropolis of the state, and there were 78 in the county of Cass. Fargo had then about 8,000 inhabitants and the population of the county was estimated at 25,000. The politics of the county were dominated by the rum traffic. During the harvest season, when a large number of men came in for harvesting purposes the streets of Fargo were constantly lined with drunken men, and the crimes at that time were attributable very largely to drunken brawls. Every farmer hated to see a rainy day, not only because of the loss to crops but likewise the misfortune coming from drunken men who during the rainy days, would go to the smaller towns and become intoxicated.

And what are the present conditions? Notwithstanding the fact that property to the value of about one million pounds were destroyed by fire in 1893, the city has practically been rebuilt, and to-day there is a population of about 12,000. Stores are being constantly erected; there are no vacant stores; business is prosperous; the city is being paved; and there is general prosperity among the business men. "I do not know of a single open saloon in the county; indeed, I am sure there are none. More than that, while there probably are a few places in the county where liquor is secretly sold, yet there are so very few that one can practically say that they are entirely banished." And the good which comes from Prohibition is not confined to the material advancement of the state. Very many men who were strongly in favor of the license system have declared that there is a practical demonstration of the beneficent effects of the Prohibitory system, and that so far as they were concerned their vote will never go for the license system. "I know of one man," says the judge, "who owned a prominent block in this city, which paid him a fair rental value under the license system, and who vigorously opposed Prohibition because, as he said, he could not rent his buildings if a change was made. To-day he owns a building at the same place, which is rented to good business houses and to a bank, and he gets more rent than he did before. And that is not the best of it; he is not required, when he goes around to secure his monthly rentals, to 'blow in' 20 per cent. of the rent which he gets in the purchase of liquor, all for the sake of good fellowship. And he says more than that. He has seen a large number of men, who came off from the farms, after earning their summer wages, come into his store and buy a few articles of clothing, and go immediately across the street to the saloon, and exhaust their entire summer's wages under the old system, whereas now they come to his store and generally buy a large quantity of merchandise."—*Scottish Reformer*.

### A SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

The Rechabites record another year of progress. In the United Kingdom alone 180 new branches have been formed, 85 adult and 95 juvenile. The income of the order now exceeds £250,000 per annum. About 3,000 juveniles have been transferred to adult tents during the year. The Sons of Temperance, in Great Britain have an adult membership of 37,619, an increase for the year of 2,725. The funds amount to £155,807, a gain of £14,320. The juvenile membership of the society is 16,300.

On Sunday, December 25, every saloon in the city of Lexington, Ky., was closed by mutual agreement of the proprietors. This action was brought about by the fact that the recent grand jury indicted all saloon-keepers for violating the Sunday law.

## THE VANGUARD.

A GREAT WORK—READ CAREFULLY.

The VANGUARD was published during the stirring years of 1893-4-5 in the form of a magazine. It was devoted to expert discussion of the liquor question and the many matters thereto related, special attention being given to details of most interest and value to Canadians.

Prohibition workers found it a "mine" of information, and many of them desired to have its articles put into a form adapted for permanent use and reference. This has been done by binding and indexing the twelve numbers which were issued.

The book thus produced is a complete encyclopedia of information relating to the temperance and prohibition reform. In it are full and accurate statistics and other authoritative statements; covering nearly every field of available fact and argument, and including a great number of tables compiled with the utmost care. It also contains a record of the important events of the years named, and a summary of the history of the prohibition cause in Canada.

### CONTENTS.

Among a great many subjects comprehensively treated, are the following:—

The Liquor traffic in Different Countries—Legislation Relating to the Liquor Traffic;—The Working of High License;—Prohibition in the Northwest;—Prohibition in Maine;—Prohibition in Kansas;—Prohibition in Pitcairn Island;—The Canada Temperance Act;—Local Option;—The Scott Act and Drunkenness;—The Gothenburg System;—The Question of Jurisdiction;—Constitutional Prohibition in the United States;—The Plebiscite Movement;—The Plebiscite Returns;—The Drink Bill of Canada;—The Drink Bill of Great Britain;—The Drink Bill of the United States;—The Drink Bill of Christendom;—The Indirect cost of the Liquor Traffic;—Drink and Mortality;—Alcohol in Medicine;—Beer Drinking and its Results;—Drunkenness and Crime in Canada;—Drunkenness and Crime in the United States;—Drunkenness and Crime in Great Britain;—Drunkenness and Crime in other Countries;—The French Treaty;—Beer and Light Wines;—Adulteration of Liquors;—The Revenue Question;—The Compensation Question;—The Liberty Question;—Bible Wines;—Total abstinence and Longevity;—The Catholic Church and the Temperance Question.

### HOW TO GET IT.

This valuable work is in neat and convenient form, substantially bound in cloth boards, well printed on good heavy paper, clear type, fully indexed, containing over 650 pages. The number of copies now left is limited, but while they last one will be sent to any address in Canada, postage prepaid for FIFTY CENTS.

It will be a splendid handbook for speakers and writers in the Prohibition campaign.

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