

THE CAMP FIRE.

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Prohibition for Ontario.

The Annual Provincial Prohibition Convention for 1902, will be held in Toronto, on July 29th. It will be one of the most important ever held. Congregations and Societies should appoint delegates in good time. Low railway rates. Fuller announcement will shortly be issued by the Alliance Secretary.

DRINK-CAUSED MURDERS

For several years past the Chicago Tribune has annually published a statement regarding crimes of violence in the United States. The method used in gathering those statistics is not unquestionably accurate, since, as we understand it, the report given is merely a summary of what the news dispatches bring to the office of the Tribune in the course of the year. However, the figures are valuable and probably approach nearer to authentic statistics than any others in existence.

According to the Tribune's figures there were in the United States, during the year 1901, 820 murders caused by intoxicating drinks. The incompleteness of this statement is manifest in a moment when it is noticed that the list includes 1,646 murders that are recorded as the "outcome of quarrels." It is a matter of common knowledge that comparatively few quarrels end in murder where the principals of the quarrel are sober.

For some reason or other of late years there has been an extreme disinclination upon the part of the newspapers to report drink's part in a murder case. Yet the intelligent reader readily recognizes it in numerous instances. Take as an illustration a murder occurring in Chicago last Saturday night. Two men quarrelled over a matter of \$7. One of them went out and was gone a few minutes, returned and renewed his demand, was refused, and shot the other man, instantly killing him, and turning ran from the office, entered a saloon and took a drink. That that was not the first drink in the tragedy needs little confirmation, but the published reports will record this as a crime due to a quarrel, rather than due to drink.

But suppose that the figures of the Tribune were accurate and that only 820 people were murdered in the United States during the last year on account of intoxicating liquors. Even with that, the showing would be that as a people we are allowing a well-known, preventable cause to deprive a large number of our fellow citizens of life and to carry grief and suffering to a much greater number. Even 820 murders stand as a charge of appalling blackness against a people who will not take the necessary steps for the removal of the cause. —Father Matthew Herald.

AROUND THE WORLD

THE NEW ZEALAND DRINK BILL.

Rev. Edward Walker has published a statement showing the annual expenditure for intoxicating liquors in New Zealand for 1901. The total outlay he puts at \$2,922,982, a total of about \$17.17 per head for the population of the colony.

PROHIBITORY LAW REFUSED

Agitation by prohibitionists of New Brunswick for the enactment of a prohibitory law has been met by a declaration of the Government against the proposal. The answer of the Government to the appeal of the temperance people sets out that the Scott Act is in operation in most of the counties of the Province, that a good license law governs the sale of liquor in the remainder and that all of this legislation can be well enforced. It is not likely that the prohibitionists will be satisfied with this answer to their appeal.

A DRINK TRAGEDY.

A shocking story of wretchedness and crime was told at a coroner's inquest on June 3rd in the Megantic District of Quebec. A drunken father had repeatedly beaten and otherwise ill-treated his girls and boys until six of them had run away from home and hidden for a long time in the woods to escape his violence. Driven by want to return, after subsisting scantily on bread and water for some ten days, the father attempted to discipline the runaways, and a nine-year-old boy, fearing that his elder brothers would be killed by their angry parent, seized a gun and fired at his father, who at once fell dead.

TEMPERANCE IN THE GERMAN ARMY.

That progress is being made with the temperance movement in the German army is again shown by an order just issued by the Hereditary Prince Bernard of Saxe-Meiningen, commander of the Sixth Army Corps. According to the telegram received from Weimar the chief points of the order are the following: "Alcohol and alcoholic drinks are forbidden on marches and during exercises of all kinds, and no alcoholic beverages whatsoever may therefore be taken in field flasks, nor be sold to the men. Schnaps may be sold to the men up to certain specified hours in the canteens, but only in glasses, and on no account in bottles or other receptacles." Further restrictions are expected.

BEER IN AUSTRALIA.

From statistics just issued it appears the consumption of beer in Australia is falling off. The total quantity brewed during the season 1901-2 amounted to 442,314,616 gallons, an increase over the previous season of 2,794,335 gallons. This is the smallest increase recorded in the past five years. The reduced consumption in Lower and Upper Austria, Styria, and Tyrol is attributed to the competition of the native wines, which, owing to very favorable vintages, have been remarkably cheap. In Lower Austria, and particularly in Vienna, the unfavorable state of the labor market is said to have seriously affected the beer-consuming capacity of a large part of the population.

WORK IN IRELAND.

The White Ribbon Bulletin of the World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union says the White Ribboners in Reykjavik, Iceland, are following the lead of the Crusade leaders; they

are standing by the doors of saloons and urging men not to enter. Every afternoon at four o'clock these heroic women begin their devoted task, and they wait in the streets every night until closing time. The first evening the sheriff interfered and tried to stop our brave sisters, but they were undaunted, and held their position. Miss Johannsdottir thinks it will not be long before Iceland adopts prohibition. He will be very glad to receive English tracts to distribute among the numbers of sailors who crowd the saloons. —Alliance News.

LORD KIT LEVER AS TEMPERANCE REFORMER

With the aid of martial law, Lord Kit Lever has enforced some drastic rules in regard to the conduct of licensed premises in Johannesburg. Hotels are allowed only four hours a day at meal times to sell liquor. A correspondent writing on the subject says: "The beneficial effects of the change are freely acknowledged and there is little doubt that after martial law is raised many of the rules now enforced will, by common consent, be continued," and this in a city which, in proportion to its population, is said to have drunk more whisky than any place in the world. A. H. H. D. awbree, martial law, under Lord Kitchener's administration has shown the way of temperance reform in South Africa.

ABOLISHING BARMAIDS

A good deal of interest has been created in the Old Country by the action of the Glasgow magistrates in refusing to renew the licenses of any keeper of a public house who would not undertake to dispense with the services of all barmaids. It is well known that barmaids are one of the features of British public houses. They work hard for long and weary hours and have to submit to much insult and offensive conduct on the part of those whom they serve. The action of the Glasgow magistrates will likely be imitated in other places and will probably be the inauguration of an important reform in the bar business of Great Britain and Ireland.

GREAT BRITAIN'S DRINK BILL.

Rev. Dr. Dawson Burns estimates the expenditure for strong drink in the United Kingdom during the year 1901 as being \$158,154,055. This was a falling off from the outlay for 1900 of \$273,711,3.

The total consumption per capita of spirits for the year was 1.09 gallons and the per capita consumption of fermented liquors was 31.51 gallons, making a total liquor consumption of 32.63 gallons per head of the population. The greatest per capita consumption was in England, Scotland coming second and Ireland third. Reduced to a basis of alcohol, the liquors consumed represented an annual consumption of 2.21 gallons per capita.

JUVENILE WORK.

Great Britain is setting all English speaking communities a splendid example in the magnificent work for temperance that is being carried on among children. Last month witnessed the anniversary of the United Kingdom Band of Hope Union in connection with which there are now 28,000 societies and 3,300,000 members.

It is impossible to overestimate the present value and the promise of future success presented by this splendid army of more than 3,000,000 young people starting out in the right way. Temperance teaching among children is too much neglected in Canada and the United States. If our Dominion had a juvenile tem-

perance work proportional to that of the Old Land, we would have at least half a million members of young people's temperance organizations. There is a field of work that ought to be occupied without delay.

POETESS IN NEWFOUNDLAND

A recent press dispatch from Newfoundland contains the following important statement relating to the consumption of strong drink in that island. "The improvement in our economic and social conditions is largely due to the increasing sobriety of our people. The budget gives a very interesting table showing how very marked has been our advance in this respect the past thirty years. In 1870, with a population of 116,500, we drank 115,000 gallons of wines and spirits (110,000 gallons being rum) and 3,800 gallons of ales and beers, or, roughly speaking one gallon of the strongest drinks and one-third of a gallon of the milder per head of population, rum being essentially the fishermen's tipple. In 1900 we drank only 70,010 gallons of wines and spirits (rum being but 42,000 gallons), while whisky had increased from 1,200 to 16,180 and 52,215 gallons of ales and beers our population being 220,000. In other words, our people drank the same amount of ales per head but their consumption of alcoholic liquids dropped to less than one-third of a gallon."

A GREAT EXPENDITURE

Mr. F. P. Whittaker, M. P., recently delivered an interesting and important address in St. James Hall, London, on "The Economic Aspect of the Temperance Question." The meeting was one of a series in a lectureship founded in memory of the late Dr. Leys and Mr. Raper. Lord Peel presided. The address dealt in part with the expenditure for strong drink.

The speaker stated that he placed this outlay at a somewhat higher figure than did Dr. Dawson Burns. For the year ended in March, 1901, he put it at £189,000,000, which was within a million or two of the average annual expenditure during the last three years. For England and Wales the amount was £157,000,000, and the amount per head for the whole of the United Kingdom was £1 18s 2d and for England and Wales £1 17s 9d. The total amount was sufficient to defray all the charges not met out of national taxes and local rates. Whilst we had spent £169,000,000 on the war, we had spent during the same period over £360,000,000 in drink. He estimated that the annual amount spent on drink by the working classes was £116,500,000 and that the expenditure of the other classes was £72,500,000.

It was said that there was not so much drinking among the upper classes as there was formerly. The truth was that there had been a great change in customs and manners, and whilst there was less obvious intoxication, there was more soaking. He estimated the total income of the working classes at £750,000,000 per annum, and their drink bill amounted to about one-seventh of that sum. Drink was the chief cause, directly or indirectly, of overcrowding and its attendant evils, and although he did not overlook other injurious influences, he did say that if they could remove the evil of the drink traffic they would do more to lessen misery, poverty, and crime than they could do by any other means in their power. Sobriety was the real key to social reform.

Archdeacon Wilberforce proposed and Mr. McKinnon-Wood seconded a vote of thanks to Mr. Whittaker.