



# THE CAMP FIRE.

A Monthly Record and Advocate of the Temperance Reform.

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**Every one who receives this paper is respectfully requested to read every part of it carefully. It is a journal that no Canadian temperance worker can afford to be without. The subscription price is almost insignificant. In the present campaign for prohibition legislation in Ontario it will be of intense interest and great value.**

## THE PROHIBITION BILL.

As matters now stand the prohibition bill before the Legislature, and which has passed its second reading, provides for as strong and effective a measure of Provincial prohibition as it is within the power of the Legislature to enact. Too much importance cannot be attached to this fact. Strenuous efforts are being made by the liquor party to discredit the law and make it appear as a partial and lax piece of legislation. It is really in the most effective and rigid form which earnest and well qualified prohibitionists could devise.

The act, if passed by the Legislature, will be submitted to a vote of the electors qualified to vote at the election of members for the Legislative Assembly. Voting will take place upon a date in November not yet decided upon, and will be subject to all the provisions of the election law regarding corrupt practices, closing of saloons and the other conditions to secure a fair expression of public opinion.

To bring the bill into force in the Province, it must be ratified by a majority of the votes cast, which must also be a majority of the total vote polled in the Legislative Assembly elections of 1898. The total vote polled at that time was 426,976. To secure prohibition there must, therefore, be cast in favor of the present measure 213,489

If 213,489 votes are cast in favor of the bill, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council shall issue a proclamation which will bring the act into operation on the first day of May, 1904.

## THE UNFAIR CONDITIONS.

In the debate in the Legislature of the Prohibition Bill, discussion waxed warm over the question of whether or not the referendum was a constitutional or British method of legislating. With the exception of Mr. Marter, the speakers devoted comparatively little attention to the much greater violation of all principles of British fair play contained in the provision that a majority of the votes cast for prohibition should not prevail unless the total vote cast amounted to 213,489. As the bill stands, the liquor men may

unite to stay at home and yet win even though they should be in a minority of 200,000 of the votes cast.

This unjust proposal is of so ridiculous a character that it is hard to understand how the members of the Government can place themselves in the unenviable position of adopting, to defeat the prohibitionists, an expedient so utterly illogical as to be absolutely grotesque. No man of them is stupid enough to fail to see the foolishness of submitting to the electors the question of prohibition, and making its approval conditional upon the polling of a majority equal to a majority of another vote polled four years previously on a totally different issue. The liquor men must laugh in their sleeves at the palpably farcical character of the absurd scheme by which their selfish interests are so cleverly protected and promoted.

Unfortunately, the farce becomes a tragedy when this unreasonable and nonsensical scheme is used for the purpose of blocking a movement which aims at checking a fearful evil that is bringing degradation and sin, sorrow and ruin to thousands of Canadian homes. It is hard to find words strong enough to fittingly describe the discreditable method of professedly offering a remedy for these terrible evils while prescribing conditions to make the remedy unattainable.

The total vote polled for prohibition in Ontario in the plebiscite of 1898 was 154,498. Sir Wilfrid Laurier stated that the vote polled on that occasion was "under the circumstances a large one." To win under the proposed conditions of the coming referendum, prohibitionists would have to increase this vote by 58,991, that is, by over thirty-eight per cent. The total men's votes polled in the plebiscite of 1894 was 180,087. This was admitted by everybody to be a vote of great magnitude and a strong expression of public opinion. The new requirement is that prohibition will not be carried unless the vote polled in its favor is 33,402, or more than twenty-four per cent. greater than the great vote of 1894. It is a handicap that cannot be justified on any ground of probability or any principle of fair play.

The bill before the House makes it possible for prohibitionists to poll a vote of more than double that of the liquor party, and yet have the legislation they support defeated, while the views of a comparatively small minority may prevail. It proposes the double injustice of defeating the expressed will of a great majority and insisting that the will of a comparatively few may decide what form of legislation shall prevail. It is legislation in the interests of the liquor party, and class legislation of the most flagrant kind.

The temperance workers of Ontario have never yet shrunk from any

fight, however difficult or uncertain. They have voted twice for prohibition, recording majorities strong enough to justify definite and thoroughgoing legislation. No government or legislature has a right to impose upon them such conditions as those with which this bill proposes to fetter their efforts. A direct refusal to carry out the Government's promise would be more straightforward than this attempt to prevent what the bill professes to grant.

Probably never before in the history of democratic government was there proposed any legislative method so illogical, so one-sided and so unjust. It ought to call forth the indignation of every friend of the temperance cause, of every lover of equal rights, of every honest citizen. It ought to be rejected by the Legislature, which body may thus save itself from the charge of undignified trickery and inexcusable injustice.

## PROVINCIAL PROHIBITION

In the hot controversy that has been going on over the terms of the proposed referendum, temperance workers have paid too little attention to the clever campaign of misrepresentation that has been carried on concerning the legislation upon which the people are to be asked to vote.

The liquor party have endeavored to make it appear that the new law is full of loopholes and defects, permitting forms of liquor selling and tending to bring about conditions which they profess to deplore. They are specially diligent in making it appear that the law will encourage liquor selling in drug stores, and home drinking.

Briefly stated, the new law absolutely prohibits all sale or keeping for sale of intoxicating liquor by any person in the Province of Ontario except under the following conditions: (1) Wholesale druggists who are specially licensed may sell under rigid restrictions for mechanical and scientific purposes, and to registered medical men and specially licensed druggists. (2) Retail druggists who are specially licensed may sell under similar restrictions for medicinal or sacramental purposes.

The provisions for the carrying out of this prohibition are of the most complete and effective character, including requirements of certificates and prescriptions from qualified professional men and sworn official returns of all sales made. The specially licensed druggists will be under much stricter restrictions than those that now govern all druggists under the license law.

Buying for home use is absolutely prohibited unless the liquor is purchased from some person in another province or country. No sale or giving of liquor in clubs or shops or offices is in any way permitted. The law is about as rigid a measure of

provincial prohibition as it is possible to devise, under the powers that a legislature possesses. It is the strictest prohibition that it is now possible for us to secure.

Anyone who sells, or keeps for sale, or gives away, liquor unlawfully, any licensed druggist who sells in an unlawful place or an unlawful quantity, or allows liquor lawfully sold to be drunk on his premises, any one who supplies liquor to an illicit seller, and anyone who sells or gives liquor in any club, is liable for a first offence to a fine of not less than \$200 nor more than \$1,000, and in default of immediate payment to imprisonment for from three to six months, and for a second offence to imprisonment for not less than six months nor more than twelve months. If a licensed druggist or his agent is the offender, the license is forfeited and cannot be renewed for three years.

Any specially licensed druggist who sells without proper affidavit or other authority or fails to make and report record of sales, any person knowingly using liquor unlawfully purchased or consuming liquor on premises where sold, any physician, dentist or veterinary surgeon who uses his position to aid in the evasion of the law, and any person who gives liquor to a minor without authority of father, mother, guardian or physician, is liable for a first offence to a fine of not less than fifty dollars nor more than three hundred dollars, and in default of immediate payment to imprisonment for from two to four months; and for a second offence to a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500, and in default of immediate payment to imprisonment for from four to eight months, with similar provisions about forfeiture of license and disqualification of licensee.

As a measure of prohibitory legislation this law is far ahead of anything ever before drafted in this country. It is not fair to compare it with the Scott Act or any other measure more local in its nature or less stringent in its provisions. It is an honest attempt to devise the most effective kind of prohibitory law. It was the work of skilled and experienced professional men in Manitoba, who were also earnest advocates of total prohibition.

## THE BAR.

A poet has said of the saloon that it is appropriately called a bar:  
A bar to heaven, a door to hell,  
Whoever named it, named it well.  
A bar to manliness and wealth,  
A door to want and broken health.  
A bar to honor, pride and fame,  
A door to sin and grief and shame;  
A bar to hope, a bar to prayer,  
A door to darkness and despair;  
A bar to honored, useful life,  
A door to brawling, senseless strife;  
A bar to all that's true and brave,  
A door to every drunkard's grave;  
A bar to joy that home imparts,  
A door to tears and aching hearts;  
A bar to heaven, a door to hell,  
Whoever named it, named it well.  
—National Advocate

## 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.

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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, MARCH, 1902

### THE GREAT CONVENTION

The rally of prohibitionists at the Horticultural Pavilion in Toronto on Feb. 25th, was an epoch-making gathering. It was without exception the largest convention of prohibitionists ever held in Canada, representing every section of the Province and every class of the community. There were more than 1,200 delegates on hand, and fully 1,000 of them were men who will have votes in the coming Provincial election.

All through the day enthusiasm was high, yet discussion had in it nothing of personality and was full of force and determination. The delegates were practically unanimous in their condemnation of the unfair conditions attached to the proposed referendum, the main difference of opinion being as to whether or not direct condemnation should be made to the referendum proposal altogether.

The deliverances of the convention will be found in another column under the heading, "Declarations of the Prohibition Convention." They were adopted with slight verbal alterations from the form in which they were submitted as a report of the executive committee. The discussion referred to, took place upon an amendment to the third declaration offered by Rev. Dr. Chown, who wished to substitute for the committee's clause the following statement:—

"Whereas two plebiscite votes have been taken upon the question of prohibition, in which the principle has been adopted by overwhelming majorities, and whereas Sir Oliver Mowat and the Hon. G. W. Ross each expressed the conviction that the vote of 1894 indicated that the people were sufficiently educated upon this question, and whereas the Government has promised to introduce legislation to the extent of its powers, this pledge being reiterated by Hon. G. W. Ross last February, and

"Whereas the prohibition bill recently introduced by the Government provides for a referendum vote to give effect to said bill; looking upon the proposal for the so-called referendum as an evasion of the responsibility that belongs to the Government and the Legislature, and which cannot be regarded as other than a violation of a solemn promise of Government;

"Therefore, the convention enters its emphatic protest against such an evasion of responsibility and breach of faith, and calls upon the Legislature to amend the bill by

striking out the provisions for a referendum."

This resolution was seconded by Rev. W. Kettwell and was taken as expressing the views of that section of the convention which believed that the cause would be best served by denouncing not only the manifestly unfair features of the referendum bill, but the taking of any further vote of the electors on the question of prohibition.

It will be noticed that the declarations adopted do not either condemn or approve the referendum as a method. It is fair, however, to state that the strong opinion of the convention seemed to be that any more voting by the people was unnecessary and that the Government ought to have dealt with the situation by the introduction of a bill to be made law by the simple, ordinary action of the Legislature.

It was felt, however, that while a referendum was not necessary, that the temperance party had not a strong case for objecting to the ratification of proposed legislation by a fair vote and that the wisest position to take was simply that of opposition to the unjust features of the bill as it had been introduced into the Legislature.

The meeting was presided over by Rev. W. A. MacKay, D. D., president of the Ontario Branch of the Alliance. Rev. L. W. Hill and Mr. J. T. Shanks acted as secretaries. After the vote on Dr. Chown's proposed amendment the executive's declarations were unanimously adopted. A deputation was appointed to lay the findings of the convention before the Government.

### THE DEPUTATION.

On February 26th the Government received the deputation appointed by the prohibition convention of the preceding day. Although only a few representatives were chosen to convey the message of the convention, a large crowd of interested delegates were in attendance.

The deputation was introduced by Rev. Dr. MacKay. The views of the convention were voiced by Mr. A. B. Spencer, Mr. C. J. Miller, Mrs. May R. Thornley, and Rev. Dr. Carman. The speakers expressed the readiness of temperance workers to meet the liquor traffic advocates in a fair fight, but protested very strongly against the injustice of their opponents being allowed to win without securing a majority of the votes polled. Objection was also made to the 14th of October as the day for voting, and the Government was urged to give all classes better voting opportunities and safer conditions by having the voting at the time of the municipal elections for 1903.

In reply, the Premier argued that such a bill as the prohibition bill proposed ought to have the sanction of a conclusive majority of the electorate. He did not think it unjust to require prohibitionists to poll a majority of the votes cast in the election of 1898, and he stated that he could hold out no hope that prohibition would be secured by a simple majority of the votes cast. He was favorable to a change of the voting time to a later date, but was not prepared to say what date would be chosen, and he promised on behalf of the Government a thorough enforcement of the prohibitory law if it should come into operation.

### ACTION OF THE LEGISLATURE

On Wednesday, March 5th, Hon. G. W. Ross moved the second reading of the prohibition bill, which is to be

entitled "The Liquor Act, 1902." He spoke at some length on the question of whether or not the measure was constitutional and discussed also the matters of majority required and date of voting. The changes proposed from the form in which the bill was first submitted merely altered the voting day from October 14th to a day in November, not yet announced, and changed the majority required to secure prohibition to a majority of the votes cast, providing such majority is also a majority of the number of electors who voted at the general Provincial election in 1898.

Mr. J. P. Whitney, leader of the Opposition, opposed the bill. He denounced the referendum proposal and the unfair conditions attached to it. He also declared himself "opposed to the bill on the merits of it without reference to the referendum," and advocated as an alternative policy legislation decreasing the number of licenses, maintaining present restrictions, removing commissioners and inspectors from party influence, and a thorough enforcement of the law.

Hon. J. M. Gibson advocated the referendum as a constitutional method, quoting many authorities in favor of his contention, and commending the conditions attached to the bill.

Mr. G. F. Marter favored the bill as a useful measure of legislation, but did not think there was any necessity for a referendum to bring it into operation. He forcibly attacked the unjust condition of the measure which he proposed to endeavor to remove, but would support the Government in endeavoring to bring the bill into operation.

Speeches were also made by Hon. E. J. Davis, Mr. J. J. Foy, Mr. Geo. P. Graham, Mr. W. H. Hoyle, Mr. F. F. Pardee, Mr. Thomas Crawford, and Mr. I. B. Lucas.

The second reading was carried by a majority of thirteen, all the Liberals present and Mr. Marter voting for the measure, and all the Conservatives, excepting Mr. Marter, voting against it.

### A BAD LAW.

The opponents of prohibition are busily engaged in not merely striving to discredit prohibition in general, and the Manitoba Liquor Act in particular, but are loud in their praises of the many excellences of the present Ontario Liquor License Law, which they hold up as a model piece of legislation. This line of argument is also followed by many Liberal politicians, who seek by it to represent the Reform Party as being entitled to credit for useful temperance legislation.

There are many valuable restrictive provisions in the Ontario License Law. It is a vastly better measure than the law that was in force in this Province thirty years ago. To-day it is, however, antiquated, defective and from a temperance standpoint lacking in some detail as compared with the liquor law of any other Province.

For many years this law has been condemned by successive conventions of temperance workers, and the Government has been persistently appealed to for needed improvements and better enforcement. It is no secret that the Government has realized and admitted its defects, and had promised a revision of it before the present crisis was precipitated by the Privy Council's decision in favor of the Manitoba Prohibitory Law.

Every temperance worker who has made any honest attempt to secure an enforcement of the provisions of the Ontario License Law knows that this law is weak, imperfect and out-of-date, and that in many parts of the Province its enforcement has been in the hands of officials who have used its technical defects to thwart the efforts of those who have striven to make it an effective measure for the restriction of the liquor traffic.

It is true that some of our experienced workers, who know what the license law really is, stated the facts regarding a measure that for many years has been far behind what the temperance sentiment of the country demands.

## IMPORTANT.

TORONTO, 1902.

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**.

We are embarking on a campaign for prohibition legislation in which the liquor traffic will do its utmost to block, delay, and if possible prevent our securing the enactment and enforcement of useful 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**.

While a necessity to every prohibition worker the **The Camp Fire** will also be of special value for distribution. We must keep up our educating work. Printed matter tells. It does its work continuously, silently, fearlessly and No form of literature is so generally read and so potential as the up-to-date periodical. It comes with the force and interest of newness and life. For this reason the form of a monthly journal has been selected.

This journal will be in every respect reliable and readable. Every article will be short, good and forcible, containing nothing sectional, sectarian or partizan. The literature of the old world and the new world will be ransacked for the most helpful and effective material. The price is very low.

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Your help is asked in this great work. **Every society** should subscribe for and distribute hundreds of copies. This is the easiest and surest plan of making prohibition votes. Look at the terms:

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Address,

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THE RIGHT METHOD.

In the Dominion Parliament in the year 1884, Mr. Geo. E. Foster moved a series of resolutions setting forth the magnitude and character of the terrible evils of intemperance and declaring "That the right and most effective legislative remedy for these evils is to be found in the enactment and enforcement of a law prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes."

This resolution was adopted by a vote of 122 to 46. In various forms it has also been affirmed at other times by the Dominion Parliament, and by the Legislatures of nearly all the Provinces. It is the conviction of a majority of the Canadian people and is the avowed policy of the temperance advocates of the Dominion.

Recently the proposal has been made that another policy should be adopted regarding the evils of intemperance. Some good men have become convinced that a wise course of action would be the committing of the beverage sale of intoxicating liquors to companies of reputable citizens who would carry on the business under careful restrictions, drawing therefrom only a limited interest on their investment, and appropriating the surplus profits for the benefit of some charitable or public purpose.

This is what is popularly known as the Gothenburg system. A strong effort is being made to introduce it in Great Britain. On March 1st this company policy was advocated at a meeting held in Toronto and addressed by Lord Gray, who is seeking to promote the movement in England. At a meeting held on Thursday, March 6th, the same method was advocated by Mr. Geo. E. Foster.

There is much controversy as to the results of Swedish experiments on this line and a good deal of doubt as to the value of the efforts that have been made in England. In both countries, however, the liquor traffic has a position of strength such as we trust it never will attain in the Dominion. We have reached a position far in advance of the Swedish cities in which the Gothenburg system is in operation. We have passed the period when the company plan might have been advisable as a temporary alternative to more effective legislation.

We have in operation over large areas of the country prohibitory laws of far more value and producing better results than any company scheme. We are steadily extending the area of prohibition territory and hoping for more Provincial triumphs of the prohibition principle in the near future. It is no time now to turn aside after fanciful palliatives when we have in our hands, if we are true to our principles, the power to effectively terminate the mischievous liquor traffic. Why should we waste time over futile schemes to patch it up and make it a little more respectable and influential?

AGAINST MUNICIPAL SALOONS.

The County Council of London, Eng., at a recent meeting, received a memorial urging the council not to discontinue some licenses which the council had acquired in carrying out improvement schemes. The memorialists urged the council to retain the license rights with a view to operating municipal public houses. Mr. Burns, the noted labor leader, strongly opposed the proposal, which was rejected. Mr. Burns quoted facts to show that fewer licenses meant less drunkenness and less crime. He did not care whether a liquor shop was run by a private individual or by a municipal body. He objected altogether to the beverage sale of intoxicating liquor.

NOTES OF NEWS

ABOUT THE WAR AGAINST THE LIQUOR EVIL

MORE THAN A MILLION.

Great success has attended the movement among the evangelical churches of Great Britain for the securing of a million signatures to the total abstinence pledge. Before the end of the year there had been obtained more than 100,000 pledges in excess of the million, and progress is now being made towards twice the number at first proposed.

AN ENORMOUS BILL.

Mr. Andrew Morris, an officer of the United Kingdom Alliance recently made public an interesting statement of the extent to which the national revenue of the United Kingdom depended upon the liquor traffic. The total revenue from this source for the year 1901 was 43,578,169 pounds sterling. This represented duty collected upon 45,474,541 gallons of spirits and 36,394,827 barrels of beer, besides fees charged for licenses, and duties upon continental wines.

PROVINCIAL PROHIBITION

The Charlottetown, P. E. I., Branch of the Alliance held its annual meeting on Feb. 20th and devoted a good deal of attention to discussion of the operation of the Provincial prohibitory law now in force in the Province. The committee determined to stand by the measure and appointed a deputation to wait upon the Government to suggest some amendments they believed were needed to make the law more effective. Mr. J. J. Chappelle is president and Mr. J. K. Ross is secretary for the coming year.

THE DISPENSARY SYSTEM.

The commissioners who have control of the liquor traffic on behalf of the Government in the State of South Carolina, have published their annual statement for the year ending November 30th, 1901. This report shows that the total liquor sales during the year were \$2,228,681, and the profit derived by the State was \$545,248. Since the law came into operation in 1896 the population of the State is said to have increased about eight per cent. The quantity of liquor sold by the dispensaries has increased by forty-one per cent. It is claimed by some parties that the increase shows that liquor drinking has increased under the dispensary system, others claim that the increase in sales has resulted from the more effectual suppression of illicit liquor selling in places that did not comply with the dispensary law.

GOOD WORK IN THE ORIENT.

The temperance cause is making rapid progress in Japan, although its supporters have only recently become organized for aggressive work. In 1886 the first temperance society of any magnitude was formed and soon attained a membership of about 2,000, with branches in different parts of the Empire. The Japanese W.C.T.U. was organized in 1893. There is at present in operation a National Temperance League with forty-six affiliated societies, having a membership of nearly 4,000. Legislation has already been passed prohibiting the use of tobacco by persons under twenty years of age and imposing fines upon parents who permit their minor children to use tobacco, and upon dealers who sell to minors. The foregoing facts are taken from a recent issue of the New Voice, which contains much information on this interesting subject.

PROHIBITION WORKS.

Addressing the Grand Jury in the Newfoundland Supreme Court, at

Harbor Grace, recently, Mr. Justice Emerson congratulated the people of the large judicial district on the utter absence of crime, which very creditable state of affairs was, he considered, due in a great measure to the wise temperance legislation so long in force in the town of Harbor Grace and the vicinity.

In their presentment to the court, the Grand Jury also referred to the subject. "We join with your lordship in congratulating the town and district on the orderly state of the community, and also concur with you in attributing this satisfactory state of public morality to the law-abiding character of the people, and in a great measure to the successful operation of the Permissive Act. With your lordship we look forward with hope and pleasure to the day when the beneficent influence of this local option law will extend throughout the island."

ROMAN CATHOLICS AND THE DRINK EVIL.

While the forces making for temperance reform in England have been stimulated by the prospects of the Government Licensing Bill, they continue to receive encouragement from the strenuous efforts which the Roman Catholic clergy in particular are making in Ireland to bring about a reformation in the drinking habits of that country. We have drawn attention to this Irish movement in previous notes, and it gives us satisfaction to note its continuance in the Lenten pastoral issued by Cardinal Logue, and read in the Catholic churches on Sunday last.

After a comparison of the drink evil in other countries, which was favorable to Ireland, this letter says: "Still the evil exists, and is sufficiently widespread to awake the anxiety and fire the zeal of all who are interested in the welfare of our people. Statistical experts assert that the annual drink bill of Ireland amounts to twelve or thirteen millions. What a drain, this, on a poor and depopulated country! How much could be done with this vast sum, which is more than wasted, for promoting our national prosperity."

THE RISING TIDE.

Mr. John A. Nicholls, organizing agent for the Dominion Alliance, has been vigorously pushing work during the past two months in the western part of Ontario, and has succeeded in securing the organization of branches of the Alliance in more than twenty constituencies. Some of the conventions held have been very large and enthusiastic. At nearly all of them there was strongly manifested a determination to insist upon a carrying out of the Government's pledge to promote prohibitory law to the extent of the Legislature's jurisdiction. Resolutions were adopted in many cases, denouncing the proposals of those who have suggested that a prohibitory law ought not to go into operation unless ratified by a vote of the electors in which more than a mere majority would be a required condition of success. Mr. Nicholls reports unprecedented interest in the temperance movement and a determination to make the prohibition question an issue in the approaching elections.

A WORTHY ENTERPRISE.

A recent report published by the missionary department of the Ontario W. C. T. U. contains valuable information concerning work done in the Algoma District. Miss Agnes Sproule, of Fort William, superintends this undertaking. During the past year she has travelled in her work about 3,400 miles, visited the homes in seventy different localities, addressed seventy-one meetings and distributed great quantities of useful literature.

In the Muskoka District similar work is carried on by Mr. J. S. Leckie, who visits the lumber camps and sends a report of what he has been able to accomplish in that district. The figures very much resemble those regarding Miss Sproule's efforts. Such an undertaking ought to be sustained with the utmost liberality.

BACK AGAIN

THE FAMOUS

"BLACK KNIGHT"



REV. J. H. HECTOR

has returned to Ontario for a short lecture tour and is now open for engagements.

Applications for terms and dates should be made at once to

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Read the following specimen extracts from newspaper opinions of this MARVELLOUS MAN.

CANADIAN.

His speech was irresistible in its earnestness and pathos.—Toronto Globe.

A powerful address, full of humor and sanctified common sense.—London Advertiser.

A veritable outburst of true-spirited, natural eloquence, born of a devoted patriotism.—Charlottetown Guardian.

Succeeded without any apparent difficulty in keeping his audience in roars of laughter.—Toronto World.

The large assemblage was inspired, amused, thrilled and caused to weep almost in unison.—Montreal Witness

ENGLISH.

The embodiment of all that is best in his race—humorous, solemn, eloquent and pathetic.—South Wales Argus.

His inimitable drollery, mixed with the truest wisdom, completely took the gathering by storm.—Christian World.

Such an amount of hearty, healthy, wit-provoked laughter we have never heard before in one and a half hours.—Methodist Times.



THE ONTARIO CONFLICT.  
(Tune:—"From Greenland's Icy Mountain")

1 From scenes of wealth and splendour,  
Where wines pass freely round,  
From bar-room and from gutter  
Where filth and vice abound  
From highest and from lowest,  
From poor and rich the same,  
The call comes to deliver  
Our land from drink's domain.

2 What though of wealth uncounted  
Our country's foes may boast!  
What though their influence reacheth  
Where influence counteth most!  
The cry of starving children,  
Of homes and wives forlorn,  
Will surely break our slumbers,  
And make us sloth to scorn.

3 What though we're poor and friendless  
Of human power devoid!  
What though by foes despised  
By traitorous friends destroyed!  
We know our God is with us,  
We need not be afraid;  
Faint not for I am with thee,  
Fear not nor be dismayed.

4 From village and from hamlet,  
From towns or near or far,  
There comes the sound of conflict,  
The clash and din of war.  
Soon will the fight be over,  
The mists be rolled away;  
And on our own Ontario  
Shall dawn a brighter day.

H. Mortimer.

Parkdale, 10 Jan., 02

#### THE REIGN OF DRINK.

Do you hear an ominous muttering,  
As of thundering gathering  
round?

Do you hear the city tremble, as an  
earthquake shakes the ground?  
'Tis the walking of a people—'tis a  
mighty battle sound.

Do you hear the grand uprising of  
the people in their might?  
They are girding on the armour,  
they are arming for a fight,  
They are going forth to battle for  
the triumph of the right.

For the power of drink has bound us,  
and the power of drink hath  
reigned.

Till the glorious robes of Liberty are  
tarnished, torn, and stained,  
Till the struggling city shudders, as  
its forces lie enchained.

It hath trampled over hearthstone,  
and hath left it desolate;

It hath slain the wife and mother,  
it hath filled the town with  
hate;

It hath wrecked the noblest man-  
hood, and hath laughed to scorn  
the great.

Shall it longer reign in triumph, long-  
er wear its tyrant crown?

Shall it firmer wield the fetters that  
now bind the city down?

Shall this grand old city longer bow  
and tremble 'neath its frown?

No! let every heart re-echo; rouse,  
ye gallant men and true!

Rouse, ye broken-hearted mothers!  
see, the night is almost  
through;

Rouse ye, every man and woman—  
God is calling now for you.  
—Selected.

#### THE VOICES.

"Why urge the long unequal fight,  
Since truth is fallen in the street,  
Or lift anew the trampled light  
Quenched by the heedless millions'  
feet?"

"Give o'er thy thankless task; for-  
sake  
The fools that know not ill from  
good,  
Eat, drink, enjoy thine own, and  
take  
Thine ease among the multitude.

"The work is God's, not thine; let  
Him  
Work out a change if change  
must be;  
The hand that planted best can trim  
And nurse the old unfruitful tree."

So spake the tempter, when the light  
Of sun and stars had left the sky,  
I listened through the cloud and  
night,  
And heard, methought, a Voice  
reply:

# TO HON. G. W. ROSS

## And the Ninety-Three Other Members of the Ontario Legislature.

GENTLEMEN:—

You are called upon to face an issue of the most momentous character. You know that the liquor traffic in the Province of Ontario as everywhere else, is the prolific cause of pauperism, insanity, crime, disease and death. No evidence is needed to convince you of this terrible truth.

Your own Prison Reform Commission said a few years ago: "Drunkenness does more than any other cause to fill the jails, and it unquestionably does much to recruit the ranks of the criminal classes," and referring to one year's criminal record, adds, "the number of convictions on charges of drunkenness in the province during the year was 7,059, very nearly one third of the whole, and of the 675 prisoners in the common jails at the close of the year, a very large proportion were habitual drunkards."

Our present esteemed Lieutenant Governor has said that "An enormous proportion, probably three-fourths of the vice that prevails at the present day, of the crime which they have to contend with, of the lunacy, the idiocy, the poverty, and the misery of every kind, is owing to the foul evil of intemperance."

Statistics are however, totally inadequate to convey any idea of the misery, suffering and sin involved in these appalling facts. Behind every case that is added to the list, there lies a sorrowful tragedy. Every step in the downward career of nearly every drink victim is a step upon some weary, aching, bleeding heart. Behind the figures lie heart-sickening histories of ruined homes, blighted lives and all the details of a drunkard's wretched career.

These are the stern realities with the cause of which you are to-day called upon to deal. It is your business and your privilege as statesmen, to devise such measures as will be the most effective legislative remedy for these evils. This solemn responsibility cannot be ignored. This question must not be dealt with from the standpoint of party exigencies, but from the standpoint of patriotism and Christian duty.

You must admit that the prohibitory law now before the Legislature with the conditions attached to it, is unreasonable and absurd. You do not think that it will be brought into operation on the terms proposed. It may provoke the enmity or win the favor of partisans. It may antagonize votes or may catch votes. It may have some effect upon the movement of party politicians. It is not a measure devised to secure the speediest and most effective relief for the terrible evils for which it is your duty to seek a remedy.

This great issue, this serious question, ought not to be considered with a view of mere political effect. It is your business to enact such a liquor law as you honestly believe to be best adapted to the present position of this province, having due regard to the practicability of enforcement and the strength of sustaining public opinion. It is your duty to take the responsibility of putting such a measure into actual operation. If you are convinced that such operation would be made more effective by the previous ratification of a popular vote, you ought to submit it to such a vote under conditions that will ensure the fullest and fairest expression of opinion, giving no special advantage to any selfish interest, and ignoring no principle of political equality.

The second part of the present bill is a rigid measure of provincial prohibition, probably as comprehensive as the legislature has power to enact. Is it not a mockery to make such useful legislation conditional upon requirements that are unjust, unwise, and so difficult as to make their attainment almost impossible, thus strengthening an evil and hampering the forces that oppose it? In the interests of all that is good and true, and ennobling to humanity, you are respectfully and earnestly urged to remove these unfair conditions, and to use the power placed in your hands for the advancement of that which is right, instead of for the strengthening and sustaining of that which is everywhere and always our country's greatest curse.

Thy task may well seem over-hard,  
Who scatterest in a thankless toil  
Thy life as seed, with no reward,  
Save that which duty gives to toil.

The meal unshared is food unblest,  
We heard in vain what love should  
spend.

Self-ease is pain; our only rest  
Is labour for a worthy end.

A toil that gains by what it yields,  
And scatters to its own increase,  
And hears while sowing outward  
fields  
The harvest song of inward peace.

What is it that the crowd requite  
Thy love with hate, thy truth with  
lies?

And but to faith and not to sight  
The walls of Freedom's temple rise?

Yet do thy work; it shall succeed  
In thine or in another's day;  
And, if denied the victor's meed,

Thou shalt not lack the toiler's  
pay.

Faith shares the Future's promise;  
Love's  
Self-offering is a triumph won,  
And each good thought and action  
moves  
The dark world nearer to the sun.

Then faint not, falter not, nor plead  
Thy weakness; Truth itself is  
strong.

The lion's strength, the eagle's speed,  
Are not vouchsafed alone to wrong.

Hast thou not on some week of  
storm

Seen the sweet Sabbath breaking  
fair  
And cloud and shadow, sunlit, form  
The curtains of thy tent of prayer?

So, haply, when our task shall end,  
The wrong shall lose itself in right,  
And all our week-day darkness blend  
With the long Sabbath of the light!  
—J. G. Whittier.

## DECLARATIONS

### OF THE PROHIBITION CONVENTION

Held in Toronto, February 25th, 1902.

That this convention hails with pleasure the decision of the Privy Council sustaining the Manitoba Liquor Act, thus affirming the right of a provincial Legislature to prohibit transactions in intoxicating liquors which take place wholly within the territorial limits of its jurisdiction, by the residents of the Province.

That the Bill introduced into the Ontario Legislature making prohibition conditional upon difficult, unreasonable and unjust requirements cannot be accepted as a fulfillment of the Government's pledges, and this convention expresses its deep regret that the Government has not carried out the simple definite promise of Sir Oliver Mowat, reiterated by Hon. A. S. Hardy and Hon. G. W. Ross, to introduce a bill to prohibit the liquor traffic to the limit of the declared power of the Province.

That a specially objectionable and unfair feature of the bill is the provision that even if the bill is approved by a majority of the electorate voting thereon, it will not become law unless that majority attains very large dimensions, and this convention begs to respectfully inform the Government that legislation limited by any condition that would permit the opinions of a minority of the voting electorate to prevail, would not be considered by the prohibitionists of Ontario as a fulfillment of the Government's promises, nor as entitling members of the Legislature who voted for it to their confidence and support.

That this convention also objects to the unfairness of a method which makes it necessary for the prohibitionists to poll a large vote in order to secure legislation they desire, while anti-prohibitionists are required to do so, but may succeed without taking the trouble of voting.

That this convention further protests against the fixing of the date for the proposed voting at an inconvenient time, although such voting might be provided for at a time of a municipal election with an important economy of public funds and the time and effort of the voters, and we call for a vote, if at all, on that date.

That a deputation be appointed to lay before the Government the foregoing resolutions, and to ask for the removal from the bill of the unfair conditions complained of, and that every member of the Legislature be urged to do all he can to secure the elimination from the bill of those conditions.

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