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THE CAMP FIRE.

A Monthly Record and Advocate of the Temperance Reform.

VOL. III. No. 9.

TORONTO, ONT., MARCH, 1897.

25 CENTS PER YEAR.

Do not hesitate to take this paper from the Post Office. If you have not paid for it in advance, some one else has done so for you, or it is sent you free.

PROHIBITION DOES PROHIBIT.

The Royal Commission prepared and sent to the clergymen of Canada, a series of questions relating to different phases of the subject into which the Commission was appointed to inquire. Among these questions there were four that dealt directly with the matter of prohibitory law and its results. Under the direction of the Commission a classification was made of the answers to these questions and a summary thereof was embodied in the report. This summary is full of interest, being indeed most overwhelming evidence of the usefulness of such legislation. The replies were received from men of high character, men of wide experience, men whose business it is to observe, find out and know, concerning just the matters upon which they were asked to report. It is hardly possible to attach too much importance to their conclusions. In considering the answers recorded, it is of course necessary to bear in mind the fact that local circumstances often interfere with the effective operation of law. We must take the great majority of results as fair index of what the law actually accomplishes. Keeping these considerations in their minds, we respectfully ask our readers to carefully consider the questions and the classification of the answers, which are as follows:—

Question.—Has a prohibitory law been at any time in operation in a parish mission, or other charge in which you have been stationed?

Answers.

Affirmative	1,950
Negative	461
No experience	20
Replies indefinite	12

Question.—Was such law the Scott Act, the Dunkin Act, or some other local option law?

Answers.

Scott, Dunkin, and local option acts	1,021
Local option law	159
North-West Territories Act	63
Other laws	101
No experience	166

Question.—From your experience and observation as a clergyman, had such prohibitory law the effect of lessening drunkenness?

Answers.

Lessening	1,006
Negative	259
No change	4
No experience	101
Replies indefinite	91

Question.—From such experience and observation, had such prohibitory law the effect of increasing or lessening the drinking of intoxicating liquors?

(1) In the family? (2) In the community?

Answers.

Lessening	(1)	1,434
	(2)	1,557
Increasing	(1)	128
	(2)	137
No change	(1)	98
	(2)	65
No experience	(1)	106
	(2)	98
Replies indefinite	(1)	242
	(2)	166

IMPORTANT

Ontario Temperance Legislation, 1897.

To all friends of Temperance in the Province of Ontario:

A Government measure for the amendment of the License Law was introduced into the Legislature on Thursday, February 25th. It was anticipated that this measure would be one of progressive legislation, against the liquor traffic. The measure, however, is a deep disappointment to the friends of temperance, falling far short of what was hoped for, and what would be reasonable and right under the circumstances.

Of the twenty-three changes asked for by the deputation that waited upon the Government, there have been granted but two, namely, the prohibition of the sale of liquor to all persons under twenty-one years of age, and the abolition of saloons. The latter, however, is not to be fully carried out until May, 1899.

Instead of limiting the number of tavern licenses that may be issued, to the ratio asked for, the new bill proposes to provide that the number issued may be in the ratio of three for the first 1,000 of the population, and one for each subsequent 600. The inefficiency of this proposal will be understood by considering the fact that although in some places the proposed change would make a slight reduction in the number of licenses, it permits the granting of licenses far in excess of the limits that have already been fixed by many municipalities. For example, the limits prescribed by the new legislation would permit of the issuing of 303 tavern licenses in Toronto, where there are now only 150. It would permit of 82 in Hamilton where there are now only 54. It would permit of 54 in London where there are only 35. Other instances might be given.

The measure proposes to close bar-rooms in rural places at 10 p.m., and in cities and towns at 11 p.m. In many places earlier closing now prevails, and to some extent the change will be for the worse.

The request for power to be given a majority of electors to prevent the renewal of licenses, has been dealt with by a proposition to prevent such renewal by a petition of three-fifths of the electors, hampered by the condition that it must only be effective in places that the License Commissioners by resolution declare to be residential localities, that the licenses shall not be disturbed for more than a year after the petition, and other unreasonable conditions and restrictions.

Nothing at all is proposed in regard to the serious evil of club-selling above mentioned, and no proposition is made to improve the local option law as requested.

Not only does the bill ignore many necessary changes asked for, in the License Law, but it also proposes to change the present law so as to distinctly and directly favor the liquor traffic, and interfere with the power already in the hands of the people to curtail it. Municipal Councils may now limit the number of licenses to be issued in any year. This power has been enjoyed for nearly forty years. The new bill proposes to prohibit municipalities from exercising this authority oftener than once in three years, and further makes provision that the coming into operation of such limiting by-laws may be deferred for any specified length of time. It is in this respect exceedingly mischievous and retrograde in its character.

The bill as a whole is a measure that calls forth the strong disapprobation of friends of reform, who cannot accept it as in any sense a reasonable fulfilment of the Government's pledge, and must view it as in some respects legislation hostile to the best interests of the community, favorable to the liquor traffic, and utterly antagonistic to the strongly expressed sentiment of the people.

PROTEST.

Rousing meetings should at once be held to protest against the proposed legislation, and to call upon the Legislature to insist upon having public opinion respected, and the best interests of the community promoted, by effective legislation on the lines of the Government's pledge and the temperance people's requests.

It is also suggested that resolutions to the same effect should be adopted by temperance societies, young people's organizations, church congregations and other bodies, and that these protests should be published in the newspapers and forwarded to members of the Legislature.

LETTERS TO M. P. P.'S.

Every friend of our cause should immediately write, and make it a duty to urge every friend to write, to his representative in the Legislature, calling upon him to insist upon the fullest possible measure of effective legislation, laying special stress upon the necessity of granting, fully and without qualification, the reforms specified by numbers in the accompanying statement, and earnestly urging him to resist any attempt to take away the power now in the hands of the people to limit the number of licenses that may be issued.

THE W. C. T. U.

The programme of the W. C. T. U. for the coming year embraces extensive lines of effort, as varied as they are wise and good. Their consciences have been oppressed with the great work before them, they have fearlessly developed bold and comprehensive plans for its accomplishment, and their tender hands have laid hold of immense burdens. Shall they be left to lift alone? Shall they be crippled and defeated for the want of a few dollars?

It does seem to us that the women of Ontario will respond to the first question by flocking to these bands in all parts of the province and augmenting mightily the lifting power of the Union, and that the generous pockets of our country that are seldom buttoned against Christian charity will answer the second query with the quiet eloquence of a liberality that need have no misgivings as to the benevolence and prudence which will administer its well-merited and sorely needed contribution.

When the Waterloo of Prohibition is won, the credit will not be given to the Bluchers who have been off attending to other matters and arrive just in time to join the pursuit, neither will it be accorded the "Guards" who have watched the fight from a safe distance ready to lead the retreat or join in a sure victory with a shout a rush and a boast, but it will belong to those who have fought all day amidst shot and shell and charge. When the roll of these battalions is called, there will answer a large body of light infantry who have done skirmishing, guarded the ambulance, and in times of great need headed fierce assaults and seen hard fighting. Where heavier troops dared not venture, they entered with safety, and oft when dragoons and artillery were cumbered with burdens and harrassed by uneven ground, they marched lightly on in advance and held the position till the clumsier soldiery could come up. Whenever seen through the smoke of battle or mounting the heights, they are marked by a white badge, and upon their dazzling banner, always pure white amid the grim of war, is emblazoned the motto "For God and Home and Canada."

—A. R. Curman.
Bluff Germans are very fond of claiming the victory of Waterloo for their stern old Blucher, who marched on to the field with fresh troops late Sunday afternoon. Members of the "Guards" who had rested in safety all day at the rear of the army would insist that their fresh blood, put impetus into the final sweeping charge and that to them must be accorded the honor. History tells us however of certain battalions that marched to the front through the thick morning rain and stayed there all day under fire and charge; round shot traversed their "hollow squares," musketry thinned their numbers and the finest cavalry in Europe were hurled again and again with crushing force against their ranks—but they stayed there; and when at last the bugles rang out the welcome "Charge!" these battle-stained, patient squares dissolved into the "thin red lines," and with the vigor of victory well won, swept from blood-soaked Waterloo the magnificent army of the Empire.

DOMINION W. C. T. U.
LITERATURE DEPOSITORY,
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A large and well assorted stock of leaflets on hand, for use of temperance workers and members of W. C. T. Unions. Temperance literature for distribution in Sunday Schools, on Juvenile Work, Sabbath Observance, Systematic Giving, etc., etc., always in stock. Orders by mail promptly attended to.

MRS. BASCOM,
Manager.

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, MARCH, 1897.

THE PLEBISCITE.

The Dominion Parliament is summoned to meet for the transaction of business on the 25th inst. According to the promise made by the Hon. Mr. Laurier, it is anticipated that the bill providing for the taking of a plebiscite on prohibition, will be one of the measures to be enacted.

We are thus almost certain that in a few weeks we shall know definitely the time, form and conditions under which will be taken this long expected vote. As there can be no reason for bringing forward the measure earlier than needful, the Premier's promise may be taken as a practical announcement that the plebiscite will be held during the present year.

A few weeks more therefore, will see the inauguration of a campaign on which depends more in relation to the prohibition cause than has depended upon any political action yet taken in the Dominion. Once more we appeal to the friends of the temperance cause to lose no time in perfecting organization, getting ready for detail of preparation and being fully ready for the advance when the signal is given.

PUBLIC OPINION.

If a majority of electors, in the coming plebiscite, declare in favor of prohibition, it will be the duty of the Government to propose, and of Parliament to enact, a law prohibiting the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating beverages. Legislation must keep pace with the sentiment of the people.

While desirous to emphasize the soundness of the position just stated, we desire at the same time to call the attention of our friends to the important fact that to make prohibition a success will require something more than a mere majority of votes. Law is the expression of the people, and law will be strong only if the will of the people is strong. There are doubtless voters friendly to temperance who will make a little effort for the cause that is involved in marking a ballot in its favor, but who will not give themselves the trouble of any effort or personal sacrifice to secure the actual enactment and enforcement of a prohibitory law.

To day there is much favor for the prohibition movement that does not rise to the height of self-denying enthusiasm. We must strive not merely to obtain a true record of public opinion, but to strengthen, develop, and educate that opinion so that it will be an impelling conviction that neither Legislatures nor law-breakers will dare to defy.

The plebiscite campaign opens to us a magnificent opportunity for the work that needs to be done. People will read and listen and think about prohi-

bition as never before. We must bend every effort to the task of laying before them at this critical time, the unassailable facts and arguments which make those fully possessed of them, absolute enthusiasts in the working out of this great reform. Let us not miss the opportunity.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION.

The Provinces whose Legislatures have already commenced their 1897 session, are grappling with the question of liquor law reform. The Legislatures that have not yet convened will have to face the question. This must be a year of important advance along this line.

The Privy Council decision has been rendered, and there is no excuse for further delay. In a number of provinces the people have by plebiscites expressed their opinion and legislators need have no doubts relating thereto. The way is clear. We must take advantage of the opportunity.

There will probably be disappointments, but we must not therefore be discouraged. The men who are dealing to-day with our requests will shortly be dealing with us, requesting in their turn our aid to re-elect them. We must let them understand that their requests will be considered in the light of their past actions, not simply in view of election promises.

The people who have declared for total prohibition must be taken as seriously desiring all the prohibition they can get. Restrictive legislation is prohibition in a degree. Where the people have voted for prohibition, it is the business of legislators to enact all the prohibition that their ascertained jurisdiction will permit them to enact. We must insist upon this position, it being definitely understood, that legislatures which fall short of their whole duty this session, must face the question again at the next session, and that not till then have grappled with it as far as they can, will there be any relaxation in our insisting upon relief from the fearful curse from which it is their duty to believe us.

LOCAL OPTION.

The Dominion Parliament has duties and powers in relation to the liquor traffic. Provincial Legislatures have powers and duties relating to the liquor traffic. The electors in every locality have also powers and duties of the same kind.

In nearly every part of the Dominion there is vested in the people in some form, the power to absolutely suppress the retail liquor traffic. This local prohibition will not be as effective as a broader measure. It is however, good in itself, and may be one of the best methods of ensuring the attainment of more useful legislation.

There is no question as to the value of local prohibition. In thousands of places it has proved itself a benediction. It has saved thousands of homes from the curse of intemperance, and has been one of the most effective agencies in strengthening and developing prohibition sentiment among the people.

If it is wrong for the Dominion Parliament to fail of its full duty, if we blame Legislatures for stopping short of the full exercise of their powers, it must be admitted that still heavier personal responsibility rests upon the individual prohibitionist who, representing simply his own unqualified conviction and not the differing opinions of others, fails to do all in his power to carry that conviction to its logical conclusion. A professed prohibitionist who will not do all in his power to secure local prohibition is badly informed, or lacking in judgment, or insincere.

The directness with which men face the prohibition question in a local cam-

paign is one of the greatest advantages of this system. We owe much of the prohibition sentiment of Canada to-day to the educating influence of Dunkin Bill and Scott Act and other Local Option campaigns. In such contests we prove our sincerity, we strengthen public opinion, we make prohibition votes and we cripple the liquor traffic. Let us see to it that no such opportunity is missed.

PROHIBITION IN MAINE.

Thousands of columns of newspapers and thousands of pages of books have been written demonstrating the effectiveness of the prohibitory law in reducing intemperance in Maine. Much literature has also been made up devoted to efforts to prove that the law is not a success. Without dealing at the present time with these sometimes conflicting statements, we desire to call the attention of our readers to a piece of evidence that consists of undisputed facts, the conclusion from which is irresistibly forcible.

The residents of Maine who have had forty years' experience of the working of the law ought to be well qualified to judge of its value. It is not going too far to say that the public opinion of the state unhesitatingly endorses the law and that there would be no hope of an attempt to secure its repeal. In the year 1884 a popular vote was taken upon the question of making prohibition not merely statutory but constitutional. To the electorate was submitted a proposal to embody the principle in the fundamental law of the state. The vote of the prohibitory amendment stood as follows:—

For	70,783
Against	23,811

Majority for prohibition 46,972

In the year 1895 the advocates of license secured the introduction into the state legislature of a bill for re-submitting this question of constitutional prohibition to the people. A strong campaign was made in its favor but the proposition was defeated in the legislature by a vote of 114 to 13.

PROHIBITION IN KANSAS.

The Royal Commission on the Liquor Traffic wrote to the Governor of Kansas asking him for information relating to the working of the prohibitory law in the State. The Governor, Hon. D. Lewelling in reply forwarded to the Commissioners an interesting pamphlet entitled "Prohibition in Kansas, Facts not Opinions" stating that he believed it "covers most of the points required" in the letter from the Commission.

A document of so much importance, or at least some of its most striking paragraphs, ought to have been presented among the evidence reported by the Commission. We are left however, to the minority report for information as to the real nature of the contents of this instructive pamphlet.

The limits of our space will not allow us to make extensive quotations from it. We desire at this time simply to call attention to a couple of forcible paragraphs, and an endorsement of the book signed by a large number of those who were prominent state officials when it was published. The book says:—

The law is effectually and sufficiently enforced. The direct results of its enforcement are plain and unmistakable. We believe that not one-tenth of the amount of liquor is now used that was used before the adoption of the prohibition law.

Our citizens fully realize the happy results of the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of liquor, as these results are seen in the decrease of poverty and wretchedness and crime, and in the promotion of domestic peace and social order—in the advancement of general enterprise and thrift. In our opinion the prohibition law is now stronger with the people than it was

when adopted. It has more than met the expectations of its warmest friends. It is steadily winning the confidence and support of thousands who were its bitterest enemies.

The endorsement mentioned is in the following form:—

We have examined the statement prepared by the president and secretary, and the ex-president and ex-secretary of the Kansas State Temperance Union, upon the subject of prohibition and its results in our state. We find it a fair, honest and true statement of our condition, and we heartily endorse it as such.

“LYMAN U. HUMPHREY, Governor,
“WILLIAM HIGGINS, Sec. of State,
“TIMOTHY MCCARTHY, Auditor of State,
“J. W. HAMILTON, Treasurer of State,
“G. W. WINANS, Supt. Public Instruction,
“L. B. KELLOGG, Attorney General,
“ALBERT H. HORTON, Chief Justice,
“D. M. VALENTINE, Associate Justice,
“W. A. JOHNSON, Associate Justice.”

ALL FROM RUM.

One beautiful afternoon in August, there came to me the heartbroken wife of a State prison convict. We tried to plan for his pardon and restoration to home and the world. It was a very sad case. He was the only surviving son of a very noble man; one who lived only to serve the poor, the tempted, and the criminal. All he had, all he was, he gave unreservedly to help thieves and drunkards. His house was their home his name their bail to save them from prison; his reward their reformation.

Bred under such a roof, the son started in life with a generous heart, noble dreams, and high purpose. Ten years of prosperity, fairly earned by energy, industry, and character, ended in bankruptcy, as is so often the case in our risky and changing trade; then came a struggle for business, for bread—temptation, despair, intemperance. He could not safely pass the open doors that tempted him to indulgence, forgetfulness, and crime. How hard his wife wrought and struggled to save him from indulgence, and then to shield him from exposure! How long wife, sister and friends labored to avert conviction and the State prison! "I would spare him gladly," wrote the prosecuting attorney, "if he would stop drinking. He shall never go to prison if he will be a sober man. But this wretchedness and crime comes from rum."

Manfully did the young man struggle to resist the appetite. Again and again did he promise, and keep his promise a month, then fall. He could not walk the streets and earn his bread soberly while so many open doors—opened by men who sought to coin gold out of their neighbors' vices—lured him to indulgence. So, rightfully, the State pressed on, and he went to prison. An honored man disgraced, a loving home broken up, a wide circle of kindred sorely pained, a worthy, well-meaning man wrecked. Sorrow and crime—"all comes of rum," says the keen-sighted lawyer.

As I parted from the sad wife on my door-step, I looked beyond, and close by the laughing sea stood a handsome cottage. The grounds were laid out expensively and with great taste. Over the broad piazza hung lazily an Eastern hammock, while all around were richly-painted chairs and lounges of every easy and tempting form. Overhead were quaint vases of beautiful flowers, and the delicious lawn was bordered with them. On the lawn itself gayly dressed women laughed merrily over croquet, and noisy children played near. A span of superb horses pawed the earth impatiently at the gate, while gay salutations passed between the croquet players and the fashionable equipages that rolled by. It was a comfortable home as well as a luxurious one. Nature, taste, and wealth had done their best. It was a scene of beauty, comfort, taste, luxury, and wealth. All came from rum. The owner was one who, in a great city, coined his gold out of the vices of his fellow-men.

To me it was a dissolving view. I lost sight of the gay women, the frolicsome children, the impatient horses, and the ocean rolling up to the lawn. I saw instead, the pale convict in his cell, twelve feet by nine; and the sad wife going from judge to attorney, from court to governor's council, begging mercy for her over-tempted husband. I heard above the children's noise, the croquet, the laugh, and the surf waves, that lawyer's stern reason for exacting the full penalty of the law: "All this comes from rum."—Wendell Phillips.

WHAT SHALL WE DO?

How dare we be silent, unmoved, and cold
When the fire of drink, that for centuries has rolled
Through the fields of humanity, still rolls on,
With its fury increased, with its flames uncontrolled!
Shall the century to come as the century gone,
See this fire, law-fed, growing bold and more bold?
How dare we be cold?

Shall not we fight fire with fire—the fire of rum-thirst with the fire of God's love? Shall we tire
In our labor of love for humanity, while
Satan's labor of hate is increased, and while higher
And higher defiant leap flames that defile?
While the day of destruction or freedom draws nigher,
Shall we tire?

While Right and Wrong with each other vie
Until death, can we stand idly by
And watch the conflict with heart unmoved?
Or wide to the breeze shall our banner fly,
As we fight with the soldiers that time has proved?
Oh! now in this grand age of do or die,
Dare we stand by!

A thousand times "no"! We as Christians must bear
Our part in this fight; we must do and must dare
To the utmost of strength, that the foul curse of rum,
That hath blotted the past with the blank of despair,
Shall be cleansed from the skirt of the century to come,
While this star-crowned nation the palm branch shall wear,
And the rum-fettered slave bask in liberty's air,
We will do, we will dare!
—M. M. Jackson, in *Temperance Record*.

WHAT PROHIBITION AIMS AT

The true object aimed at by Prohibition and supporters of prohibitory laws was thus pertinently delineated by Rev. Herrick Johnson, of Chicago. Said he:

"Prohibition aims at a thing, not a man. It would smite a traffic, not a personal indulgence; annihilate grog-shops, not invade homes. See how this works in other matters. A mob is a bad thing. Prohibition says, 'Repress it.' But to repress it, it may be necessary to seize private property and destroy life; nevertheless, the mob is what Prohibition is after, not the life and property. A conflagration is a bad thing. Prohibition says, 'Stop it.' But to stop it may require seizure and destruction of property in the path for the fire; nevertheless, the fire is what Prohibition is after, not the property. A contagious disease is a bad thing. Prohibition says, 'Fence it in; the house must be quarantined.' But that's an interference to liberty. So the saloon is a bad thing. Prohibition says, 'Abolish it.' But to abolish it, it may be necessary to interfere with some private drinking usage; nevertheless, the saloon is what prohibition is after, not the private usage.

"Can interference with personal liberty be pleaded as against the suppression of the mob? No. Can the plea of individual right of the property bar the effort to stamp out a conflagration? No. Can the right to go in and out of our houses at pleasure be urged as against the restraints of quarantine? No. Neither can a private drinking usage constitute a good reason for a prohibitory liquor law. If the law smites the usage in smiting the saloon, it does so only incidentally. Good citizenship will willingly bear an incidental evil for the sake of essential and universal good. Life in the end will be more sacred if we repress the mob. Property, in the end, will have better securities if we put out the fire. Personal liberty, in the end, will have complete safeguards if we stamp out the contagion. So, every interest of society and of the individual, in the end, will be better shielded if once we say, determinedly and effectually, 'The saloon must go!'

THE PROFITS OF MURDER.

The report of the South Carolina Liquor Commissioner shows that the dispensary's profits for one year, were \$210,000. The assets of the concern now are \$284,000 and the liabilities about \$74,000.

Over \$11,000 was spent during the quarter ending October 31 in maintaining the contraband liquors seized. There are now seventy-five retail dispensaries in the State, and applications for the establishment of others are pending. The sales show a steady increase; in August, \$44,000; in September, \$60,000, and in October, \$111,000.

THE FACTS OF THE CASE.

The "Facts of the Case," a convenient volume of 310 pages, published by the Executive Committee of the Dominion Alliance for the total suppression of the liquor traffic, is a summary of the most important matter to be found in the report of the Canadian Royal Commission on the Liquor Traffic. The report of the Commission, in seven large volumes, is too extensive for practical use by temperance workers. It is believed that the compendium made will be found to be an exceedingly valuable work of reference and source of information for those who are interested in studying and discussing the question of which it treats. It is specially useful in supplying reliable statistics and arguments for use in prohibition campaign work.

After the work of the Royal Commission was closed there remained in the hands of the Alliance a small surplus of the money contributed for the placing of the case for prohibition before the Commission. It was deemed wise to use this money in publishing and circulating the work just mentioned. Two thousand copies were sent free to leading journals, public libraries, persons who contributed to the fund and other prominent workers selected by the officers of the contributing organizations. A few copies remain, and until all are sent out, one will be forwarded, postage prepaid, to any person applying and forwarding therefor to the Secretary of the Alliance, thirty cents in advance.

By order of the Executive,
F. S. SPENCE,
Secretary,
51 Confederation Life Building,
Toronto, Ont.

DENMARK.

In Denmark the temperance movement seems to flourish. It was never in a better condition than at present, says the president of the Denmark Temperance Society. There were 500 delegates at its last annual meeting, and six thousand had joined during the year. There is progress.

The Government had made an appropriation of over £300 for the use of the society, and it is in future to receive from the Government £400 yearly. With such support any society might flourish.

There can be no doubt that this country might, with great advantage to its progress and welfare, include the national Temperance organizations in its educational grant; but its subsidy should not be drawn from the money it derives from the liquor traffic. As to the good it would receive from such a grant there can be no question.

Take the Temperance Society in Denmark as a proof of this wise policy. It is estimated that there are in Denmark about 70,000 adherents to the Temperance cause. The society has 40,000 members and 665 local societies, and 350 teachers belonging to it. So that there is an abstainer in every seven of the population.

Were our Government to grant Temperance societies a proportionate subsidy to what Denmark gives, we should soon see similar results in this country, and what an unspeakable blessing that would be to our people.—*Scottish Reformer*.

A NATION'S BEER BILL.

The total consumption of beer in the United States for the fiscal year ending July 1, 1895 was 34,460,661 barrels, an increase over the consumption of a year ago of 191,000 barrels. This year's figures, while in excess of those of last year, are less than the total consumption of 1893, which was 34,822,857 barrels. A barrel of beer in brewer's measure is about 31½ gallons. The consumption of lager beer in the United States this year is, therefore, in excess of 1,000,000,000 gallons.—*The Constitution*.

A MONTH'S WORK.

A STIRRING TIME IN THE RANKS OF PROHIBITIONISTS.

PROGRESS AND PREPARATION.

The month of February was one of work that was characterized by a spirit of intense earnestness and determination. Temperance conventions were held in different parts of the Dominion, some of them local, some of them provincial, and at nearly all the leading themes of discussion were preparation for the coming plebiscite, and immediate advance in provincial legislation. We have only space to mention a few of the most important of these gatherings.

ROYAL TEMPLARS.

February is the month for Royal Templar Annual sessions. The Grand Council of Ontario convened at the town of Oshawa on Thursday 18th, presided over by the Grand Councillor, George H. Lees. The different parts of the Province were well represented. Its proceedings were characterized throughout by harmony and zeal. Subordinate Councils were called upon to take the initiative in preparation for the fight. Delegates were appointed to the Alliance Council Meeting to be held in July, to devise plans for the general campaign. Strong demands were made upon the Provincial Legislature for important changes in the liquor laws and a deputation from the Grand Council waited upon the Government to urge action in line with the Grand Council's resolutions. Most of the past year's Executive officers retain their places.

The Grand Council of Manitoba opened its annual session at Winnipeg on Feb. 2nd. Its action was similar to that of the Ontario gathering. W. W. Buchanan, the leading spirit of the Order, was present and stirred the workers greatly by his earnestness and aided them by his large fund of information. A deputation urged the Provincial Government for progressive legislation and plans were laid for the plebiscite campaign. The North West Territories' gathering began at Regina, on Feb. 16th. The meeting for Quebec opened at Montreal on the 22nd, and that for British Columbia at Vancouver on the 23rd. All were well attended and took action similar to that taken by Ontario and Manitoba.

THE QUEBEC ALLIANCE.

The annual session of the Quebec Branch of the Dominion Alliance was held in Montreal on February 20th, presided over by Mr. J. R. Dougall. Representatives were present from many parts of the Province, delegated by many different organizations. Union, progress and preparation were the watchwords of the day. Resolutions were adopted, suggestions were offered, plans were laid, all looking to the big fight ahead, the deepest interest in which will in all probability be centred round the French Province in which no provincial Plebiscite has yet been taken and whose position is therefore not so fully defined as is that of the other parts of the Dominion. Hon. S. A. Fisher, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, was present, addressed the Convention and predicted victory in the approaching fight.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION.

The Ontario Legislature is now in session. On February 25th the Provincial Treasurer introduced a measure for the amendment of the liquor laws. The bill contains provisions for further restricting the number of licenses that may be issued, fixing hours of closing, prohibiting the sale of liquor to persons under twenty-one years of age, prohibiting the sale by druggists except by medical certificate, and making some other changes. The bill as a whole is however, very far short of what was anticipated by temperance people in view of the pledges given by the Government and the overwhelming majority recorded in the plebiscite. Quite a storm of protest has broken out. Indignation meetings are being held in different parts of the Province, members of the legislature are being deluged with appeals for more effective legislation. A Provincial Conference has been called to be held in Toronto on the 11th inst. and it is generally anticipated that the Government will be compelled to promote much more stringent measures. The different temperance organizations have vigorously taken hold of this

matter, nearly all of them issuing special circulars calling upon members of their respective organizations to join in the effort to secure something more radical and useful.

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.

County Conventions have been held in different Provinces at which organization has been completed for the plebiscite contest. This is wise and timely. The plebiscite bill is expected to be before the people shortly, then the fight will begin. Preparation before hand will be a great advantage.

THE SOCIETIES.

Nearly all the different temperance organizations have been specially active during the past month. In Ontario the Sons of Temperance under the leadership of their new head Mr. J. M. Walton, have had a specially large number of organizations and resuscitations. Encouraging activity prevails everywhere, one of the features of which is a continual demand for prohibition literature for circulation. This lack will soon be supplied by a series of plebiscite tracts specially prepared to meet the emergency. Some organizations are taking hold of the CAMP FIRE and circulating quantities of it in their respective localities.

LOCAL OPTION AT WORK.

Dr. A. C. Gaviller of Grand Valley, writes an interesting report of the success of local option prohibition in his township. He says, "the only trouble we had was during the time that the question of the constitutionality of local option was before the Privy Council. Shortly after the settlement of the matter, the liquor men had one severe lesson. Our Inspector seized all the liquor and packages in their houses, empty and full. The dealers were fined Fifty Dollars each, the liquor was spilled and the boys burned the kegs. About One Hundred Dollars worth of stuff was demolished. One treatment effected a cure."

ABSTINENCE AND LONG LIFE.

Dr. Ogle, of the Registrar-General's Department in Great Britain, has compiled a table of expectancy of life based on the death-rate for the years 1871-80 of the general population of the country. This, when compared with the actuarially-compiled experience of the Independent Order of Rechabites Friendly Society, gives the following result:—

Age Years.	Dr. Ogle's table of experience Years.	Rechabite table of experience Years.	Rechabite advantage Years.
20	39 40	48 83	9 43
25	35 68	44 30	8 62
30	32 10	39 72	7 62
35	28 64	35 08	6 44
40	25 30	30 58	5 28

So that at twenty years of age a Rechabite has nearly nine-and-a-half years of life more than the average of the general population of the country at that age.—*Good Templar Watchword*.

FOR THE CAMPAIGN.

Literature to distribute.

The CAMP FIRE is a neat 4-page monthly paper full of bright, fresh pointed convincing facts and arguments. It is just what is needed for campaign work, to inspire workers, and win recruits. It will be supplied for distribution on the following terms:—

Twenty copies will be sent to any one address every month for six months, or ten copies for one year for ONE DOLLAR, payable in advance.

On no other plan can a small investment be made to produce so much of educative result. One hundred and twenty copies may be placed in as many homes, and have more than HALF A THOUSAND readers. One dollar will cover this placing of the claims of our cause before five hundred people. Ten dollars may reach FIVE THOUSAND. WILL YOU HELP US?