

THE CAMP FIRE.

A Monthly Record and Advocate of the Temperance Reform.

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CANADIAN ITEMS.

THE DEADLY DRINK AND THE WAR THAT IS WAGED AGAINST IT.

Drink and Death.

On Friday morning, April 1st, a sad accident happened in the city of Montreal, by which a young man aged twenty-seven, who had been drinking heavily, was run over by a street car and instantly killed.

Another of the Same.

The *Charlottetown Guardian* gives a report of a sad accident that recently took place near Alberton, P.E.I., in which a farmer, a young married man was drowned while under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

More Evil Results.

A great increase of drunkenness is reported from the village of Cardinal, being to a certain extent a result of the gathering of many men employed on the new canal works. A petition was presented to the Council praying for a vote on local option, but the request was refused. Mr. John A. Nicholls has been holding interesting and useful temperance meetings in the town.

The Traffic to Blame.

A sad tragedy took place in Oxford County on March 26th. A young man who had been in Woodstock the night before became very badly intoxicated, missed his train and walked on Sunday morning through a heavy rain storm, to Ingersoll, arriving there in such a state of exhaustion that he only lived a few hours. There is some suspicion that he was otherwise badly dealt with in addition to being freely supplied with intoxicating liquor.

A Stirring "Cry."

The *Canadian War Cry*, organ of the Salvation Army, for March 5th, was a red hot prohibition number. On the front page was an impressive illustration showing a great whiskey bottle as a nickle in the slot machine, into which the public put money and from which they got out a great array of evil consequences. A specially forcible article addressed to the drunkard was written by the Field Commissioner, Miss E. Booth. Many other articles and illustrations are exceedingly impressive.

A Worthy Enterprise.

W.C.T.U. workers of Lunenburg, N. S. have undertaken a useful and interesting work. A seaman's resort has been provided, at which sailors in harbor may meet for social intercourse, reading and other profitable occupation. The understanding will be under the management of representatives of different religious organizations and temperance societies. An appeal is made for financial support to which there ought to be a very cordial and liberal response.

Improving the Scott Act.

A bill is before the House of Commons introduced by Firman McClure, M.P. amending the Scott Act so as to provide that policemen and other officials may have the same power to

enter saloons, shops, warehouses, etc., in enforcing the Scott Act, that they now have under the License Law of Ontario. Provision is also made for a heavy penalty on any such officer who refuses to assist in enforcing the law when called upon to do so. The prohibitionists of Western Canada often overlook the fact that the Scott Act is in force and doing splendid work in the greater part of the Maritime Provinces.

A Templar Company.

The annual meeting of the Templar Publishing Company of Hamilton was held on March 21st. The Secretary-Treasurer reported that nearly all the \$50,000 stock of the Company had been subscribed and three-fourths of the first call of ten per cent paid in. Some discussion took place over the provincial election campaign, some of those present taking the ground that the Government should have been strongly opposed as not entitled to the confidence of prohibitionists. Directors were elected for the coming year and at a subsequent Directors' meeting the following officers were chosen. Pres., W. Watkins; Vice-Pres., J. T. Banard; Sec., J. W. Jones. Mr. Geo. Wrigby has ceased to be editor of the *Templar* and Mr. W. W. Buchanan has been appointed editor until further arrangements are made.

Plebiscite Work.

An important and well-attended meeting of the Executive Committee of the Dominion Alliance was held in Toronto on March 25th. Much anxiety was expressed respecting rumors afloat to the effect that there would probably be some rider relating to taxation attached to the prohibition question in the coming Plebiscite. The meeting was unanimously of the opinion that such action on the part of the Government would be exceedingly unjust to the temperance cause. Reports were received relating to the literary campaign, showing that more than 2,000,000 pages had already been printed and that there was a steady demand from nearly every part of the Dominion. It was ordered that immediately on the introduction of the Plebiscite Bill another meeting should be held to which would be invited many other representative prohibitionists not at present on the Executive Committee.

Dominion R. T. of T.

The Dominion Council of the Royal Templars of Temperance held its second biennial session at Hamilton commencing on Thursday, March 15th. Representatives from all the Grand Councils of the Dominion were present. A. M. Featherston of Montreal, Dominion Councillor, presided. Reports showed an increase in the beneficiary membership of 221 over last biennial report. The approaching Plebiscite was discussed and members of the Order were strongly urged to do their duty in the contest, giving special attention to the distribution of literature likely to help the cause. An emphatically worded declaration was made demanding that the Plebiscite be squarely submitted as distinctly promised, free from complication with all other questions. The Dominion Government was memorandized to keep the Yukon District entirely free from the liquor traffic. Touching reference was made to the serious loss to the temperance cause in the deaths of General Neal Dow and Miss Frances E. Willard. Satisfaction was expressed at the organization of the Templar Publishing Company, and the turning over to that body of the publishing interests of the Order. The following are the principal officers elected for the coming term. D. C., Bro. Geo. H. Lees; D.P.C., Bro. A. M. Featherston; D.V.C., Rev. H. S. Matthews; D. C., Rev. W. Kettlewell; D.S., Dr. C. V. Emory; D.M.R., Dr. B. E. McKenzie; D.A., Bro. J. W. Jones; Auditors, A. C. Neff, P. H. Stewart; S.P.Supt., Rev. C. W. Watch.

NOTES OF NEWS

FROM MANY PLACES.

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING.

Law Enforcement in Alaska.

A press despatch states that an order has been issued at Washington, D.C. ordering the closing of all saloons in Alaska and that Governor Brady has been instructed to see that the order is carried out.

Prohibition in Kentucky.

The Senate of the State of Kentucky has adopted a local option bill which is expected to be shortly in operation. Under it prohibitionists expect to secure the outlawry of the liquor traffic over the greater part of the State.

An Awful Record.

Official statistics recently published in Great Britain show that in England and Wales during 1896 the number of persons charged with drunkenness was 187,258 as against 160,298 the preceding year. The number of convictions was 162,695 and 7,146 of the offenders were sent to jail.

From Germany.

A card setting out the disadvantages of the use of intoxicating liquor and strongly commending the Independent Order of Good Templars is exhibited in the railway stations of northern Germany with the approval of the railway authorities.

Saloonists for Prohibition.

A fight is going on at Albany, New York, over a bill proposing to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquor in departmental stores. The ordinary liquor sellers are the advocates of the new measure, and their object of course, is to secure more business for their own establishments.

Work in Bulgaria.

The National Assembly of Bulgaria has imposed upon liquor manufacturing a tax so heavy as to close nearly all the distilleries. A national temperance society is at work, accomplishing splendid results, and in many villages the sale of liquor has been entirely suppressed.

Tightening the Restrictions.

The State of Arkansas has passed a law prohibiting musical instruments, gambling, billiard tables, cards and dice in places where liquors are sold. A conviction for violation of the law results in a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars with forfeiture of license and disqualification from being licensed for three years.

Kansas Strong as Ever.

Kansas State Temperance Union recently held at enthusiastic convention at Topeka, more than six hundred delegates being present. Among the resolutions adopted was one pledging prohibitionists to vote for no candidate for any office whose record and character did not give a reasonable guarantee that he would do his full duty in enforcing prohibitory law. J. W. Gleed, of Topeka was elected President, and T. E. Stephens, Secretary.

Fighting a Railway.

At Buxton in North Dakota, the agent in charge of the local railway station took charge of consignments of liquor marked "C.O.D." Local prohibitionists claimed that in delivering the liquor and collecting the money, he was acting the part of a liquor seller and had him prosecuted. The judge charged that the sale must be understood as taking place where the money was paid and a conviction was recorded. The railway company is now endeavoring to punish the village by closing the station and allowing trains to stop only on signal.

IMPORTANT! READ IT ALL!

THE CAMP FIRE

is a neat, four-page monthly journal edited by F. S. Spence, devoted to the advocacy of Temperance and Prohibition, full of bright, fresh, pointed, convincing facts and arguments. It is just what is needed for the Plebiscite Campaign, to inspire workers and make votes. Subscription, only twenty-five cents per year. ORDER NOW!

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SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF
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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, APRIL, 1898

IT IS COMING

The Plebiscite Bill has not yet been introduced into Parliament. The long delay that has occurred has led to some expressions of fear that it is going to be again left over. There is not much danger of such a contingency. The Government is fully committed to the taking of a vote. It has been definitely promised that a bill will be presented to Parliament during the present session. Other matters of urgency have been occupying the attention of the legislators, but most of them are now out of the way. The Franchise Bill, which was supposed to be a necessary antecedent of the plebiscite measure, has been adopted by the House of Commons. We confidently look for the promised legislation at a very early date. More anxiety exists relating to the form which the proposed plebiscite will take.

A STRAIGHT ISSUE.

The Liberal party promised to take a plebiscite upon prohibition, if placed in control of the Government of Canada. That promise was a prominent plank in the platform upon which the party secured a majority in the House of Commons.

There was no doubt in the minds of the people as to what was intended. The public expected that voting would take place in which the electors would be asked to mark their ballots for or against the enactment of a prohibitory law. Of course the voting for prohibition implies a willingness to accept the condition and results of prohibitory legislation.

It is expected that some of these results will be gratifying to every right-thinking citizen. A lightening of public burdens, an improvement in public health, promotion of general prosperity and a lessening of pauperism, disease and crime are among the benefits which we hope will come from the suppression of the sale of intoxicating beverages. These advantages must be won at the cost of some sacrifice. Diligent efforts must be made to secure a thorough enforcement of the law. For a time no doubt taxation must be increased in some other direction. Parliament is, however, already committed to the declaration that the prohibition policy is right, and that the advantages are such as to warrant the proposed legislation.

The benefits are as necessarily related to the proposed legislation as are the other anticipated results. Some enemies of prohibition, however, conceived the idea that an advantage to the liquor

party would result from having special attention called in the ballot paper to one of the least desirable consequences. The liquor party has asked that the ballot shall call attention to the probable increase of taxation and that the public shall be specifically asked whether or not they desire this increase.

It is not anticipated that the people will go to the polls in ignorance regarding any aspect of the question of prohibition. It will have been discussed on the platform, and in the press. Every possibility of its consequences will have been canvassed. Some of the voters may hold different opinions as to whether the advantages or disadvantages will be the greater. This is, however, no reason why the ballot should discuss the one or the other.

It must be distinctly borne in mind that the proposal to complicate the question of prohibition with the question of taxation in the ballot to be used, is a proposition made by the liquor party for the purpose of giving their side a special advantage in the voting. We cannot believe that the Government will be unwise enough or unjust enough to listen to the special plea of those who are simply selfishly striving to have the liquor traffic continued.

ORGANIZATION.

While we are waiting for the enactment of the Plebiscite Bill which will be the signal for the commencement of the fight, we should not fail to wisely use this opportunity for thorough organization. Our success in the coming struggle will depend largely upon the systematic management of our work. The people must be thoroughly quickened and informed. Thoroughness is impossible without method.

Many counties have already their committees formed and their plans laid. Others have yet done nothing in this direction. They are waiting for some special lead, for someone to devise some exceptionally perfect plan. This is unwise delay. It is better to work in the worst way than to do nothing. No one should wait for another. Whoever feels the need of the occasion should make a beginning.

There is wisdom and knowledge enough in almost any community now to ensure effective plans and methods. It is of course well to have as far as possible the same principles and ideas underlying organization in different parts of the country. To aid in this the Alliance Secretary will promptly and cheerfully furnish suggestions with forms of constitution, etc., for both local and county organizations, to any friends of the cause who will apply.

AVOID IMPATIENCE.

Some temperance bodies have been discussing the desirability of refusing to take part in the Plebiscite, if there should be submitted a question so complicated with other issues as to prevent a fair expression of public opinion upon prohibition. Any such action would be decidedly premature. Even if there were a strong probability that the ballot to be used be in some desirable form it would be improper to say what course of action should be taken until the form of ballot had been seen and considered. We are strongly hopeful that the Government will not present the question in such form as to unjustly handicap people in the voting. As soon as the Bill is introduced into Parliament there will be held a conference of representative prohibitionists, who will carefully consider its provisions and watch its progress through Parliament. On that

committee are leading representatives of religious denominations and heads of provincial temperance bodies. The whole question will be carefully considered and any declarations that it is deemed desirable to make will be before the public without delay.

GETTING READY.

The prohibitionists of Canada have accepted the wise conclusions worked out by the Dominion Alliance Council last July, when it was clearly shown that the management of the Plebiscite campaign would have to be, to a great extent, provincial in its character. The Plebiscite will probably be taken under the new Dominion Franchise Act. In this case the franchise will vary somewhat in the different provinces. All the details of work can only be perfectly arranged by those who are familiar with local conditions.

Organization is under way in every part of Canada excepting the Pacific Province, and it is anticipated that British Columbia will soon also be ready for her share in the contest. When the Plebiscite Bill has been passed the Alliance Council will name a Plebiscite day which will form a starting point for special campaign activity in every part of the Dominion.

THE KLONDIKE.

Canada is stirred over the serious peril of the liquor-traffic's activity in the great Yukon country, where men of all classes are now gathering in a rigorous climate, under exciting circumstances, and away from contract with the institutions and agencies that absorb attention in the intervals between the long hours of arduous toil. Liquor is dangerous everywhere, but in mining communities it is found to be most productive of lawlessness, death and demoralization of every kind.

The Dominion Parliament has been stormed with petitions and appeals to prevent the introduction of liquor into the new country. Beverage sale of intoxicants there is absolutely inexcusable. Yet permission to take in liquor has been given by the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-west Territories with a recklessness that is appalling. Last year a return recently laid before the House of Commons shows that last year from May 5th to August 30th inclusive, permits had been given covering 17,737 gallons of spirits and that all the quantities were not reported.

The Government is alive to the danger that exists. Of course the wealthy and greedy liquor traffic will use every possible argument and influence to secure permission to continue its deadly work. Friends of temperance must not slacken their efforts. The Government should be given to understand fully that the Christian temperance sentiment of the country will sustain them in the most extreme measures that they find necessary to take in dealing with this serious evil.

THE SALOON IN POLITICS.

From an able sermon recently preached in St. Ann's Church, Montreal, by Rev. Father Cavanagh, S.J., of Loyola College, we clip the following paragraphs, and cordially commend them to the careful consideration of the friends of temperance, who are, we fear, paying too little attention to the growing and dangerous influence that the liquor traffic is exercising in political affairs:

"The saloons are almost everywhere. There is not one of you but must unfortunately know too many who are sad victims of intemperance. Among these

there must be at least one of whom you once thought it impossible that he should ever be the slave of drink. He used to be as well conducted, as strong of will, as you are now. You have been wise in your own interest to hedge yourselves round with the safeguards of your temperance pledge. But besides the personal motive you, who have such power for good, should exert that power.

"Let us be practical, and see what we can do. There is plenty of opportunity for good work, for there is a lot to be done. Think of it; there are four hundred licensed saloons in the city of Montreal alone. These are four hundred agencies working against you. The saloon keepers have organized themselves into the Licensed Victuallers' Association, with an organ of their own, *The Licensed Victuallers' Gazette*. They are very much in earnest and closely watch whatever affects their interests. They take a very active, a very telling part in municipal and even in national politics.

"Compared with this, what are you doing? You know that the saloon keepers are a power in politics. What would the chances of a candidate in St. Ann's Ward be, if the saloon keepers were to pronounce against him? But, if you men were, as you must be, just as much and as practically in earnest as they are, you, and not they, would decide and give the seat to whom you pleased. Then do, for God's sake and for the sake of your neighbor, only one-half as much as is done by the enemy.

"Teach your political party, if necessary, that the men who are working in the cause of humanity are to be reckoned with. Insist on a wisely restrictive legislation as regards the sale of intoxicants. At best it is a dangerous trade. Gunpowder and dynamite cannot be stored indiscriminately. Dangerous substances cannot be sold even by druggists otherwise than under certain assurances. Therefore, the selling of drink which leads so often to madness and crime, and is the cause of many a broken heart, should be compassed round with even greater guards and guarantees.

"Bring your unquestioned power to bear. Stand for temperance always and everywhere. Make your influence felt in elections. See that the names of good men are registered on the voters' list. Make yourselves a power in the land. Then success will crown your worthy efforts; you will have done a noble, a holy and a patriotic work, and God, who has promised the recompense for a cup of cold water given in his name, will reward and bless you here and hereafter forevermore."

ALCOHOL AND THE DEATH-RATE.

Some interesting information is given by Mr. William Bingham, of the Sceptre Life Assurance Company, on the practice of insurance offices as to the lives of publicans. Eight offices consider the risk too unfavorable, and decline to except this class of life. The Prudential used to charge an extra premium of £1 ls. per cent., but about a year ago this was raised to £2. consequent on the unfavorable experience of the office in this class of lives. At first these lives were taken at the ordinary rates, then after disastrous results, about twenty-three years ago the company restarted with an extra premium of 15s., afterwards raised to £1 ls., and finally to £2. In other offices from 5s. up to 30 per cent. on the premium; but the majority charge £1 ls. There is only one at the highest figure, one adds seven years, one charges 7 per cent., another £2 2s. It is somewhat remarkable that the same class of life should be weighted with such widely-differing rates of extra premium. This looks as if each office had rated according to its own experience. As to licensed grocers, whose rise in mortality was commented on by Dr. Farr shortly after grocers' licenses were instituted, it is most remarkable that two offices rate their extra at 10s. per cent., and one office at 15s. As the publican alone among traders has to produce evidence of good character, and is generally well housed, clothed, and fed, the offices must consider the mortality risks very high to demand such extra premiums, and some even to absolutely decline to accept such lives at all.—*The British Medical Journal*.

Selections.

HAROLD'S FALL, OR THE MURDER-
OUS GLASS!

Flashed the bright lights of the tavern
in a varied colored flood,
While too near its dread allurements,
lo! two workmen talking stood;
One was pleading, not the utterance
which to righteous dealing wins;
But the spacious, stealthy arguing
which allures to dangerous sins.
"Just a glass, no more is needed. 'Twill
a joyful glow impart,
And 'twill drown your doleful musings,
All with pleasure's thrill your heart."
But the tempted comrade halted. "Not
a glass, friend, will I take.
All your pleadings are but useless; so
no further efforts make.
For I care not for the beer glass.
Twenty years have passed away
Since I touched one drop of liquor, and
I'll touch no drink to-day.
Why, the little wife who loves me hates
the stuff with all her might,
And she will not have the liquor on
our board, or in our sight.
All my darling little children from the
sight of liquor shrink,
So 'tis useless, friend, to tempt me, for
I cannot, will not, drink."

But his mate was not yet baffled, per-
severing still, alas!
'Neath fair friendship's guise he plead-
ed, "Don't refuse a single glass.
Take the cup in moderation, and no
harm the drink will do;
Just a glass to seal our friendship, as a
bond 'twixt me and you."
Still the tempted man stood firmly,
while the tempter pleaded sore.
But at last, alas! he yielded; he would
take one glass, no more!
So the fateful step was taken, and he
stood with weakened will,
While he drained the cup that opened
all the avenues of ill.
Who can wonder thirst awakened,
clamored strong for many more?
Ere the fallen, maddened victim, curs-
ing, left the tavern door.
Soul-depressed, and mind unquiet, all
his strength of manhood spent,
Full of sullen, rough defiance, to his
home poor Harold went.

Little wife came forth to meet him, to
her husband's side she sped.
When she gazed upon her husband
every thought of pleasure fled.
"Harold, darling, are you angry?
Wherefore have I gained your
frown?
Are you ill, or are you weary? Come,
and, by my side, sit down."
Like an aspen leaf she trembled as they
walked with halting pace,
All the venom of the drink fiend seemed
to gather in his face,
For her gentleness enraged him, filled
him with an evil glow;
And his answer to her pleading was a
cruel, cowardly blow.
Gazing with a drink-fired passion at
the victim at his feet,
Loving wife and tender mother, lying
lifeless at his feet.

Long she slept. Of her awakening God's
great judgment day shall tell!
Long he slept. And much he marvelled;
his awakening was—a cell!
Not the dainty curtained chamber
where her loving care was shown,
This seemed like the dreariest shelter
that his eyes had ever known!
And he looked at God's bright sun-
shine, not through filmy folds of
lace,
But through rusty bars of iron gazed
his white and fear-drawn face.
Up he sprang. "My God, have mercy!
Show me, tell me, where am I?
Wife and child, my love, my darling!"
was his wild and anguished cry.

Came a footstep; bright keys rattling
smote his strained and tortured ear,
And a stern-faced prison warder to the
shrinking man drew near.
"Man," cried Harold, in his frenzy,
"tell me, tell me, where am I?"
"You are in the gaol, our prisoner!"
was the awful sad reply.
"In the gaol!" cried wretched Harold,
desperate, doubting and distressed,
"Oh! 'tis cruel thus to torture. It is
false. You only jest!"
But there came no smiling answer, and
the words came terror-fraught:
"Tis not meet for joke or jesting, such
a deed as you have wrought."
"Oh!" cried wretched, weeping Harold,
"who this dreadful news will tell?
Little wife will be heartbroken when
she learns I'm in a cell!"
Tell me, tell the heart that pleadeth,
with forebodings racked and torn,
What the crime they lay upon me,
innocent as babe unborn."

Said the warder, "Vain repentance!
Though the drink excuse you plead,
'Twas your gentle wife you murdered!
God forgive you for the deed!"
Harold stood, transfixed with horror,
then the heart throb ceased to beat,
And he fell, stunned and unconscious,
at the pitying warder's feet!

Night by night a warder's footsteps
pass so solemnly and slow,
O'er the spot where convict Harold
sleeps the murderer's sleep of woe!
Step by step they seem to echo, as on
dismal round they pass.
"Oh, beware the drink temptation.
Oh, refuse the first dread glass!"
And the flowers of Harold's household,
who can count their sighs and tears,
As their baby feet toil onward through
the unprotected years?
Little hearts for ever pondering what
they ne'er can understand,
Loving mother foully murdered by a
loving father's hand!
Other griefs kind time may conquer,
and his healing hand may cure;
But the memory of this sorrow is a woe
that shall endure.
May poor Harold's mournful record
teach the foolish to be wise,
And to shun the cup of sorrow where
such deep damnation lies.
—H. A. Beavan, in *Alliance News*.

HOW WE SETTLED THE SACRA-
MENTAL WINE QUESTION.

"Watson, I was surprised to see Mr.
Gaines in your place this morning as I
passed," said a gentleman to the pro-
prietor of a "wholesale and retail
liquor store," as they stood on the
sidewalk smoking and chatting.

"Yes, he is one of my regular cus-
tomers," replied the liquor dealer.
"Then you are mistaken in the
person; the gentlemen to whom I refer
is an advocate of prohibition and a
consistent member of the church."

"That is the very man. I have read
some of his addresses in the papers, in
which 'rum-sellers' (meaning your
humble servant as well as the keeper
of that low grocery across the way)
catch shot and shell from his Temper-
ance battery. Notwithstanding this,
he comes to me every two months and
orders a gallon of the best wine—he
being authorized to procure it for Com-
munion use in his church."

"Ah! that presents the case in a
different aspect: it is absolutely neces-
sary that someone should attend to that
important duty; consequently it is not
inconsistent with his Christian profes-
sion or Temperance principles."

"But," said the liquor seller, "if
wine is 'one of Satan's emissaries' to
drag human souls to destruction, and
if the liquor traffic is so 'vile and
iniquitous' (I quote from Mr. G.'s last
address), is it consistent for Christians
to use this Satanic agent in a solemn,
religious ordinance, and in order to
obtain it, encourage an iniquitous
business? I have sometimes had doubts
as to the propriety of continuing the
sale of liquor; but, since I have found
that even the church deems it necessary
to patronize me, I have come to the
conclusion that it is not as bad as they
would make it appear."

A lady, who was standing on the
curb waiting for a street car, had been
an unintentional and unobserved
listener; and she now dropped her veil
hastily, to hide the rising color in her
cheeks, and, signalling the passing car,
went on her way. It was Mrs. Gaines,
the wife of the gentleman whose name
had been mentioned; and that very
evening, after an earnest talk with her
husband, they both made a prolonged
call at the home of their minister.
This resulted in an announcement from
the pulpit the following Sunday, which
created quite a sensation. It was to
the effect that a meeting would be
held the next evening to consider the
question of banishing fermented wine
from the Communion Table.

The congregation met in large num-
bers at the appointed time; the min-
ister was elected chairman, and having
opened the meeting with prayer,
briefly stated the object which had
called them together. Mr. Gaines
arose.

"Brethren," said he, "I have for
several years, at the request of the
deacons, been buying Communion wine
for this church, and have never before
realized the grave inconsistency of our
conduct." He then stated the substance
of the liquor dealer's remarks, as related
by his wife, and concluded thus:
"Shall it be asserted that liquor shops
are necessary to supply Christian
churches with one of the elements of
the Lord's Supper, and that, by using
alcoholic wine to represent the blood

of the dear Redeemer, they give aid
and encouragement to the manufacture
and sale of a stimulant that is produc-
ing so much evil and misery among our
fellow beings? No, my brethren, let
us hasten to repudiate this grave error,
this glaring inconsistency, and let not
an agent of the devil find a place on
the Lord's table. To bring the question
fully before you, I offer the following:
"Resolved—That alcoholic wine be
banished from the Communion of this
congregation, and that the pure, unfer-
mented juice of the grape be sub-
stituted."

The question was scarcely seconded
and stated by the chairman, when
several sprang to their feet. One
contended that the unfermented juice
of the grape was "not wine." Another,
"that the Saviour had used alcoholic
wine at the institution of the Supper,
and it would be presumptuous and
sacrilegious to substitute anything
else." Another asserted positively that
"no unfermented substitute would
keep a week without being spoiled";
and admitting that it could, he didn't
believe it could be found in this coun-
try. And one of the wealthiest
brothers, whose ruddy proboscis testi-
fied to the presence of wine at his dinner
table daily, pompously expressed the
opinion "that so large and influential
a congregation would not stultify itself
by any such absurdity as that contem-
plated in the motion before the
meeting." Then the other side was
heard. One proved conclusively that
"unfermented wine was that whose
use was pronounced a 'blessing' in the
Scriptures, and that alcoholic or fer-
mented wine was never mentioned,
except in connection with a warning, a
denunciation, or an anathema, and
consequently could not have been
given to His disciples by the Saviour."
An aged man said he never saw his
"reformed son raise the Sacramental
cup to his lips without fear and
trembling, knowing as he did how
terrible a temptation must be the
sight, smell and taste of that fiery
liquid to an appetite as yet half
vanquished." Another spoke of his
two young sons who were soon to unite
with the church, and expressed an
earnest hope that they "having never
yet tasted liquor in any form, might
not have it put to their lips for the first
time in the house of God." Another
informed them where the unfermented
wine could be obtained. Many others
spoke in favor of the resolution, and,
when the vote was taken, only three
hands were raised in the negative, one
being that of the gentleman with the
rubicund visage.

The following Sunday, when the
deacons passed the silver goblets, they
contained a clear, delicious, innocent
fluid, the pure juice of the grape, un-
mixed with any alcoholic taint or vile
adulteration; and those who tasted it
wondered how they could have toler-
ated for a purpose so sacred that
"mockery," which hid in its darkling
depths the bite of the serpent and the
sting of the adder. The demijohn of
wine, which had, as usual, been sent to
Mr. Gaines, accompanied by the bill,
was returned, with a note informing
the liquor dealer of the action of the
church. He frowned darkly when he
read it; but remarked, "I have a much
greater respect for these people than I
had before; but I hope this sort of
thing won't prove contagious; for three
other churches get Communion wine
from me, and their money is of more
value to me than their consistency." However, it was contagious, for two
others are now using unfermented
wine. And may the day speedily come
when every body of Christians in our
land shall have ceased to encourage
and patronize the manufacture and sale
of liquor, and when the Sacramental
altar shall be no more sullied by the
cup of Bacchus, at whose terrible
shrine so many victims have been
ruthlessly sacrificed!—*Good Templars'
Watchword*.

HOW CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIE-
TIES CAN WORK FOR
TEMPERANCE.

1. Let young men or women be ap-
pointed as leaders who are known to be
thoughtfully alive upon this sub-
ject. Let them be encouraged to
present the newest and most potent
facts obtainable, and let all the mem-
bers seek to make the temperance
meetings the largest and best of the
quarter.

2. Let the members of the young
people's society be encouraged to study
the question in all its bearings. To
secure this, subjects may be assigned
and papers prepared and read upon

the moral, economic and legal phases
of the question.

3. Let the "Sunday-school com-
mittee" use its influence to secure real
consideration of the Sunday-school
temperance lessons, in place of the
repetition of platitudes that now so
often pass for temperance teaching.

4. Let the "temperance committee"
hold public meetings, making them as
attractive as possible with music, and
providing for discussion of this great
question of the day by the ablest
speakers obtainable. These meetings,
if held with regularity and managed
with earnest common sense, will in
time come to command public atten-
tion in the village or city. Small leaflets
dealing with some local feature of the
case, showing the cause of some crime
or comparing the amount of money
wasted in drink with the cost of some
local public work, can be secured and
issued at small cost, and have proved
very effective.

6. Let the society fearlessly expose
and call public attention to instances
of the violation of law upon the part
of liquor-sellers, and of neglect of duty
by public officials.

7. Although in most States, there are
no liquor laws the enforcement of
which would in any way tend to abolish
the saloon, and though it is usually
impossible to obtain the enforcement
of laws that have been enacted *not to be
enforced*, yet, since attempts to enforce
poor laws lead to a demand for better
legislation, it may sometimes be wise
for the society to assist in efforts to
enforce existing liquor laws.

8. The one thing most needed for a
solution of the saloon problem is *that
the American people should think*.
When they shall have once really
thought upon the subject, that day the
saloon will be destroyed. To awaken
thought, agitation is needed. Agita-
tion even along faulty lines is to be
welcomed, since when people are
obliged to think, some will begin to
think rightly. So let young people's
societies ceaselessly agitate the saloon
question, and like William Lloyd
Garrison, the hero of the great anti-
slavery struggle, proclaim:

"I am in earnest—I will not equivocate—I will not excuse—I will not
retreat a single inch—AND I WILL BE
HEARD."—*New York Voice*.

A REVOLUTION.

"Of our political revolution of 1776
we are all justly proud. It has given
us a degree of political freedom far
exceeding that of any other nation of
the earth. In it the world has found a
solution of the long-mooted problem
as to the capability of man to govern
himself. In it was the germ which
has vegetated and still is to grow and
expand into the universal liberty of
mankind.

"But with all these glorious results,
past, present and to come, it had its
evils, too. It breathed forth famine,
swan in blood, and rode in fire; and
long, long after the orphan's cry and
the widow's wail continued to break
the sad silence that ensued. These
were the price, the inevitable price
paid for the blessings it brought.

"Turn now to the temperance revolu-
tion. In it we shall find a stronger
bondage broken, a viler slavery manu-
mited, a greater tyrant deposed—in it,
more of want supplied, more disease
healed, more sorrow assuaged. By
it, no orphans starving, no widows
weeping; by it, none wounded in feel-
ing, none injured in interest. Even
the dram-maker and dram-seller will
have glided into other occupations so
gradually as never to have felt the
change, and will stand ready to join all
others in the universal song of glad-
ness. And what a noble ally this to
the cause of political freedom! With
such an aid, its march cannot fail to be
on and on, till every son of earth shall
drink in rich fruition the sorrow-
quenching draughts of perfect liberty!
Happy day, when, all appetites con-
trolled, all passions subdued, all matter
subjugated, mind—all conquering mind
—shall live and move, the monarch of
the world! Glorious consummation!
Hail, fall of fury! Reign of reason,
all hail!

"And when the victory shall be
complete—when there shall be neither
a slave nor a drunkard on the earth—
how proud the title of that land which
may truly claim to be the birthplace
and the cradle of both those revolu-
tions that shall have ended in that
victory! How nobly distinguished
that people who shall have planted
and nurtured to maturity both the
political and moral freedom of their
species!"—*Abraham Lincoln*.

A GREAT CONVENTION.

Arrangements have already been made for a great Provincial Prohibition Convention to be held in the City of Toronto on the 5th and 6th days of July next. The occasion will be one of the keenest interest. Parliament will have dealt with the Plebiscite question, and voting will probably be not far away. Before that date the province should be thoroughly organized and there ought to be on hand representatives of the organized workers of every community, so that there may be the fullest discussion of campaign plans.

Every temperance society, every church congregation, and every Young People's Church Society is invited to send representatives to this great gathering. In some places it will be found convenient to appoint immediately representatives who will so shape their private business and plans as to enable them to take part in this great event. The early announcement will also be useful in enabling many of our friends to keep those dates free from other engagements. This will probably be one of the greatest and most eventful prohibition rallies ever held in the Dominion of Canada.

Great Britain's Drink Bill.

Rev. Dr. Dawson Burns has published his annual statement relating to drink consumption in Great Britain and Ireland. He states that the total quantity of liquor consumed in the year 1897 was as follows:—

Spirits, 41,008,692 gallons, costing £42,673,015. Beer, 34,755,905 barrels, costing £93,840,844. Wine and cider, 30,853,071 gallons, costing £15,267,764.

This gives a total of 33.17 gallons per head of the population, and an expenditure of over \$19 per head. The per capita consumption of spirits in Ireland and Scotland was greater than in England, but England leads in beer, consuming over 36 gallons per head of that beverage. Reducing intoxicants to a basis of alcohol, it is found that the average consumption in the United Kingdom is 2.23 gallons per head.

A COLD WATER STORY.

Somewhere lives a small farmer of such social habits that his coming home intoxicated was once no unusual thing. His wife urged him to reform. "Why, he would say, "I don't like to break off at once; it ain't wholesome. The best way is always to get used to a thing by degrees, you know." "Very well, old man," his helpmeet would rejoin, "see now if you don't fall into a hole one of these days, while you can't take care of yourself, and nobody near to take you out." Sure enough as if to verify the prophecy, a couple of days after, returning from a glorious frolic, the old fellow reeled into his own well, and after a deal of useless scrambling, shouted for "the light of his eyes" to come and help him out. "Didn't I tell you so," said the good soul showing her caprill over the edge of the parapet "you've got into a hole at last and its only lucky I'm in hearing or you might have drowned." "Well," she continued, after a pause, letting down the bucket, "take hold." And up he came, higher at every turn of the windlass, until the old lady's grasp, slipping from the handle, down he went to the bottom again. This occurring more than once made the temporary occupant of the well suspicious. "Look here," he screamed in fury, at the last splash, "you're doing that on purpose; I know you are."

"Well, now I am," responded his old woman tranquilly, while winding him up once more: "didn't you tell me its best to get used to a thing by degrees? I'm afraid if I was to bring you right up on a sudden, you wouldn't find it wholesome."

The old fellow could not help chuckling at her application of his principle, and protested that he would sign the pledge on the instant if she would lift him fairly out. This she did, and packed him off to "swear in," wet as he was.—*Exchange.*

THE DESTROYER

Intemperance creates in man an ungovernable appetite. Men who have fallen have told us it is not a desire, not an appetite, not a passion; these ordinary words fail to express the thing. It is more like a raging storm that pervades the entire being; it is a madness that paralyses the brain, it is a corrosion that gnaws the stomach, it is a storm-fire that courses through the veins; it transgresses every boundary, it fiercely casts aside every barrier, it regards no motive, it silences reason, it stifles conscience, it tramples upon prudence, it overleaps everything that you choose to put in its way, and eternal life and the claims of God are as feathers, which it blows out of its path.

What does it do to a man's body? It diseases it; it crazes his brain, it blasts his nerves, it consumes his liver, it destroys his stomach, it influences his heart, it sends a fiery flood of conflagration through all the tissues; it saps the recuperative energies of man's body, that oftentimes a little scratch upon a drunkard's skin is a greater injury than a bayonet-thrust through the body of a temperate man.—*Watchword Almanac.*

CAMPAIGN LITERATURE.

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 in the plebiscite campaign to inspire workers and make votes.

The contest upon which we are entering, will be largely a literature campaign. Printed matter tells. It does its work continuously, silently, fearlessly and well. 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.

Such literature will convince many a man whom his neighbors cannot convince. It will talk to him quietly, in his own home, in his leisure moments, when he can listen uninterruptedly, when he cannot talk back, and when the personality of the talker cannot interfere with the effect of the talk.

It will ply him with facts, arguments and appeals, that will influence, instruct and benefit him. It will set him thinking. This is half the battle. Its wide circulation will swell the victory that we are about to win. This is its object.

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:

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

On no other plan can a small investment be made to produce so much of educational 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?

Address,

F. S. SPENCE,
51 Confederation Life Building,
Toronto.

Curtailling the Liquor Traffic.

CHAPTER I.—CONSTERNATION.

It was in Arcadia. The Council of State, patriarchs with gentle eyes and long beards, sat meditating on measures pertaining to the public weal.

The door was suddenly thrown open and a lad, breathless, with cheeks flushed and eyes bulging out with excitement, after several vain efforts to articulate, at length succeeded in saying, "Your Honors,—there's a mad dog—rampaging the streets!"

In a moment all was confusion. The aged counsellors sprang to their feet and stood silent with suppressed excitement. Then as with one impulse they all hastened to the front windows of the Consilium.

"There he is!" cried one of them, "yonder by the cross-roads at the market!"

"Ah, yes! And, oh, horrors! how he is foaming and raging! Woe to any helpless ones that may chance to come before him."

"See by the Pantheon," cried another, "the children are just coming from morning school! They will surely be bitten by this mad beast!"

And bitten they were. One and another of them were torn by his poisonous fangs.

"Oh, this is horrible!" cried one of the venerable men at the window.

"What shall we do about it?"

"Aye, that's the practical question, what shall be done about it?"

"Let us consult the Legalia Convella."

CHAPTER II.—CONSULTATION.

The Legalia Convella were the Books of Law, the accumulated wisdom of many ages.

The sages sat solemnly bending over the books. Day after day they turned the leaves with no results. Meanwhile the mad dog had bitten many others, and there were now scores of raging curs, foaming and lurking at every corner, ready to spring upon the passers-by.

The people mourned. There was lamentation in almost every house. Men women and children were bitten, and limped or were carried to their homes, where, after weeks of lingering pain, they died in awful spasms.

Still the deliberations went on at the Concilium. The aged functionaries were unwilling to do anything without the authority of law, and as yet they had been able to find nothing.

At length, as they were pouring over the Convella, a gleam of sudden joy lighted the face of one of them and he cried, "I have it; hear it is!"

They looked up eagerly, then bending over the book read as follows:

"*Be it ordained:* That in case any beast shall so rage and rave as to endanger the public safety, his tail shall forthwith be cut off!"

"His tail cut off!" "What will that do? A dog don't bite with his tail."

"No, but he isn't apt to bite so hard if his tail is cut off."

CHAPTER III.—REGULATION.

"We don't believe it! We don't believe it!" cried many voices!

"Well, anyway, if we abbreviate the tails of these dogs, we shall be better able to regulate their doings."

"Why so?"

OVER

2

CURTAILING THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

"Because there won't be so much of the dogs to regulate."

"And besides we shall lend a respectable air to the whole business in this way."

"How?"

"Why after cutting off their tails, it will be evident that the law has nothing more against them. This will make rabid dogs respectable, and biting a legitimate business."

"Yes, and it will increase our revenues."

"How do you make that out?"

"Why, we can levy on the people a tax of one dollar for every tail cut off."

CHAPTER IV.—AGITATION.

"Enough of this nonsense. What we want to do is to get rid of this whole infernal business. A dog with his tail cut off is just as hard to regulate as a dog with a tail a yard long. And it is no economy to increase the public revenues by a drain on the people's purses. Neither do you gain anything by making mad dogs respectable and a bad business legitimate. What we want to do is simply and solely to stop this rabid biting in the streets." (It was a prohibitionist who spoke—a fanatic).

Then there was silence for a long while. The Regulators could find nothing to say.

"I have it, I have it!" at length cried one. Then he read:

"*Be it ordained:* That in case any beast shall so rage and rave as to endanger the public safety, his tail shall forthwith be cut off."

"Why, that's precisely what we had before."

"Yes, but it is enough; it will suppress the evil; no need of our exceeding the law."

"How do you make that out?"

"Why, don't you see, the law doesn't say where the dog's tail shall be cut off!" "Suppose we cut it off just back of the ears."

CHAPTER V.—EXTIRPATION.

This was approved. The thing was done. The dog's tails were cut off just back of their ears. That was curtailling the business with a vengeance. It was prohibition. There was no regulation about it.

But this curtailling proved most effective. The mad-dog business was done with forever. Everybody said, "Why didn't we think of it before?"

And when the old counsellor died, who had conceived the happy thought, they built a monument over him bearing this inscription:

TO THE MEMORY OF

TEETOTALIS PROHIBITUS,

THE SAGE WHO ORIGINATED THE MAXIM.

"The proper place to curtail a bad business is just back of the ears."

CHAPTER VI.—APPLICATION.

The moral is this, the liquor saloons are the mad dogs of our day, raving in every street. Nearly every home is in mourning because of their brutality, and the country is deluged with the crime and desolation which they have brought about. There is but one way of dealing with this awful scourge. Our laws must be made to conform to those of ancient Arcadia as interpreted by the wisest of her sages. The body and soul-destroying business must be curtailled as effectively as were Arcadia's mad dogs. How? Through the absolute Prohibition of the infamous traffic now and forever!

Issued by the Dominion Alliance for the Suppression of the Liquor Traffic.

Above is one of the two-page Prohibition Leaflets issued for the Plebiscite Campaign. They are sold far below cost for free distribution. Twenty kinds now ready. Address, F. S. SPENCE—Toronto.