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THE CAMP FIRE.

A Monthly Record and Advocate of the Temperance Reform.

VOL. VIII. No 8.

TORONTO, ONT. FEBRUARY, 1902.

25 CENTS PER YEAR

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

THINK THIS OUT

It is proposed that a vote shall be taken upon the liquor question in which possibly the majority of those who go to the polls will be beaten. This proposal is advocated on the ground that it is necessary to have a great majority in favor of a prohibitory law to make it effective, and that the indifference of those who will not take the trouble to vote would be an impediment to the effectiveness of the measure.

If there are on the voters' lists of Ontario the names of over 500,000 men, there must be in the Province of Ontario over 500,000 women whose views will not be expressed through the ballot box. It is safe to say that the vote of these women if polled would be overwhelmingly for prohibition, and against the liquor traffic.

If the indifference to prohibition of the men who may stay at home, is to count on the side of that which is evil, ought not the anxiety for prohibition of the 500,000 who must stay at home, be counted on the side of that which is good.

If there is any element of injustice in disfranchising our women who are one-half of our grown citizens, is not that injustice greatly intensified by a proposal that the votes of those who most fairly represent the views of the non-voters shall be counted as of less value than the votes of those who do not represent the character, principles and opinions of the wives and mothers of the land.

If consideration is given to the indifference of some citizens who will not vote, should not consideration be given to the earnestness of the many citizens who cannot vote.

DRINK'S DOINGS.

Here is an instance, only one of thousands. In the city of Toronto a few days since, a little family was broken to pieces. The weak father, through persistent drunkenness, was simply a nuisance and a disgrace. Worn out with worry and hard work to maintain her little ones, the mother succumbed to disease and had to be sent to the hospital. The little ones are distributed among charitable institutions, and the father is among the homeless out-of-workers. Instances even sadder are recurring every day. The traffic which produces them goes on under the sanction and protection of law.

TO HON. G. W. ROSS And the Ninety-Three Other Members of the Ontario Legislature.

GENTLEMEN:—

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

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

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

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

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

Viewed in this light you must admit that the prohibitory law now before the Legislature, with the conditions attached to it, is absolutely useless. It cannot be brought into operation on the terms proposed. It may provoke the enmity or win the favor of partisans. It may antagonize votes or may catch votes. It may have some effect upon the movements of party politicians. It can do no good to the temperance cause. It can bring no relief from the terrible evils which it is your duty to consider and alleviate.

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

Such a course of action is the only possible complete carrying out of the letter and spirit of the pledge given by the Premier eight years ago, which pledge cannot be fulfilled either in letter or in spirit, by the unwise and unjust proposals now before the legislature.

SHE TOOK HER PA HOME.

It was nine o'clock at night, bitterly cold and the winds whistled around the police barrack in Atlanta. Hardly a person was on the street it was so bleak and cold.

The officers at the barracks had gathered around the warm heater telling their experiences in the past when a little, gentle rap was heard on the door.

"Come in," cried the call officer. There was a silence for a moment and the rap was repeated again.

"For Heaven's sake tell whoever it is to come in out of the cold," called the station sergeant.

Then an effort was made to open the door but it failed and then for the third time the rap on the door was repeated and the call man jumped up and opened the door.

Out in the cold, on the stone steps stood a tiny little girl. She was thinly clad, although it was freezing outside. Her thin brown hair clung in damp shreds about her pale forehead.

"Great God," exclaimed the officer "come in little girl and get warm."

The child shuddered either from fright or cold and slowly walked into the office.

"What do you want?" asked the astonished sergeant.

"Is—is—papa here?" said the child her eyes filling with tears.

"Your papa," said the sergeant, "who is your papa and why do you think he is in such a place as this?"

Brushing away the tears the child replied in a trembling voice: "Mamma said to-night that papa was sick and the police had him. So I came here to find him. Is he here?"

The little one then gave the name of her father and the sergeant found that he was docketed as being drunk. He called the turnkey and asked him to see if the man had sobered up.

The turnkey reported that the man was sober enough to go home.

"Then let him out," said the kind hearted officer, "and give him a copy of charges. It's not business, but the little girl shall have her papa."

The man came out haggard and weak from the effects of his spree. The child ran with a glad cry into his arms and kissed him again and again.

"Mamma told me you were sick," she said, "and I have come to take you home."

The man made no reply. His hands trembled as he tried to smooth back his brown hair. In silence he passed from the barracks with his trusting, loving little girl.

"If that man doesn't reform and let this be his last drunk," remarked the station sergeant, "he is made of stone."

This is only one of thousands of sad cases that are chronicled by our daily press each year. We think that voters have hearts of stone when they allow such things to exist. Let us as loyal Christian citizens awake and say by our ballots that the saloons must go from this land and Nation and then there will be no more debauchery, crime or misery caused by the hellish traffic which should be forever out-lawed, and which is every year ruining hundreds of thousands of homes and sending thousands to drunkards graves.—Southern Star.

A PROHIBITION VICTORY.

A splendid victory for temperance was won on January 6th in the Township of Marlposa, Ontario, where a local option by-law which had been in force for eight years, was sustained by a majority of 252. The by-law had been carried in the first place by a majority of only 73. The percentage of the first vote in favor of the law was fifty-five, in the last case it was sixty-three.

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, FEBRUARY, 1902

THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS

On Wednesday, 12th inst., the Premier, Hon. G. W. Ross, introduced into the Ontario Legislature the long-looked for prohibition bill. In presenting the measure the Premier delivered an extensive and very able address upon the situation, showing the progress that had been made in liquor legislation during the past twenty-five years, arguing in favor of the referendum principle, and giving details of the method by which the proposed Act was to be brought into operation. He said practically nothing regarding the prohibitory features of the bill, or the details of its various provisions, simply stating that it was "in the terms of the Manitoba Act," the provisions of which are well known. It is proposed that the coming into operation of the law is to be conditional upon its being ratified at an election to be held on October 14th next and upon its being voted for by a number of electors exceeding one-half of the total number of electors who voted at the preceding Provincial election. If such a majority should prevail, the question of compensation for liquor men is to be referred to a commission.

These propositions will be sadly disappointing to those friends of the temperance cause who looked for legislation to carry out the pledge given by Sir Oliver Mowat on Feb. 6th, 1894, and which was in the following terms:

"If the decision of the Privy Council should be that the Province has the jurisdiction to pass a prohibitory liquor law as respects the sale of intoxicating liquor, I will introduce such a bill in the following session, if I am then at the head of the Government.

"If the decision of the Privy Council is that the Province has jurisdiction to pass only a partial prohibitory liquor law, I will introduce such a prohibitory bill as the decision will warrant, unless the partial prohibitory power is so limited as to be ineffective from a temperance standpoint."

This was the promise to which the present Premier is understood to be committed. It was a promise made in view of a strong demonstration of public opinion manifested by a vote already taken. It was not suggested or thought that the carrying of it out was to be conditional upon any further voting. No one imagined that there would be presented to the public, as a fulfilment of the promise, prohibitory legisla-

tion so conditioned that it could not be made operative, which is practically the case with the proposals made in the Legislature on the 12th inst.

Even if it be admitted, as some people contend, that it is desirable to have another vote of the electorate upon the actual measure embodying the principles before approved, the fact still remains that it is proposed to re-submit the question in such form, at such time, and upon such terms as will work to the disadvantage of the prohibitionists and will be exceedingly unreasonable and unjust.

The percentage of votes polled at a general election is certain to be larger than the percentage polled upon a question submitted. Into a general election enter elements of rivalry, personal interest, strong persuasion, effective organization, prospect of personal advantage, financial support, and various proper and improper methods of securing votes, some of which the workers on moral reform lines could not or would not use.

Even where important questions are voted upon simultaneously with the election of representatives as is frequently the case in the United States and other countries, the personal vote is far in excess of the vote on the proposition submitted. The people of the State of Maine voted at the same time upon the question of electing a governor and making prohibition a part of the State Constitution. The vote on the question was 94,594, while the vote polled for governor was 142,413. The State of Kansas adopted prohibition by a vote taken in connection with a presidential election, in which the votes polled for prohibition were 175,911, while the presidential vote was 201,236. In both of these States prohibition is successful.

For the reasons stated, even when men are at the polling booth and ballots are placed in their hands, a large number of those who vote for political candidates will abstain from voting on a question submitted. When a question is voted upon at a time different from a regular election, the number who go to the polls will be small compared with the number who vote under other circumstances. In Toronto, on the important question of pledging the credit of property owners for large amounts, the vote polled if taken independently is always small. Important money by-laws have been carried by less than five per cent. of the possible vote. In South Dakota the total vote for and against prohibition at a voting on constitutional questions, was 30,907, while the vote polled at the nearest general election was 86,768.

If a vote on prohibition is taken at a special time, the vote will be much smaller than the vote in a regular election; and the provision, that prohibitionists to succeed must poll at the special time a majority of the votes cast in a general election, is manifestly to their disadvantage, handicapping them at the start with an unreasonable requirement. If, as is possible, the vote at a general election amounted to 450,000, prohibitionists at the special voting would have to poll 225,001 votes to win. The liquor men need not vote at all. Even if the liquor party did work hard and polled as many votes as

they polled in the Dominion Plebiscite, 115,284, they would be in the minority, yet prohibition would be defeated, although the prohibitionists had a majority of 109,717.

There is a plausibility at first sight in the Government's suggestion which must be studied before its effect is thoroughly realized. The sound British principle of democratic government is the principle of majority rule. Any such departure from that principle as is contemplated, is class legislation belonging to the out of date times when one section of the community was supposed to have more political rights than another. It is exceedingly unfair to count as voting against a measure people who refrain from voting or who are kept from voting by death, sickness, indifference or any such reason. The most that can be said about those who voluntarily stay away from the polls is that they are willing to let the question be settled by others and that they practically consent to abide by the decision of those who vote.

A vote taken apart from a general election involves inconvenience to voters and waste of time, besides a large unnecessary expenditure of public funds. The time chosen for voting, Oct. 14th, is a most inconvenient time, just after the busy harvest, during which people have not had opportunity to attend meetings, or take part in discussion. It comes close after the quadrennial session of the Methodist General Conference at Winnipeg, which will take away from the city many earnest workers who would like to take part in the campaign. The most economical and fairest time for voting, if a vote is to be taken, would be in connection with the municipal elections on the 1st Monday in January.

Prohibitionists are also disadvantaged by the suggestion that if prohibition is carried, some indefinite compensation will be provided for discarded liquor dealers. Opponents of prohibition will make the most possible of the argument that those who vote for prohibition are voting away an unknown amount of public money which in some form or other must be provided at the general expense. The bringing in of this new condition in this indefinite form, under these circumstances, is another handicap on the prohibitionists which must tell to the disadvantage of the temperance cause and the benefit of the liquor interests.

Indefinite compensation, a vote at a bad time, and the requirement of an unfavorable majority, are unfair conditions of the proposed referendum which make it exceedingly objectionable to even those prohibitionists who would not take strong ground against another vote however unnecessary they might deem any further expression of public opinion. These conditions are so unjust that the proposal to impose them on prohibitionists will certainly be resented strongly by the great mass of the temperance people as undue favoritism towards the liquor traffic. Legislation so conditioned is not a fulfilment of the made and implied pledges of the Government. It is not the legislation which the situation demands. It is to be sincerely hoped that prohibitionists will not accept it and that there will be found opposed to it enough members of the Legislature to prevent its being carried out.

IMPORTANT.

TORONTO, 1901.

DEAR FRIEND,—

You are respectfully requested to carefully examine **The Camp Fire**, a neat four-page monthly Prohibition paper, full of bright, pointed, convenient facts and arguments; containing also a valuable summary of the latest news about our cause. It is just what is needed to **inspire workers and make votes.**

We are embarking on a campaign for prohibition legislation in which the liquor traffic will do its utmost to block, delay, and if possible prevent our securing the enactment and enforcement of useful law. We have plenty of hard fighting ahead of us. We must keep posted and equipped, knowing all that is being done by our friends and foes, and sophistry and misrepresentation that will be advanced.

The Camp Fire will be one of the best aids you can have in the struggle. It will contain nothing but what you need. Every number ought to be preserved. You cannot afford to be without it, and the subscription price is only nominal, **Twenty-five cents per year.**

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

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

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 educative results. 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,
52 Confederation Life Building,
Toronto.

DRINK

In a recent issue, the New Voice of Chicago, edited by John G. Woolley, discusses the murder of Bridget Kilroy, reported on another page of this paper, and makes an appeal based thereon, to Bishop Potter, Dr. Rainsford and other prominent clergymen and scientific men who lately have been arguing against prohibition and prohibitionists. From this forcible and personal appeal, we clip the following paragraphs, only stopping to say that the liquor traffic in Ontario does the same work that the liquor traffic does in the United States:

"We respectfully call the attention of these gentlemen to the tragic death of Bridget Kilroy, floor scrubber and woman of general work, drunkard's wife and the mother of a drunkard's children, lying dead upon the floor of a basement tenement of the city of Boston on the morning of the Sabbath day, January 26, in the year of Christ 1902.

"Gentlemen, upon various occasions in public addresses and in the public prints, on dates more or less recent, you have given utterance to views concerning the saloon and concerning the use of alcoholic drinks, to which we have felt obliged to take exceptions, and the fallacies of which it has seemed to us necessary to point out. Concerning those views we raise no discussion at the present time. We will allow, formally, of course, and merely for the sake of argument, your contention. Let it be taken for granted that the prohibitionist is a fraud and a hypocrite, as Bishop Potter has insisted; let it be accepted without dispute that the saloon is a beneficent institution and has come to stay, as Dr. Rainsford has told the public; let it be conceded that the encouragement of beer drinking, taking place in certain of our institutions of learning, notably in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, arises from the best of motives; let it be accepted as scientific truth that alcohol is a food, valuable both in sickness and in health, as Dr. Atwater and his disciples contend; let all these things be granted upon your side of the contention, and in the face of them all, and in recognition of them all, we do you to wit the lot of Bridget Kilroy.

"It was the saloon that killed Bridget Kilroy; it was the drink that choked out her life, pounded and kicked her body into a mass of wounds and bruises. The saloon, gentlemen, that you praise, conditionally, it is true, but praise none the less; the drink, gentlemen, that you defend, under limitations, of course, but defend none the less! The home of the Kilroys, bare, cheerless, poverty stricken, a place of suffering and sorrow, a place where hungry children cried for food and little ones shivered for lack of clothing, a place where a father and husband forgot his duty to his wife and children, where a despairing mother, in the last extremities of anguish fought day by day, merely continue the torture of life for herself and her little ones — that home, a fit place for the commission of such a crime, a place ready prepared, as it were, for such a scene of blood and violence — that home, gentlemen, was the product of the American saloon system, as clearly marked as such, as well recognized as such, as if the saloon's "hall mark" had been stamped upon it. It was not only a product of the saloon system, but it was merely one of the innumerable host of similar

products, such as the saloon, to the knowledge of all men, constantly and unceasingly creates.

"We call to your attention further, gentlemen, that no other agency known to men creates such places. Not poverty alone, not ignorance alone, not wickedness alone, makes a place so forsaken of God and man, so remote from heaven and the possibility of good, so circled by the devils and hell, as a drunkard's home. But the poverty, the ignorance and the wickedness of the saloon make such places by the uncounted thousands.

"When Michael Kilroy reeled home in the early hours of the holy Sabbath of Sunday, January 26, in the Christian city of Boston, his pockets empty of the money that he promised to his wife to buy the clothing for lack of which his children were freezing; when he answered her appeal for the fulfillment of his promise with a blow that knocked her to the floor; when he choked, with his fingers upon her throat, her appeal for mercy; when he kicked her with his heavy boots, and she about to become the mother of another child; when he sat for hours, unmoved, listening to her moans and watching her sufferings; when he brutally mistreated the children who would have brought her help; when he struck away the water that her little daughter was lifting to her bloody, chattering lips — it was drink, gentlemen — the drink that Professor Atwater tells us is food — the drink that you gentlemen recommend in "moderation", that made him do it; and neither in earth nor hell has any other agency been found, in the history of the whole human race that inspired men to such deeds.

"But drink, gentlemen, alcoholic drink, not only made Michael Kilroy do that brutal, devilish deed, but has transformed uncounted thousands of men into fiends of the same character and has driven them to deeds equally brutal. Drink, gentlemen, has inspired tragedies so commonly and in such multitude, that the public scarcely pauses to notice their occurrence. Drink, gentlemen, is to-day preparing more men for just such deeds as that; and you know, and we know, and the world knows, that it will take boys from your churches, boys from your schools, aye, God pity you, perhaps boys from your homes, and will make them into such brutes to work such crimes in future years on women who to-day are lovely and loving girls.

"It was only twelve days before the butchery in that Boston tenement that Vincent Vincelsk came home drunk in Pittsburg and chopped his wife and little children to death with a rail cutter. It was only thirteen days before that John Blissett, of Detroit, drunk, emptied his revolver into his wife's body and poured kerosene over her and stood with lighted match to make her a burnt offering to drink when the police broke in upon him. It was just one month and a day before that a father in Indiana came home drunk, sought to kill his wife with a hatchet and was shot dead by his son.

"But why go on with such a list? The cases are innumerable; and before Michael Kilroy came home to kill Bridget, you and we and everybody in the whole land knew that such a man, because of the drink traffic, would come home and kill his wife, and that the terrible procession of crime would keep right on. "Gentlemen, we bring no accusation against you; we question the motives of none of you; but, as if in the presence of the dead, before

the intelligent people of the land, and before God in high heaven, we submit that amid the crying of the blood of Bridget Kilroy, as its volume rolls like thunder to the judgment seat of a Just God, the naming of your names is heard."

ORGANIZING.

Mr. John A. Nichols, Dominion Alliance Organizer, is pushing campaign work with commendable energy and encouraging success. He has succeeded in securing organization of the prohibition forces for the following constituencies, — West York, North Wentworth, South Wentworth, Lincoln, Welland, Hammonds, Monck, North Norfolk, East Egan, West Elgin, Middlesex, North Perth, South Perth, East Wellington, South Wellington, Dufferin, Centre Simcoe, West Simcoe, South Ontario, East Durham, West Durham, West Peterboro, London and Hamilton. He has also attended conventions for the counties of Oxford and Halton, where organization had already been effected. The local workers have called and held successful conventions in Lambton, West Hastings, North Grey, West Simcoe, East Simcoe, and a few other constituencies. A good deal of preparation is going on looking towards the approaching provincial election. The services of Mr. W. W. Buchanan have been secured for a number of meetings, and other earnest and effective workers are doing well in many places in preparation for the coming fray. Friends in the localities not yet organized are earnestly urged to lose no time in getting their forces in battle array. Any desired advice or information regarding organizing plans or methods will be promptly furnished by the Alliance secretary.

AGAINST THE BILL.

A well-attended meeting of the executive committee of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance was held at the Alliance office on Saturday, Feb. 15th, at 3 p.m., at which the Government Liquor Law proposals were considered. Resolutions were adopted calling for effort to induce the Government and Legislature to change the Act so that a majority of votes polled by the electors on the prohibition question would prevail, and urging a change of the day of voting from October 14th next to the time of the municipal elections for 1903. A resolution was also adopted declaring that it would be the duty of prohibitionists to oppose in the coming provincial election those members of the Legislature who would support the present unfair conditions of the suggested referendum. The committee further approved of the engagement of Mr. W. W. Buchanan to address a series of meetings in the interests of the prohibition cause.

METHODISTS ON THE FIRING LINE.

The Christian Guardian of Toronto is doing splendid work for prohibition. It has recently contained a series of fearless, straightforward, strong articles reviewing the situation. The editor has also taken up and is sustaining in good style a controversy with Rev. Principal Grant, to whose letters against prohibition much prominence has been given by the Daily Globe. The Temperance Committee of the General Conference of the Methodist Church has been exceedingly active during the past few weeks and has succeeded in stirring up much earnestness and enthusiasm among the people.

QUEBEC PROHIBITION CONVENTION.

The twenty-third annual meeting of the Quebec Provincial Branch of the Dominion Alliance will be held on Thursday, February 27th, 1902, in the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, Montreal. The sessions will begin at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. All churches, temperance societies, young people's organizations and other bodies in sympathy with the work of the Alliance, in the Province of Quebec, are entitled to be represented at this convention, and are invited to send one delegate for every one hundred of their membership. It is expected that this meeting will be of much interest and importance. A mass meeting will be held in the evening, to be addressed by Rev. John H. Hector.

LUMBAGO AND DRINK.

Dr. W. Gordon Stables writes some amusing and also some sensible things on the treatment of lumbago. He says that this ailment affects people when, as a rule, the whole system is below par, more particularly in those cases where there is alcoholic blood-poisoning from beer or any other spirit whatever. This poisoning has a direct influence on the nerves as well as the brain. While various remedies suggested may give temporary relief, the ailment can only be banished by rest, with an entire change of diet and avoidance of alcohol in any shape or form.

DRINK CURES.

Dr. Gordon Stables has also some plain things to say as to alleged "cures" for the drink crave. Many of these so-called "drink cures," he says, contain poisons of the most virulent kind, and these could easily be discovered in the bodies of those who died from their effects. "Beware, then," he adds, "of trying to slip doses into your friends' or relatives' tea or coffee, if you do not wish to be accused of murder, and find yourself standing on the scaffold some frosty morning with the cold fingers of the hangman fumbling about your neck."

TEMPERANCE IN THE NAVY.

Temperance work in the British navy at the dawn of the twentieth century shows a bold front. Not a ship commissions but she carries a large number of temperance men, only waiting to be banded together to work enthusiastically and well for their own good and the betterment of their ship mates. So says the annual report just issued of the Royal Navy Temperance Society, and it is entirely owing to the devoted labors of Miss Agnes Weston and her indefatigable fellow workers. The meetings on board ship and at Portsmouth and Davenport "Royal Rests" have been successfully carried on during the year, and the results grouped into various branches on the home and foreign stations. 88 new branches have been added during the past year, and 14,627 pledge cards and 350 pledge books have been issued. Nearly 6,000 pledges were taken at Portsmouth and Devonport alone, where in the Rests 1,000 men can be accommodated nightly. 2,721 years of abstinence were represented in the "honor's list," and 30 cons of literature were sent out to branch secretaries and others, in 135,503 parcels, which contained the splendid circulation for the year of 584,000 copies of "Ashore and Afloat."

NEW LICENSING BILL.

There is at present before the British Parliament a government measure for the better regulation of the liquor traffic, the particular provisions of which may be summarized as follows: It is intended to prohibit clerks of licensing benches from having a financial interest in the granting of licenses; to prevent the issue of occasional licenses in other than open court; to require at least two magistrates at the hearing of the application; to give the licensing benches absolute control over grocers' and other liquor licenses; to give the licensing authority more power over structural alterations in licensed premises; to give the police further power to arrest drunken persons; to punish especially those who are found intoxicated while in charge of infant children; to make publicans more responsible for drunkenness on the premises; to prohibit the harboring or allowing the serving of specified habitual drunkards; to prohibit such drunkards from purchasing intoxicants or entering licensed premises; to require that all convictions against publicans be registered and considered on the application for the renewal of licenses; to require that on the fifth conviction within five years the license shall be revoked unless renewed for specified reasons, against which the police can appeal, to enable a wife to secure a separation order from an habitually drunken husband; to enable a husband to secure a separation order from an habitually drunken wife; to prohibit drink-selling clubs unless registered by the magistrates' clerk; to require registered clubs to make annual returns; and to enable the police to enter such clubs on sworn information of misconduct therein.

THE ONTARIO CONFLICT.

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

- 1 From scenes of wealth and splendour,
Where whines pass freely round,
From bar-room and from gutter
Where filth and vice abound,
From highest and from lowest,
From poor and rich the same,
The call comes to deliver
Our land from drink's domain.
- 2 What though of wealth uncounted
Our country's foes may boast!
What though their influence reacheth
Where influence counteth most!
The cry of starving children,
Of homes and wives forlorn,
Will surely break our slumbers,
And make us sloth to scorn.
- 3 What though we're poor and friendless
Of human power devoid!
What though by foes despised
By traitrous friends destroyed!
We know our God is with us,
We need not be afraid;
'Faint not for I am with thee,
Fear not nor be dismayed.'
- 4 From village and from hamlet,
From towns or near or far,
There comes the sound of conflict,
The clash and din of war.
Soon will the fight be over,
The mists be rolled away;
And on our own Ontario
Shall dawn a brighter day.
H. Mortimer.
Parkdale, 10 Jan., '02.

THE REIGN OF DRINK.

- Do you hear an ominous muttering,
As of thundering gathering round?
Do you hear the city tremble, as an
earthquake shakes the ground?
'Tis the walking of a people—'tis a
mighty battle sound.
- Do you hear the grand uprising of
the people in their might?
They are girding on the armour,
they are arming for a fight,
They are going forth to battle for
the triumph of the right.
- For the power of drink has bound us,
and the power of drink hath
reigned,
Till the glorious robes of Liberty are
tarnished, torn, and stained,
Till the struggling city shudders, as
its forces lie enchain'd.
- It hath trampled over hearthstone,
and hath left it desolate;
It hath slain the wife and mother,
it hath filled the town with
hate;
It hath wrecked the noblest man-
hood, and hath laughed to scorn
the great.
- Shall it longer reign in triumph, long-
er wear its tyrant crown?
Shall it firmer wield the fetters that
now bind the city down?
Shall this grand old city longer bow
and tremble 'neath its frown?
- No! let every heart re-echo; rouse,
ye gallant men and true!
Rouse, ye broken-hearted mothers;
see, the night is almost
through;
Rouse ye, every man and woman—
God is calling now for you.
—Selected.

THE VOICES.

- "Why urge the long unequal fight,
Since truth is fallen in the street,
Or lift anew the trampled light
Quenched by the heedless millions'
feet?"
- "Give o'er thy thankless task; for-
sake
The fools that know not ill from
good,
Eat, drink, enjoy thine own, and
take
Thine ease among the multitude.
- "The work is God's, not thine; let
Him
Work out a change if change
must be;
The hand that planted best can trim
And nurse the old unfruitful tree."
- So spake the tempter, when the light
Of sun and stars had left the sky,
I listened through the cloud and
night,
And heard, methought, a Voice
reply:

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

The mead unshared is food unblest,
We heard in vain what love should
spend,
Self-ease is pain; our only rest
Is labour for a worthy end.

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

What is it that the crowd requite
Thy love with hate, thy truth with
lies?
And but to faith and not to sight
The walls of Freedom's temple rise?

Yet do thy work; it shall succeed
In thine or in another's day;
And, if denied the victor's meed,
Thou shalt not lack the toiler's
pay.

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

Then faint not, falter not, nor plead
Thy weakness; Truth itself is
strong,
The lion's strength, the eagle's speed,
Are not vouchsafed alone to wrong.

Hast thou not on some week of
storm
Seen the sweet Sabbath breaking
fair
And cloud and shadow, sunlit, form
The curtains of thy tent of prayer?
So, haply, when our task shall end,
The wrong shall lose itself in right,
And all our week-day darkness blend
With the long Sabbath of the light!
—J. G. Whittier.

TEMPERANCE IN THE ARMY.

The Commander-in-Chief, Lord Roberts, has just issued to officers in command of troops at home some suggestions as to the reform of the present system of canteen management. His object is to promote temperance amongst the men by improving the system under which regimental institutes are conducted, in order that they may be rendered more attractive to the troops, and that the recreations and comforts provided may be dissociated as far as possible from the consumption of alcoholic drinks.

The regimental institutes, with the exception of the canteen, should be under one roof, and the refreshment room should "be fitted up somewhat on the lines of a modern restaurant, with small tables, having a big refreshment bar at one end, at which suppers, tea, coffee, mineral waters, etc., could be obtained. At the other end a stage should be erected, where the entertainments now given in the canteen as well as others could be held. Smoking to be permitted, and men to be allowed to purchase one pint of beer to drink with their suppers."

In connection with this room there should be reading rooms, and library, billiard-room, and games-room, and a writing room "which could be used as a study," and the grocery store should also be a portion of this establishment. It is suggested that the "liquor bar should be at a short distance from the institute, and that while it should be comfortably fitted up with such requirements as may be necessary, it should not vie with the other institute as regards attractiveness."

Lord Roberts further suggests that all the institutes should be under one committee, the profit of both portions to be used indifferently for either, and adds "that to make the system a success it must not be worked as conducing to the profits of either a company or an individual, but for the good of those for whom it is conducted."

WHAT LIQUOR IS AND DOES.

It is not pleasant to read or write of the revolting tragedies that are every day enacted in some part of our fair country as the direct result of the legalized facilities for the supplying of strong drink. Every issue of the "Camp Fire" could be filled with records of such cases. To

recite the record would be simply to tell what everybody knows occurs, and names and dates would harrow the feelings of the already sorely tortured victims of this terrible evil. As an instance, however, to remind our readers of the kind of ruin this evil works, we take the following report from a recent Boston daily paper. The survivors of the tragedy are strangers to us and it is not likely that this statement will affect them, while it may be useful in reminding our readers of the nature of the liquor traffic which Sir Oliver Mowat said is the cause of three-fourths of the crime that curses our country. The Boston Post says:—

Mrs. Bridget Kilroy died in her home in the basement of 200 Marlon street, East Boston, yesterday forenoon, supposedly from the effects of blows and kicks administered by her drunken husband, Michael J. Kilroy, who is held on the charge of murder.

Kilroy is a big coal heaver, and a few months ago was sentenced to a month in the house of correction for wife beating.

Five children, the eldest a boy of thirteen, were witnesses of the assault on their mother, and for hours the two eldest were the sole guardians of the corpse after their brutal father had left the house.

Kilroy, according to the neighbors, was always in a quarrelsome mood when he had been drinking, which was usually whenever he could obtain the money.

He worked two or three days last week and was paid off Saturday night. About 11.30, after the saloons had closed, he returned to his home, three ill lighted rooms in the basement of the house. The family had been living here but a few weeks, as Kilroy paid his rent so irregularly that he was forced to move at short intervals.

Mrs. Kilroy went out washing and cleaning, doing any work that she could find to earn money with which to feed her children, but this was not much.

The wife had been watching for her husband all of the night, as she knew that he was to be paid off, and he had promised to give her money to buy the children clothes, which they sorely needed.

But the coal heaver had spent nearly all of his earnings in the saloon, and when he was asked for money he answered with a blow, knocking his wife down.

Johnnie, aged 13, and Mamie, aged 9, were awake at their father's entrance, and the sound of his loud, angry voice, aroused the other three children, who had been sleeping on the couch.

Mrs. Kilroy struggled to her feet and put up her hands to ward off the attack, crying: "Don't, Mike; you will kill me!"

But Kilroy, crazed with liquor, was merciless. Blow after blow he struck her, and when she fell, unable to rise, he kicked her with his heavy boots, the five children standing about, wide-eyed and frightened.

When the wife and mother lay upon the floor, bleeding from a dozen cuts, moaning and helpless, Kilroy sank into a chair and surveyed his work moodily.

Mamie Kilroy started on a run for the door to seek the police, but with an oath her father was upon her and flung her heavily into a corner. A dash by the 13-year-old son met with a similar treatment.

Until nearly 4 o'clock the woman lay upon the floor suffering untold agony. In a few months she was to have become a mother again, but her pitiable condition did not touch the heart of her husband.

The girl Mamie hurried the other children into another room and put them to bed, soothing them to sleep like the little mother she was to them.

When the last pair of eyes were securely closed she tiptoed back to the kitchen, where her brother and father were with her dying mother.

Once Mrs. Kilroy came to herself sufficiently to ask for some water. Her husband did not stir, but little Mamie ran to her mother's assistance. The woman raised herself a little to receive the eagerly awaited draught, but before her bloodstained lips touched the edge of the dipper Kilroy struck it away, spilling the water over the floor.

"If she wants a drink let her git up an' git it," he told Mamie.

Fainter and more faint came the moans of the dying woman, until at last all was hushed in the room save the heavy breathing of the man and the stifled sobs of the children.

Kilroy called to his son, and though the giant could have lifted the corpse easily, he forced the boy to aid him in lifting the woman onto the couch.

The gray light of morning began to stream in through the low basement windows before there was any change in the house. Returning day seemed to rouse Kilroy, who got up and went out after threatening the children should they leave the house.

For four hours the boy and his sister were left alone with their dead. About 10 o'clock Mrs. Mary Boyan, who lives in the rear of 298 Marlon street, sent her little girl over to the Kilroys' for some water. The child came back with startling news so that Mrs. Boyan hastened over.

She found the two children of her neighbor sobbing on her dead body. Under Mrs. Boyan's direction the boy hurried to notify the police.

The sight that confronted her was enough to turn the most hardened sick at heart. There were jagged wounds on the woman's head and face. Her throat was discolored and showed where strong fingers had pressed their way into the flesh. Her body was black, blue and bruised. Appearances indicated that she had been kicked heavily on her sides.

The father and mother slept on a couch in the kitchen. Besides the two sleeping places there was a chair or two, the remnants of a table, a few cracked pieces of crockery and a bit of a stove. Nothing else except dirt was in any of the rooms. Not long ago there were two more occupants of this place called home by the Kilroys, but illness had ended in their death.

Kilroy had made no effort to escape, but had wandered about the neighborhood. When apprehended he was on Havre street and said that he was on the way to give himself up.

The boy Johnnie was also locked up by the order of Captain Irish, to be held as a witness.

The other children, Mamie, aged 9; Frankie, aged 8; Lizzie, aged 2, and Joseph, aged 1, were taken in by Mrs. James H. Quinn of 213 Marlon street. They will eventually be taken to St. Vincent's Home.

ABOUT GREAT BRITAIN'S DRINK BILL.

Great Britain's drink bill is upwards of \$30,000,000, while the amount spent on other articles of home produce is small in comparison. The figures of some of these items are as follows:

Butter and cheese	\$165,000,000
Bread	350,000,000
Cotton	80,000,000
Coal	85,000,000
Education	75,000,000
Farm rents	300,000,000
House rents	375,000,000
Linen	35,000,000
Milk	165,000,000
Sugar	130,000,000
Tea, coffee, cocoa	120,000,000

If the amount spent in drink were turned into more sensible channels trade and home comforts would be enormously increased.

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