

APPENDIX IX.

REPORT OF TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE.

Your Committee beg to report as follows:—

1st. That believing the influence of the liquor traffic upon any nation, to use the words of England's Premier, "is worse than the accumulated evils of war, pestilence, and famine," would reaffirm our former action, and call attention to the fact that the General Conference of united Methodism, composed of an equal number of ministers and laymen representing one of the great religious bodies of the Dominion, entered into solemn league and covenant against the liquor traffic, and resolved against license and in favor of prohibition. This fact is the more significant when we remember that a number of the delegates came from counties where the Temperance Act has been in force for two, three, or more years. We would also gratefully record that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church similarly composed, and other religious bodies of this country have passed, resolutions heartily approving of the Temperance Act of 1878.

2. That as the drink traffic derives its principal strength from the protection given to it by law, and as the electors of each county have it in their power to go to the ballot-box and take the protection of the law from their traffic and place it around the home, any county failing so to do cannot throw the burden of responsibility for the crime caused by the traffic upon the Government or upon the liquor-sellers, but the electorate must assume all responsibility.

3. That believing every law licensing the liquor traffic for beverage purposes to be wrong in principle and wicked in practice, we cannot recognize high license as a step toward prohibition, as the amount of license fee does not change the principle but serves rather as a bribe to the elector.

4. That the ministers and members of our Church, acting in harmony with other Churches and temperance organizations, be requested to commence an agitation for the early submission of the Temperance Act in all the counties of our Province which have not yet taken steps so to do. Let meetings be called where the question can be discussed. Let it be clearly stated that a vote against the Scott Act means a vote against prohibition, that a vote for license means partnership in the liquor traffic. "Woe unto him that justifieth the wicked for reward."

5. That this Conference would recommend each of its ministers to preach sermons in every congregation on the prohibition of the liquor traffic.

6. That we urge each minister and member in any county in which the Temperance Act may be in force, to do all in their power to prevent the Act being repealed.