

THE ALLIANCE COUNCIL.

A meeting of remarkable interest.

The annual meeting of the Council of the Dominion Alliance held in Temperance Hall, Toronto, on July 14th, was the largest and most thoroughly representative yet held by that body. The proceedings throughout were characterized by earnestness, enthusiasm and unbroken harmony.

The President, Hon. Senator Vidal, occupied the chair. Seventy-two representatives were present from twenty-three provincial temperance organizations and high church bodies.

The report of the Executive Committee was presented by Dr. Maclaren, setting out the history of the case in the different parts of the Dominion during the past year, and dealing more particularly with the situation and proceedings in relation to the approaching plebiscite campaign.

PLEBISCITE WORK.

The special committee to which was committed the matter of the plebiscite campaign, presented a forcible report recommending speedy action by the Executive Committee in regard to the questions of organization and literature, expressing appreciation of the position occupied by temperance and religious bodies, calling special attention to the good work done by Mr. J. W. Bengough in aid of the temperance cause, warmly commending the "Facts of the Case" and the "Vanguard" as useful sources of information, and submitting other suggestions in reference to the approaching contest.

RESOLUTIONS.

The Committee on Resolutions sent cordial greetings to workers in different campaigns in various parts of the Dominion, declared its approval of the removal of the liquor bar from the House of Commons endorsed the movement for the extension of suffrage rights to women; condemned the sale of intoxicating liquors in connection with military schools, officers' messes, canteens and drill assemblies; and suggested action for the enrolment of temperance voters on every available opportunity.

POLITICAL ACTION.

The Committee on Parliamentary and Provincial Action strongly condemned the suggestion of associating the revenue question with that of prohibition in the coming plebiscite; asserted that no political candidate however satisfactory his pledges were, should be endorsed unless his record showed his favor for the temperance cause; strongly urged prohibitionists to take part in the various gatherings of their respective political parties so as to influence nominations and elections; expressed gratification with the political progress made in the Province of Quebec; approved the action of Nova Scotia workers in promoting legislation prohibiting retail liquor selling; and regretted that more progress had not been made in legislation in Ontario.

The meeting throughout was full of interest and we regret that our limits will not permit us to give such a report as it deserves.

A GOOD CONVENTION.

Annual meeting of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance.

The Annual Prohibition Convention for the Province of Ontario was held in Toronto on July 13th. In all probability it would have been much larger but for the closeness of a number of other important gatherings. There were present over three hundred and fifty delegates, the different sections of the Province being well represented.

The Report of the Executive Committee was a document of much interest, giving a detailed history of the efforts made during the year to secure better legislation against the liquor traffic, expressing disappointment that so little was accomplished, and suggesting a vigorous campaign for important and necessary further restrictions.

The organization of the Convention was on the usual lines. President J. J. Maclaren was permanent chairman of the gathering, Vice-chairmen were R. J. Fleming, Hon. S. C. Biggs, Rev. Dr. Stone, Rev. D. McKay, J. H. Carson, Mrs. Rutherford, J. M. Walton, G. H. Lees, George Spence and Rev. Dr. Lucas. The Secretaries were F. S.

Spence, Dr. Sturgeon Stewart and Rev. Dr. W. F. Campbell. Committees were appointed, reports were made and thoroughly discussed. The principal deliverances of the Convention were as follows:

THE PLEBISCITE CAMPAIGN.

"That we confidently look for the prompt introduction of the promised bill at the next session of Parliament and respectfully request (1) that the basis of the vote be the franchise on which the next Parliament will be elected, and (2) that the issue of prohibition be submitted separate from all other questions of public policy. Especially do we object to any method of raising revenue being joined with prohibition in the vote, as the problem of revenue has been, is and will continue to be a public question large and important enough to be dealt with by itself.

"That we most earnestly exhort all the friends of prohibition in counties, electoral divisions, towns, cities, and townships, to definitely organize so that the whole force of prohibition sentiment may be brought to bear on the success of the plebiscite and that full and definite provision be made for sermons, lectures, addresses, and meetings for prayer; also for the supervision of the voters' lists, the direct canvass of voters and the distribution of literature to all the voters and that this work be entered upon at once. We recommend that the work be commenced by the calling of Conventions for electoral divisions or counties.

"That the Executive have general oversight of the work in the province, and that in counties or ridings where no organization exists, they take such steps as will secure such organization, as speedily as possible.

LEGISLATION ASKED FOR.

"That while we appreciate the improvements made in the license law at last session of the Legislature, we regret that the Government did not promote all the legislation we desired, and that the Legislature did not accept all the progressive legislation submitted.

"That it is therefore necessary to again apply to the Legislature for some more substantial recognition of the strong and growing temperance sentiment of the country, in the form of further restrictive legislation, as follows:—

"That we endeavor to secure such legislation as will give power to a majority of the electors in a locality to prevent the renewal of an existing license in any year. That we ask that the electors of any municipality have power to still further limit the hours of sale.

ELECTORAL ACTION.

"That in view of the fact that the Legislature did not sustain all the legislation that was proposed, we urge the electors to employ all reasonable endeavors to secure the election to the Ontario Legislature, of men that will loyally support all measures calculated to restrict the sale of intoxicating liquors.

"That we strongly recommend all friends of temperance and prohibition to attend the meetings at which delegates are elected to attend the nominating conventions of the political parties, to urge the nomination of candidates favorable to the further restriction of the liquor traffic."

PUBLIC MEETING.

A well attended mass meeting was held in the evening at which stirring addresses were delivered by Rev. Dr. Carman, Hon. G. W. Ross, T. Dixon Craig, M. P. and Rev. Dr. Milner.

OFFICERS.

The officers elected for the coming year were the following:—

President, J. J. Maclaren, Q. C., L. L. D.

Vice Presidents.—Hon. A. Vidal, Hon. J. C. Aikins, Hon. G. W. Ross, Mrs. A. O. Rutherford, Hon. G. A. Cox, and the Provincial heads of the W.C.T.U., Sons of Temperance, Good Templars and Royal Templars.

Secretary.—F. S. Spence.

Treasurer.—R. J. Fleming.

Executive Committee.—Rev. J. A. Turnbull, H. O'Hara, Rev. Dr. Parker, W. H. Orr, Rev. Dr. Dewart, Hon. E. J. Davis, G. F. Marter, M.P.P., J. A. Middleton, M.P.P., Rev. G. Washington, Mrs. Vance, Rev. Dr. Potts, Mrs. Wiley, Benj. Allen, John T. Moore, Rev. Dr. McKay, Thomas Urquhart, Rev. I. Tovell D.D., Hon. S. C. Biggs, L. C. Peake, Mrs. J. R. Cavers, F. Buchanan, Rev. D. V. Lucas, D.D., Ald. Jas. Scott, Mrs. Bascom, Dr. J. S. Williamson.

MANITOBA CONVENTION.

Organization for Plebiscite Work.

A rousing convention of prohibition workers was held at Winnipeg on July 21st to initiate organization for the plebiscite campaign. The meeting was made up of delegates appointed by religious and temperance bodies.

Dr. J. A. McArthur was president of the Convention, Rev. J. M. A. Spence Recording Sec. and Dr. E. A. Blakely, Credential Sec.

An address was delivered by Rev. Dr. Bryce on the subject "Organization for the Plebiscite Campaign". The question of "The Relationship of the Church to the Plebiscite Campaign" was introduced by Rev. J. M. A. Spence and an address was delivered on the subject of "Compensation," by Rev. A. Grant.

We regret that our limited space will not permit us to give in full the resolutions of the Convention which called upon temperance workers throughout the province to immediately commence organization for the coming campaign; recommended the appointment of a Provincial Executive of forty members, with power to add to their number, to superintend work; asked for the cordial co-operation of churches in the contest, and strongly denounced any attempt to complicate the prohibition question with the revenue, or any other issue in the ballot to be used.

A rousing mass meeting was held in the evening, presided over by Dr. McArthur and addressed by Rev. R. G. McBeth, Hon. J. W. Sifton, Rev. Jos. Hogg, and Rev. J. A. McClung.

The following constitute the Executive Committee elected to superintend the campaign: Rev. R. G. MacBeth, Chairman; Rev. J. M. A. Spence, Secretary; Rev. Joseph Hogg, Dr. Amelia Yeomans, Dr. Blakely, Hon. J. W. Sifton, Dr. J. A. McArthur, W. R. Mulock, Q.C., Rev. Dr. Sparling, Rev. Dr. Bryce, A. Monkman, Wm. Small, Rev. A. Grant, J. K. McLennan, E. A. Garratt, Rev. John Stewart, Mrs. John Wallace, Joseph Tees, Mrs. R. J. Buchanan, Mrs. E. D. Bell, Miss McArthur, Winnipeg; Dr. Fleming, Brandon; Mrs. J. A. McClung, Stonewall; H. E. Jones, St. Eustache; W. A. Doyle, Beulah; Rev. P. Wright, Portage la Prairie; A. B. Harris, LITTLE; Joseph Thompson, Carberry; Rev. J. M. Harrison, Boissevain; T. H. Patrick, Souris; Rev. W. G. Wilson, Morris; R. T. Davis, Emerson; Rev. John Greenway, Crystal City; J. B. McLaren, Morden; W. D. Ruttan, Manitou; James S. McAdam, Treherne; Rev. E. J. Hopper, Dauphin; Rev. Thos. Lawson; Griswold; G. H. Main, Douglas; Rev. Dr. McLean, Neepawa; J. Cook, Clanwilliam; H. Giffin, Sidney; Rev. Leonard Gaetz, Brandon; E. H. Dewart, Stockton; John Graham, Roland; F. B. Stewart, Carman; H. L. Montgomery, Deloraine; Ira S. Stratton, Selkirk; A. Robertson, Balmoral; Dr. Bryan, Dugald; Rev. W. S. A. Cruik, Emerson; Rev. A. Matheson, Kildonan; Rev. James Douglas, High Bluff; Thos. Hay, St. Andrews; R. H. Myers, Minnedosa; W. McMillen, Carberry; Caleb Handford, Holmville.

TWO SCOTT ACT DEFEATS.

A disaster to our cause occurred at the City of Charlottetown on July 22nd in the repeal of the Canada Temperance Act. This measure has for a number of years been in force in every part of the Province of Prince Edward Island with splendid results, and for this reason exciting the bitter hostility of the liquor party.

A repeal vote was brought on and taken under circumstances placing the friends of temperance at a special disadvantage. After the date of polling had been fixed, the Provincial Legislature was dissolved and the election of a new Legislature was fixed for July 21st, the day before the Scott Act vote. As a result the attention of the people was diverted and their energies absorbed by the political campaign terminating on the 21st, and the liquor party cleverly made use of the diversion to get in heavy work against the temperance cause. It will readily be seen that they had an immense advantage in making their campaign during a time of keen political excitement when party feeling ran high.

The Scott Act vote was taken on a three year old list which shut out of the franchise a great many young men who otherwise would have been entitled to votes. The friends of the Scott Act who were not specially interested in political affairs, made a gallant fight, but the unfavorable

conditions were more than they could overcome and the polling resulted in a majority of 113 in favor of repeal.

Rev. Joseph McLeod, D.D., and the Secretary of the Dominion Alliance, were present in the latter part of the campaign. The local clergymen, the W.C.T.U. and some stalwart prohibitionists who let party matters go, united in a splendid fight and no doubt kept the victory of the antis from being as overwhelming as it otherwise would have been. As there is no license law in operation in Prince Edward Island the City of Charlottetown will now have a period of practically free liquor selling.

There is a police regulation imposing restrictions upon parties who sell liquor, anyone however, who chooses, may go into the business. It is anticipated that there will be a large increase in drink selling and its inevitable attendant evils. There will no doubt be a re-action of public opinion and almost certainly a return to the Scott Act as early as it is possible to have another vote taken.

The County of Port Neuf in the Province of Quebec, voted on the question of adopting the Scott Act on July 28th. The contest resulted in a majority in favor of remaining under the present license law.

THE OCTOBER CONVENTION.

Toronto W.C.T.U. workers are busily engaged in preparation for the great events of October, when they will entertain the Dominion W.C.T.U. and the World's W.C.T.U.

The City Council has generously placed a liberal grant at the disposal of local workers. Other friends are contributing freely towards the necessary expenses. The Toronto ladies who have the matter in charge, are doing all that can possibly be done with the means at their disposal and will give their visitors a royal reception.

CAMPAIGN EQUIPMENT.

The Vanguard, all numbers issued, in neat cloth binding, is the most important Canadian contribution yet made to the literature of the temperance and prohibition reform, containing over 650 pages full of invaluable arguments, facts and statistics, all reliable, fresh and good, fully and carefully indexed.

The People vs. The Liquor Traffic, a set of lectures by the late Hon. J. B. Finch, is one of the most forcible and comprehensive arguments for Prohibition ever made. Special Canadian edition, 240 pages. Fine cloth binding, price 40 cents.

The Camp Fire is a neat four-page monthly campaign journal, specially published for campaign work. It summarizes the latest news about the prohibition reform, and presents an array of live, pithy articles and brief statements of important and helpful facts and incidents. Subscription, 25 cents per year.

The two great books above named, will be sent postage pre-paid, and also THE CAMP FIRE to December, 1897 inclusive, to any person sending at once ONE DOLLAR to F. S. Spence, 51 Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

With these three sources of information, any pulpit, press or platform worker will be fully equipped for the great plebiscite campaign.

The number of books available for the purpose named is limited. First come, first served. Don't miss the opportunity.

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