

The President replying to a question of Rev. B. B. Keefer, made a statement in regard to the right of the Dominion Government to prohibit, although they might have no right to enter into the details of license regulation.

Committee on Legislation.

Prof. Foster submitted the following

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION.

Your Committee on Legislation beg leave to report

1. That the Provincial Alliance refer the question of amendments to the Canada Temperance Act to the Council of the Dominion Alliance which meets at Ottawa on February 5th, with a request that it take all possible steps to secure what may be deemed necessary to perfect the provisions of that Act.
2. That this Alliance continue to vigorously prosecute their efforts to secure the adoption of the Canada Temperance Act in all the counties and cities of this Province in which it has not been adopted already and its strict enforcement in counties in which it is carried into operation.
3. That the Dominion Council be memorialized to ask Parliament to provide at the next general election for the taking a "yea and nay" vote upon the question of the total prohibition of the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes.
4. That the License Law should be amended so as to provide that there be
 - (a) No saloons.
 - (b) A minimum of bedrooms not less than ten in towns and twelve in cities.
 - (c) Principle of local option by ballot of majority at municipal elections for prohibitory issue of new or transfer of old licenses in polling districts or municipalities.
 - (d) Absolute forfeiture of license on second offence in any one year.

On motion the report was considered clause by clause.

Clause 1.—Carried.

Clause 2.—Carried.

Clause 3. After discussion by Rev. F. B. Stratton, Rev. J. S. Ross, J. H. Flagg, J. J. McLaren and Robt. McLean, it was moved that the report be amended by omitting clause 3. After reply by Prof. Foster the amendment was put and carried by a large majority, only eight voting against it.

The convention adjourned till Thursday at 9:30 a.m.

PUBLIC MEETING.

A mass meeting was held in Shaftesbury Hall, on Wednesday evening. The President occupied the chair. The speakers were the President, Rev. C. R. Morrow, Hon. A. Vidal, Prof. Foster, and Mr. G. M. Rose.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION.

In the absence of the President, Rev. John Smith was called to the chair and the meeting opened with singing and prayer led by Rev. W. H. Young.

The minutes of last session were read and confirmed.

An objection was raised to a report of the discussion on the legislative Committee's report, which implied that the Convention had expressed the idea that the country was not ready for prohibition.

Rev. W. Johnson, of Ailsa Craig, President of the Middlesex Scott Act Association, reported on behalf of Middlesex.

Mr. W. Bowman, President of the London Scott Act Association, reported for that city.

Mr. J. T. M. Hannum, of Ottawa, reported the progress in Carleton.

Mr. D. Cash, of Prince Albert, reported for Ontario County.

The question of whether or not it was desirable to press the work of getting signatures to petitions in opposition to those issued by Licensed Victuallers, praying for the alteration of the Scott Act, so that it could not come into operation without a three-fifths majority vote in its favor, was discussed. The impression of some was that, as it was generally stated that the Licensed Victuallers had withdrawn their petitions, it was not necessary to prosecute this work. The Convention was of opinion that it was decidedly desirable to go on with the work, but the subject was postponed for further consideration.

The fourth clause of the report of Committee on Resolutions was then considered. After discussion as to the propriety, or otherwise, of the Alliance taking any steps in the direction of license reform,

Rev. C. R. Morrow moved, and Mr. G. M. Rose seconded "That clause 4 be omitted from the report."

The report as amended was then adopted.

BEER AND LIGHT WINES.

Mr. W. H. Howland delivered an able address on the above subject.

The following resolution was moved by Rev. Mr. Dowling, seconded by Rev. D. L. Brethour, supported by Rev. W. Ross, and unanimously carried.

"That the best thanks of the Convention be tendered to Mr. Howland for his able paper, with the request that he will allow it to be published as a campaign document."

A letter was read by the President from the Rev. H. McKellar, of High Bluff, requesting that this Convention give all assistance in its power to prevent the introduction of the license system into the Northwest Territories. The letter was referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE SCOTT ACT.

Mr. G. M. Rose presented the following

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENFORCEMENT OF THE SCOTT ACT.

1. That in all counties where the Scott Act has been, or may be passed, the existing temperance organizations, such as the Scott Act Associations, Church Societies, divisions of Sons of Temperance and Good Templar lodges, be heartily sustained and encouraged in their efforts to educate the people in the principle of temperance by public sermons, lectures, etc.
 2. That Vigilance Committees be formed in every city, town and village, and if it should be discovered that the Act is being violated, all offenders be prosecuted with the utmost rigor of the law.
 3. Create local funds for paying all expenses incurred in enforcing the Act, and only employ the best legal talent to prosecute offenders.
 4. Report at once to the executive of the Ontario Alliance if any of the officers appointed by either Governments (the Ottawa or Ontario) fail to promptly perform their duties in enforcing the Act, giving particulars to enable the said Executive to apply for dismissal of the offending officials.
- In future, watch the character of the men who may present themselves for election as Mayors, Reeves, Wardens, municipal Councillors, as those officials will play, so far as money is concerned, a very important part in the enforcement of the Act.
5. Ask for the appointment of Police Magistrates in every place where the Act is carried, and that county or sections of county associations recommend to the Ontario Government suitable persons for the office.
 6. That all Scott Act Associations follow up the carrying of the Act by urging upon the Ottawa Government the prompt issuing of the proclamation necessary to bring it into force.

The meeting then adjourned till 1.30.

CLOSING SESSION

The Convention assembled at 1.30. The report of the Committee on Scott Act Enforcement was considered clause by clause and was carried in its entirety without division. In reference to the 7th clause the President recommended County Secretaries to write at once on the passing of the Act to Mr. J. J. McLaren, asking him to see that the proclamations were duly issued. It was a matter of form and right, and only needed to be attended to in the right way.

Mr. W. W. Buchanan presented the following

REPORT ON SCOTT ACT AGITATION.

Your Committee believe it is desirable to carry on the Scott Act agitation in a thoroughly systematic manner that will bring to every effort, the best information and methods of the movement. To that end we recommend:—

1. That a closer union be made between the Executive of the Provincial Alliance and the various county and city committees having local campaigns in hand.
2. That the Alliance Executive prepare and publish complete printed directions for the conduct of a Scott Act Campaign.
3. That county and city organizations be urged in every campaign to employ a competent agent to plan and direct the efforts.
4. That the Alliance Executive employ a general agent to represent the Provincial organization in promoting agitation, collecting funds and enforcing law.

The report was considered clause by clause, and was adopted as a whole.

Mr. John T. Moore read the following

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LITERATURE.

Your Committee, to whom was referred that portion of the Secretary's report bearing on the subject of Literature, beg to submit:—

1. That in the present position of the Prohibitory movement in Canada, a proper estimate of the value of sound Temperance Literature is of supreme importance.
2. That the plan which was recommended last year, and is again recommended, of making a membership fee of \$1.50, including a yearly subscription to the CANADA CITIZEN, the organ of the Alliance, commends itself to your Committee, as it combines many advantages, among which are the following:—(a) It will secure a large enrolled constituency for the Alliance, as many will thus become members who might otherwise stand aloof—the CITIZEN being a paper of such a character as would make it very acceptable in the families of many who sympathize with our aims, but who are not themselves prohibitionists, while to those who are now our friends, it would bring a weekly reminder of the value of the Alliance and its claims upon their continued support. (b) The paper would by its weekly visits educate the constituency thus reached, informing them of the latest phases of the prohibitory movement in this and other lands, and thus creating and maintaining a strong public sentiment in support of our work. (c) A large constituency means a large revenue to the Alliance, each subscriber to the paper contributing seventy-five cents to our funds. It is estimated that there are at least 10,000 persons in the Province of Ontario alone who should be secured as subscribers; from whom the Alliance would realize a yearly revenue of \$7,500, which would enable it to keep organizing agents and lecturers constantly in the field; to render substantial aid to counties in which the Scott Act contest is going on; to aid in the enforcement of the Act where it has been carried; and to enter upon lines of work hitherto unattempted from lack of funds. A feasible method of securing this large revenue is thought to be the employment of suitable agents whose compensation might be based upon a fair percentage.

We desire to acknowledge the very efficient and far-reaching work that has been done by the "Citizen Publishing Company" during the past year, in the issue of over two million five hundred thousand pages of sound temperance literature, this work having been done with meagre resources. Along this line your Committee would desire that a wider field of usefulness might be occupied by a thoroughly well equipped and fully capitalized Dominion Temperance Publishing House; and to this end