

tion of repealing the Scott Act in the county of Halton. The working of the Scott Act there has been remarkably successful notwithstanding the desperate attempts that have been made to resist its enforcement, and make it appear to be inoperative. It is utterly outrageous that the men engaged in the treasonable business of opposing public authority, should have the audacity to come forward as witnesses to the weakness of that authority. Men who are straining every nerve to break down the legal bulwarks that the electors of Halton have built for the protection of their homes, are adding insult to injury by sneering at what they call the result of the inefficiency of these bulwarks, but is really only the result of their wicked and disloyal rebellion. But all these efforts have not produced enough evil results to convince the public of anything but the necessity of the law that these men are refusing to obey. The work that the liquor traffic is trying to do in Halton is itself a demonstration that the whole drink system is subversive of everything good and must be utterly abolished if law and order are to be maintained. The anti-forces have recognized all this, and, having failed to turn the people of Halton against the Scott Act, they are now engaged in an attempt to misrepresent to the public the real sentiment of the electors of Halton on the question of repeal.

This attempt like the former has already recoiled disastrously upon the heads of its promoters. These men know well that the intent of the Scott Act certainly is that no vote on the question of repeal should be taken until there has been three years' experience of the working of the Act. They know also that it is exceedingly improbable that the request for such a vote will be granted. But nevertheless they "get up" a petition, and proclaim far and wide that 2,500 electors have signed it. They want to mislead the voters in other counties into imagining that the people who are enjoying and rejoicing in the benefit of the law are so far disgusted with it, that a clear majority of the whole electorate is anxious for an opportunity to vote against it.

We do not believe that all the anti-Scott men of Halton clearly understood the contemptible nature of the farce that they have been led to enact. No doubt some who are honestly in favor of liquor really believe that there is to be a vote on the question of repeal, and signed the petition under this impression; but it is now clearly manifest that the principal promoters of this movement have done all they could to get up a large petition, and, notwithstanding all the professional legal advice at their disposal, they have gotten it up in such form as almost to ensure its rejection. The following extract from the *Acton Free Press* will give a good idea of the character of this now famous document:—

"We had the privilege this week of examining this notorious petition. It brings to light some strange and amusing revelations. It is one of the most disgracefully prepared documents that have ever been circulated in this county. Taking Acton petition for instance—and it is if anything above the average in the matter of appearance and general make-up—we find it contains 116 signatures. Of this number 37 do not appear on the Voters' List at all, 16 never had a vote in the municipality, 4 have signed the petition twice, 3 are boys under 21 years of age, one has been dead nearly a year and a half, and another for nearly a year. Several names appear on the petition of men who removed from Acton over two years ago. The statement was freely made by interested parties, when the petition was being circulated, that the friends of the Act would be considerably amazed if they really knew how many of the foremost men from among their ranks were signing the petition for the repeal of the Act. An examination of the petition fails to reveal the truth of this statement. We do find, however, that among the genuine electors who did sign the petition when it was circulated, no less than 17 of them now express themselves as so thoroughly satisfied that the Act is accomplishing good results and that it is correct in principle, that if a repeal vote really takes place, they are determined to vote against the said repeal."

The *Halton News* says:—"The more closely this petition is scrutinized the more clearly is its rottenness revealed. About 33 per

cent. of the names on the Milton list are useless, and will likely be struck out; in Oakville, we learn that out of some 206 names, 46 have been protested against; and in the little village of Kilbride nine worthless names were found on the list by a gentleman from there who knows them all."

It is hard to believe that these men really mean more than bravado by this largely bogus petition; but if they do the people of Halton are prepared to meet them. In the words—a little altered—of the old song:—

"We don't want to fight,
But we're ready if they do.
We've got the men, we've got the means,
We've got the women too."

We have got the right cause, we have got the prayers and sympathy of the good and true; and we have got the support of the best, the largest, the most respectable, and the most responsible of the Halton electors, and when the day of polling comes, we will have THE VOTES.

If the liquor men are in earnest, if they really mean what their petition says, then they are courting a crushing defeat, and doing it in so clumsy a fashion that their is hardly a chance of their being granted even that small favor; but at the present time, and from the present aspect of affairs, it is hard to believe that they have been doing anything else than trying to influence the campaign in other counties, or that this so-called petition is anything more than one of the most dishonest and contemptible electioneering dodges that we have ever been called upon to expose.

Scott Act News.

BRANT.—A Scott Act meeting was held at Glen Morris on the 10th. Mr. Thomas Carswell, the chairman for this polling sub-division, in the chair. Rev. Mr. Pettigee was the first introduced, who, in a neat and concise speech, pointed out the duty of a people to protect themselves. The Rev. T. H. Orme, the President for the county, was next introduced, who was listened to with the most intense attention while he discussed the results of the traffic. A vote was then taken and every hand went up for the Act.

A meeting to discuss the Scott Act was held at Middleport on the 7th, Rev. Richards in the chair. The President, the Rev. T. H. Orme, was the principal speaker, who secured the attention of the audience throughout the entire address. The meeting then proceeded to organize.—*Globe*.

HALTON.—A Scott Act meeting was held in the brick church, on the Middle Road, Nelson, on Wednesday evening of last week, at which addresses were delivered by Rev. D. L. Brethour, Milton, and W. H. Young, Esq., Oakville. At the close Mr. Wm. Ducas moved, and Mr. J. B. Matthewman seconded the following resolution, which was carried unanimously:—"That this meeting pledge themselves to use their votes and influence to maintain the Scott Act, as the law of this county."—*Halton News*

The Hotel-keepers of the county of Halton are acting very mean to travellers just now, in order to turn them against the Scott Act. They try to make their guests as uncomfortable as possible, keep poor tables, bad lights, and not over-comfortable beds. Their accommodation for the noble horse is just as bad, no oats, no hostler, and dirty stables—all because they want the Scott Act repealed. If the people of Halton have a spark of independence in them, they will resent such meanness by even sustaining the Scott Act by a larger majority than before.—*Brampton Times*.

A prominent gentleman of Toronto received from a friend of his living in Georgetown, the other day, a letter giving some valuable information respecting the general working of the Scott Act in Halton, and its effects upon business. In Georgetown, he says, nearly every business house has been largely benefitted by the adoption of the Act, and gives as an instance the case of a leading firm in the place, whose receipts from May, 1883, to May, 1884, under the Scott Act, were \$2,200 in excess of any previous year under the license system. The books of another leading business house, he says, will also show an increase of \$3,748, over any year when the licence law