

THE SENATE AMENDMENT.

OUTBURST OF POPULAR INDIGNATION.

Honest People Everywhere Protest Against the Infamous Proposal.

From every part of the Dominion come reports of strong and earnest denunciation of the action of the Dominion Senate. We have only space to give some resolutions that in nearly every case have been adopted by overwhelming majorities.

Toronto.—At an enormous mass meeting in the Metropolitan church on Wednesday evening, the 27th ult., the following resolution was adopted with enthusiastic applause: "That this meeting desires to enter an emphatic and indignant protest against the mutilation of the Scott Act proposed by the Dominion Senate, and earnestly calls upon the House of Commons to refuse its sanction to a measure framed in breach of faith with 100 counties that have carried the Scott Act, or are working for its adoption, in defiance of strongly expressed public opinion, and in the interest and at the instance of the Canadian traffic in strong drink."

Uxbridge.—The North Ontario branch of the Dominion Alliance at its meeting last week unanimously resolved:—

"That this meeting express its surprise and indignation at the recent unwarrantable action of the Senate of Canada in passing amendments destructive of the Canada Temperance Act in total disregard of the strongly expressed public opinion embodied in numerous petitions and in overwhelming majorities at the polls; and that inasmuch as the said Act originated with, and was ratified by, this same Senate and accepted by the friends of temperance in good faith, we declare the radical amendments a stultification of the Senate's former action and a flagrant breach of faith with temperance people of this Dominion, and especially with those municipalities where the Act has been adopted and has yet to come into operation."

Drayton.—A meeting of the friends of the Scott Act was held here last week, and the following resolution unanimously adopted:—"Whereas, the Scott Act has been carried by a large majority of the ratepayers of the county of Wellington, and inasmuch as the Senate of Canada has seen fit to propose certain amendments to said Scott Act, allowing the sale of ale, beer, and wines. *Resolved*, That in the opinion of this meeting such amendments would destroy the Scott Act as a prohibitory measure. We therefore denounce in the strongest terms possible this uncalled for interference on the part of the Senate with the freely expressed will of the people, and declare our determination to resist in every constitutional way the said interference with the efficacy of the Act. We earnestly pray the honorable body of the House of Commons not to concur in this proposed amendment to the Scott Act."

Norwich.—At the Norwich Methodist district meeting it was resolved:—"That this Norwich district meeting of the Methodist Church hereby protest against the recent mutilation of the Scott Act passed by the Senate of the Parliament of Canada, and hereby call upon the friends of temperance throughout the Dominion to resist all such retrograde movements."

Mount Forest.—At the annual district meeting of the Methodist Church, concluded at Mount Forest on Wednesday last, a public anti-beer meeting was held, which was addressed by Rev. Mr. Lake, of Durham; Rev. Mr. Bielby, of Luther; and Rev. Mr. Charlton, of Gorrie. A resolution was passed condemning the action of the Senate in their attempt to mutilate the Scott Act by the insertion of the wine and beer clause.

Milton.—At the Milton district Methodist meeting a petition was presented praying the House of Commons not to pass the amendment of the Senate to the Scott Act to allow "beer and light wines" to be sold in counties where the Scott Act has passed. It was quickly signed by the members of the district, representing a membership of 2,449.

Merritton.—At the annual meeting of the St. Catharines district Methodist Church the following resolution relating to the Scott Act was passed:—"Whereas, The Senate acting in direct antagonism to the generally expressed wishes of the electors to whom this question has been submitted, have sent down to the House of Commons amendments to the Scott Act which, if adopted by that body, will completely neutralize the good effects of said Act. Therefore, the members of the St. Catharines district meeting of the Methodist Church, lay and ministerial, would hereby express their most emphatic disapproval of the action of the Senate, and humbly pray the House of Commons to resist with a strong hand the repeated attempts of the Senate to thwart the purposes and labors of the temperance people of this Dominion."

Stouffville.—The York District Division of the Sons of Temperance met May 20th, in Daley's Hall. There was a large attendance from different parts of the county. The following resolution was unanimously passed:—"We learn with sincere regret the fact that the Senate of this Dominion have amended the Scott Act by permitting the sale of light wines and beer where the Act may be brought into force, and believing that to thus alter the Scott Act, after it has been so generally adopted throughout Canada, is alike unfair to the counties that have adopted it, as well as to those moving in that direction. We, the District Division of the Sons of Temperance for the County of York, do most solemnly protest against such an unfair, unjust, and uncalled for amendment, and do hereby direct our executive to prepare and forward to the House of Commons a petition against the same becoming law in this county."

Belleville.—At a regular meeting of Royal Victoria Lodge, No. 3, I. O. G. T., the following resolutions were unanimously adopted, viz.:—"Having seen by the Parliamentary reports to the daily press of this city that the Senate of the Dominion are proposing to amend the Scott Act as to destroy its usefulness,

Resolved, that this Lodge most earnestly protests against the proposed legislation, and that we call on the friends of temperance in the House of Commons to refuse their sanction to the amendments proposed by the Senate;

Resolved, that a copy of the foregoing resolution, be sent to Senator Vidal and to Professor Foster, M. P."

Goderich.—At the annual District meeting of the Goderich Methodist Church the following resolutions were passed against the Scott Act and the attempt of the Senate to mutilate it:—"1st. That we, the members of the Goderich district meeting of the Methodist Church, view with alarm the recent action of the Senate of the Parliament of Canada in passing amendments to the Scott Act, calculated to defeat its intention and destroy its force, and inasmuch as this legislative body does not subsist by the electoral franchise of the people, we regard their course against the Scott Act as an extraordinary abuse of their power, a violation of the true principles of responsible government, and an outrage on the moral sense of the country. 2nd. That a suitable memorial be signed by the members of this meeting and forwarded to the hon. the House of Commons, praying that they will not allow or pass any measure that will embarrass or limit the present scope or operations of the Scott Act."

St. Thomas.—At the St. Thomas Methodist District Meeting a petition was read and placed before the meeting for signatures praying the Government and Parliament to take such steps as may be necessary to defeat any and all amendments to the Scott Act that could in any respect lessen its prohibitory character or make more difficult its adoption and enforcement. To the petition was attached the following resolution, moved by T. R. Earl, and seconded by Walter Roberts, Esq., and unanimously *Resolved*,—"That this District Meeting is in full and hearty sympathy with the Temperance movement in our country, and especially with the purpose and design of the Scott Act. And while we earnestly pray that only such changes shall be made in connection therewith as shall tend to render it more stringent and more easily enforced, we strongly protest against the amendment of the Senate, by which light wines and other intoxicating beverages are to be rendered exempt from the action of the Scott Act, and also against all action on this question that is not in the direction of prohibition."

Lindsay.—At the Lindsay Methodist District Meeting the Temperance cause received earnest attention in the signing of a petition to the House of Commons asking them not to concur in the Senate's amendments to the Scott Act. A very strongly worded resolution was passed having reference to the speedy passage of the Act in the immediate counties, and also with reference to the Senate amendments to the Scott Act, as follows:—"At the same time we desire to express our grave disapproval of the proposed amendments to the Act providing for the sale of wine and beer of not more than 12 per cent. alcohol, it being our firm conviction that such exemptions destroy to a great extent the value of the Act. Also, that we desire the Conference to reaffirm its confidence in the Scott Act, and to impress upon all its members the urgent need of hearty co-operation in carrying out and enforcing it. And we pledge ourselves to use all legitimate means for the full enforcement of the Act, and by petition call upon the members of the Commons to refuse their sanction to legislation calculated to weaken or annul an Act which has received such hearty endorsement at the polls."

Newmarket.—At the last regular meeting of Star Lodge, No. 743, I. O. G. T., Newmarket, held on Monday evening, 25th ult., the following resolution was unanimously carried, and ordered to be forwarded to THE CITIZEN for publication:—"Moved by Bro. J. H. Johnson, seconded by Bro. W. A. Quitely that, "Whereas the Senate of Canada did pass in the year 1878 (in response to many petitions by the people of Canada) an Act for the promotion of temperance in the country, cited as the Canada Temperance Act of 1878, now commonly known as the Scott Act; and whereas the people of Canada accepted the Act in *bona fide* good faith, and have carried the Act in 65 counties and cities of the Dominion by a majority aggregating over 44,000, and have at the present time campaigns in progress in 29 cities and towns; and whereas the aforesaid Senate of Canada have, during this present session, caused the said Act to be so amended as to admit of the sale of beer and wine, containing not more than 12 per cent. of alcohol, in counties and cities where the said Act has passed, thus practically destroying the usefulness of the said Act and rendering it null and void: *Resolved*, therefore, that this lodge desires to enter an indignant protest against the action of the Senate in breaking faith with the temperance people of this Dominion in defiance of all respect for the principles of responsible government. At the same time we desire to express our warm appreciation of those hon. members who so nobly stood up for the cause of temperance and humanity, and have shown themselves worthy to occupy a prominent position in the councils of the nation."

Bowmanville.—At the Bowmanville Methodist District Meeting strong and emphatic words of dissent from the action of the Senate of the Dominion in their backward legislation, in their efforts to destroy the Scott Act, were uttered by many present, and all most cordially joined in signing a petition to the House of Commons to refuse to sanction the action of the Senate on this important question. There seemed to be a pretty strong sentiment among both ministers and laymen, of all shades of political feeling, that if the Senate persists in such obstructive legislation which is so manifestly opposed to the popular will of the country, as the late election in the Scott Act contest indicates, the sooner these venerable gentlemen "set their house in order" and retire into oblivion the better for them and the country. The statement was also made, and strongly commented upon, that of the twenty-one gentlemen last placed in the Senate by the Honorable Premier of the Dominion, eighteen are hostile to temperance legislation. The following resolution was submitted:—"That we view with regret and alarm the action of the Senate in its retrograde legislation on the subject of temperance, in its mutilation of the Scott Act, which legislation has already had an unhappy effect on the temperance movement in the country, and which, if ratified by the Commons, and carried into effect, would completely destroy the whole measure, and set at defiance the wishes of the electors, who in more than sixty counties have by the great majority of over forty thousand expressed their confidence in the Scott Act, and honestly desire to see it in active operation; and we earnestly and emphatically desire that the House of Commons will not sanction any legislation that will in any way lessen the effectiveness of any temperance enactment, no matter from what source such recommendations may come."—Carried unanimously.

Kingston.—At the annual session of the Montreal Methodist Conference, held in this city last week, the following resolution, moved by Rev. D. V. Lucas, and seconded by Rev. Dr. Douglass, was carried amid enthusiastic applause:—

"That we, ministers and laymen of the Montreal Conference of the Methodist Church, representing Methodism throughout the whole of the Province of Quebec and the eastern portion of the Province of Ontario, assembled in annual conference at the city of Kingston, being deeply impressed with the baneful effects of the sale of alcohol in the form of beverage, and always in sympathy with any measure calculated to restrict or prohibit the sale of such beverage, and having confidence in the Canada Temperance Act of 1878 as a measure wisely framed for this end, desire to express our very great regret that our legislation of the Canadian Senate should have passed a resolution looking towards the exemption of certain alcoholic compounds from the prohibitory operations of the said Canada Temperance Act."