

## TEMPERANCE WATCHMEN.

## MEETING OF CONVENTION OF TEMPERANCE WATCHMEN.

The Convention met at Durham, on Tuesday the 21st July, at two o'clock P. M. and was constituted. Bro. John McKenzie of Alma Club No. 20, in the chair, and Bro. D. McDonald, Sec. Pro. Com. acted as Secretary.

The following Delegates were present: George Logan, Andrew Murray, James Elliot, James Wyllie, Joseph Grant, Michael Olding, Daniel McDonald, John McKenzie, Geo. McDonald, Thos. Henderson, William McGilvray, John McDonald, Duncan Miller, Alex Matheson, from Clubs in Pictou County. Rev. James McLean, from Gays River, J. B. Waddell and G. P. McKenzie from Shubenacadie; Chas. Johnston from S. B. Upper Stewiacke; E. McCurdy, Robt. Archibald and Henry Christy from Old Barns, Colchester.

The first business in order was the reading of minutes of last convention.

Sec. Pro. Com. read the Report of said Com. which was laid on the table. The Treasurer's Account was also read, and referred to the Com. of Audit, consisting of Bros. E. McCurdy, J. McDonald and G. J. McKenzie.

Agreed to receive the Reports of Standing Committee.

Committee of Inquiry into the History and present condition of the Order in general, was read and laid on the table; also the Report of Committee of Correspondence with the Sons and other Temperance Bodies was read and laid on the table.

The other Standing Committee not being prepared to report, the Reports laid on the table were taken up, discussed and received.

The following is a Synopsis of Report on "History and present State of the Order"

The Order was instituted at Durham, Maine, April. 1849.

It had extended throughout Maine and several other States and over New Brunswick. It was introduced into Nova Scotia by L. J. Walker of Truro, N. S. under authority from St. Stephens club, No. 1. of New Brunswick. Pioneer club, No. 1. was instituted at Truro, on the 5th. Jan. 1853.

Our Provincial Convention and Central Committee were instituted at Upper Stewiacke, on the 17th Oct. 1854. A list of our Clubs was received from chairman of Central Com. of N. B. on 14th Jan. 1853.

We continued subordinate to the Grand Central Committee of Maine up to July 1856.

Since that date the Order in our Province has acted as an Independent Body. It was forced to this step by the unaccountable stop put to our correspondence by our receiving no answer to our communications.

Our Committee addressed letters to the Chairman of Grand Central Committee of Maine, and to Chairman of Central Committee of N. B. on the 16th Oct. 1856, to which they have received no reply. Our last communication from Grand Cen. Com. was received on 24th Oct. 1855. Committee could proceed no further, and now leave the matter to be dealt with by the Convention.

Future conduct relative to this matter was left to be regulated by circumstances.

The Report of Com. on correspondence with the 'Sons' &c. was to the effect, 'That committee had been in correspondence with the Grand Division of that Body (a copy of their communication, and the Grand Scribe's reply were read) that their letter had been received and acknowledged with due courtes-

sy, but that nothing in the shape of business had been effected.

Com. had also endeavoured to correspond with a certain Subordinate Division, but without effect, as they received no answer to their communication.

Committee of Audit reported that they had examined the accounts and found them correct.

On motion the time of meeting and adjourning each session were fixed upon.

Convention adjourned for one hour, and having met and resumed business, it first took up the organization of Convention into an Institution with Rites and Ceremonies.

The principle was approved at last Convention, and referred to Clubs for their consideration.

Agreed to take vote by clubs. The roll being called there appeared for the principle, Wellington No. 8. Alma No. 20, Victoria No. 23, Oriental No. 28, Marshall No. 33, Joy No. 35, Aurora No. 7. Against the principle Morning Star No. 2, Black River No. 32, Raglan No. 34, lost its vote, by its representatives voting one for and one against the principle. There was a majority of five clubs in favour of the principle.

The following committees were appointed viz. on Constitution and Ritual for the contemplated organization; on the Constitution of Clerks; and on Ritual of ditto, to report at the morning session.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted.—

Whereas the carrying of Liquors in vessels as freight, or the receiving remuneration for the carrying of them in other way by land or water is a *bona fide* trading in them;—Resolved, that every such act is a violation of the Principles and Usages of the Order.

Convention adjourned.

Wednesday, July 22, 1857.

Convention met, and resumed business.

Committees submitted their reports, which were taken up in the order in which they were read.

The Report of Com. on Ritual was taken up and disposed of clause by clause. Several important alterations were agreed to, and it was referred to a committee for further revision and publication.

Next took up Report of Com. on Constitution and Bye-laws, which was disposed of in separate clauses. Several Amendments were agreed to, and it also was referred to Com. for revision and publication.

Afternoon Session 1½ P. M.

Convention met and resumed. Roll called, minutes read and approved.

Took up Report on Constitution and Ritual of Convention.

A basis of Constitution and Draft of Ritual were submitted, discussed at some length, adopted, and referred to same committee to revise and publish.

The Basis of the Constitution is similar to the constitution of the Grand Division Sons of Temperance.

1 This Association shall be denominated the Provincial Club of Temperance Watchmen of Nova Scotia.

2. This Provincial Club shall be composed of such Delegates as the Subordinate clubs shall elect.

3. Each Subordinate club shall at any regular meeting during the year, elect suitable persons to represent them in Provincial Club.

4. The Officers of this Club shall be a Provincial Senior Observer, a Pro. Junior Ob-

server, Pro. Chaplain, Pro. Secretary, Pro. Treasurer, Pro. Messenger, and Pro. Assistant Messenger, who shall be elected by ballot at the Annual meeting and shall serve one year.

The duties of the Officers are defined in the Constitution (which is too voluminous to be condensed for one paper) which will be sent to all the clubs as soon as it can be got ready.

Next took up matter of Regalia for members of Provincial Club. Agreed to defer it until next meeting of Prov. Club.

Proceeded to election of a Committee on Revision and publication when Bros. D. McDonald, John McKenzie, D. R. Millar were unanimously elected, with power to add to their number.

The selection of Odes and Music for the use of the Order was also entrusted to the same Committee.

Took up Resolution referred to Clubs by last Convention for their consideration. viz.—

Whereas Prohibition is the most important question before the public, and most deeply affects the best interests of the country: therefore resolved—

'That in the opinion of this Convention, Temperance men should support no candidates, be their other political principles what they may, unless they are known to be practical Temperance men and Prohibitionists.'

Upon the roll being called there appeared for the resolution

Marshall club

Black River do.

Alma G. Hill do.

Raglan do. Delegates for, but not instructed.

Oriental do. do. do., do. do.

Morning Star, do. do., do. do.

Wellington, do. do., do. do.

Joy club against

Victoria do

Gen. Williams, decidedly against, but not instructed.

The new element infused into the politics of the country appeared to have somewhat changed the views of many of the Temperance men, as to Prohibition being the most important question. The general sentiment appeared to regard *civil and religious liberty* of more consequence than Prohibition.

It was evident that the minds of Temperance Watchmen were undecided on the question as regards immediate action when they do not instruct their representatives. The majority was however informed of the principle.

It was moved and unanimously agreed—That members of this Convention shall, in virtue of their position, be eligible for membership, in the Provincial club.

Took into consideration the position of Members of clubs that have become extinct, whereupon the following resolution was adopted.—

Resolved,—that all known consistent members of the Order, whose clubs have become extinct, shall be eligible for membership in any club to which they may apply, free from admittance fee, upon their subscribing to the Books of the said club and conforming to its rules.

Next proceeded to the Election of Officers for the Provincial Club. The following Bros. were duly elected. John McKenzie, of Alma club, P. S. O.; Jotham B. Waddell, of Ivy do. P. J. O.; Daniel McDonald, of Alma, P. S. and T.; Rev. James McLean, of Gen. Williams, P. C.; Edward McCurdy, of Morning Star, P. M.; William McGilvray, of Wellington, P. A. M.