

# THE DOMINION PLEBISCITE

## ORGANIZATION FOR THE CAMPAIGN.

### OFFICE OF THE DOMINION ALLIANCE.

OCTOBER, 1896.

The prohibitionists of Canada will soon have to face a most important crisis. A Plebiscite of the electors of the Dominion is to be taken upon the question of prohibition. The leader of the Government has promised that the mandate of the people thus recorded will be carried out. The Dominion Parliament has unquestioned power to enact a prohibitory law. In this contest the liquor traffic will fight as never before, for its existence is at stake. The interests involved are incalculably great. We ought to begin our preparation for the campaign.

Our first duty is organization. Churches, W.C.T. Unions, S. of T. Divisions, I.O.G.T. Lodges, R. T. of T. Councils, Young People's Societies and other organizations will do their duty in meetings, sermons, lectures, appeals and other means of informing the public mind and rousing the public conscience. We must have in every locality another special agency in which all can unite for the systematic planning and carrying out of the business details of the campaign. The supervision of voters' lists, the direct canvass of voters, the superintendence of polling arrangements, are matters of vital importance that must be looked after wisely and thoroughly without overlapping, clashing or mistakes. Every city, town, village and township ought to have its local Prohibition Union, or Alliance, or Club, the name is a matter of little moment. Later on will come county federation of these local unions, for work that can be better done by the larger organization.

The local organization thus formed will be ready for any exigency that may in the meantime arise. Its members will find much to do in local effort that will draw them closer together, as well as for planning for the coming contest. Actual work is the best training school. They may take part in municipal elections, influencing public affairs so as to aid us greatly in the later fight. They may in many cases secure the immediate enactment of prohibitory by-laws under our local option legislation. Such efforts and agitation will be powerful educating agencies, and may result in at once wiping out the liquor traffic in many localities.

Organizations should be undertaken on a well thought out basis. Of course it would not be wise for any central body to insist upon any specific method of work. Friends in every place will decide for themselves. Uniformity as far as practicable is however, desirable. In view of these facts, there is submitted a form of constitution, prepared as a guide for those who may wish to adopt it, or take from it any desired feature or suggestion. It will be found a useful model, and is sufficiently elastic to suit the circumstances of different places.

There should be called in each locality either a mass meeting of all those interested in the temperance cause, or a meeting of representatives from every temperance society and religious body in the municipality. Special care should be taken to have the co-operation of all societies and churches in this movement. The meeting may at once organize itself into a Prohibition Alliance, or may appoint a strong representative committee to arrange plans for the coming campaign, and see them carried out. The name Prohibition Alliance may be changed if desired, for any other that may be thought better.

This work should not be delayed. Any friend of prohibition into whose hands this paper falls, may consult with other friends and have a "call" issued for a rally of local prohibition workers. It will, of course, be better to have as many organizations as possible represented in the "call" for such a meeting. Then let the meeting form its Alliance, or appoint its committee, and commence operations.

Later on, other circulars will be issued giving valuable information regarding speakers, literature, voters' lists, methods of work, and such matters. It is specially requested that information of the organization of Alliances, etc., with the names and addresses of the officers, be sent to the Provincial Secretary. The Provincial officers will be ready and prompt to answer questions and give advice. No one need hesitate to write for information. Communications should be addressed to

**F. S. SPENCE,**

51 Confederation Life Building,

**TORONTO.**

(SUGGESTED)

## CONSTITUTION FOR LOCAL ALLIANCES.

### 1. NAME.

This organization shall be known as the *Waterville* Prohibition Alliance.

### 2. OBJECTS.

The object of the Alliance shall be to call forth and direct an enlightened public opinion to procure the total suppression of the traffic in intoxicating beverages.

### 3. METHODS.

With this object in view the Alliance shall work for the adoption and enforcement of all available prohibitions and limitations of the liquor traffic, and the election to all legislative and executive positions of representatives who are known, avowed and reliable supporters of the principle and methods of the Alliance, and the declaration through the ballot box of the people's desire for total prohibition.

### 4. MEMBERSHIP.

Persons of good moral character who reside or vote in the municipality shall be eligible for membership.

Persons desiring to join the Alliance may be proposed at any regular meeting, and a two-third vote will be necessary to elect them. They shall then become members on signing the following:

### *Declaration.*

We, the undersigned, approve of the objects and methods of the *Waterville* Prohibition Alliance, and agree to work together in promotion of the same in accordance with the constitution of the said Alliance.

### 5. FEES.

The membership fee shall be *twenty-five* cents per year, payable in advance.

### 6. OFFICERS.

The officers of this Society shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. They shall be elected yearly at the annual meeting, and shall hold office for one year, and until their successors are elected.

### 7. COMMITTEES.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers named and *nine* other persons elected at the same time. This Committee shall meet at the call of the President and Secretary.

Other standing or special committees may be appointed from time to time as the Alliance may deem necessary or advisable.

### 8. MEETINGS.

The annual meeting of the Alliance will be held on the *First Tuesday* of the month of *October*. Other meetings will be held at the call of the Executive Committee. *Nine* members shall form a quorum for the transaction of business.

If at the annual meeting of the Alliance there are not present sufficient members to form a quorum, then the next meeting at which there are present enough members to form a quorum shall be considered the annual meeting.

### 9. BY-LAWS.

The Alliance may enact any By-laws or adopt any order of business deemed necessary for the carrying out of its objects or the transaction of its business.

### 10. AMENDMENTS.

These rules shall be amended only by a two-third vote of the members present at a regularly called meeting of the Society.

(NOTE.—The words printed in *italics* are to be changed to suit the necessities or views of the workers in different localities.)

**Any person desiring to have the liquor traffic immediately prohibited in any municipality is requested to write for information to the Secretary of the Dominion Alliance, who will send him by return mail a pamphlet giving full information about the Ontario Local Option legislation, the steps to be taken to secure the adoption of prohibitory by-laws thereunder, and the statutory provisions for the enforcement of the same.**