

Committee on the State of the Work—Revs. D. L. Brethour, J. Wood and Messrs. M. Auger, M. P., Dr. Moore, N. Shakespeare, M. P., F. S. Spence, A. Longley, M. Gregault, M. P., and W. W. Buchanan.

Literature—Prof. Foster, M. P., Rev. D. V. Lucas, W. McCraney, M. P., M. Cotton, F. S. Spence and C. Burpee, M. P.

Letters were read from the Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education for Ontario, from the G. W. P. of the Sons of Temperance, Mr. W. H. Howland and Rev. Dr. Clark, of Toronto. On motion, the letter of the Grand Worthy Patriarch, S. of T., was referred to the Committee on the State of the Work, and that of Mr. Howland to the Committee on Legislation.

Mr. S. A. Abbott, the Acting Secretary, then read the following report, which, on motion of Rev. Mr. Kines, seconded by Rev. Mr. Jamieson, was referred to the Committees on Legislation and The State of the Work.

ANNUAL REPORT.

It is proper, perhaps at the outset to allude to the circumstances which have placed me for the time being in the position of Acting Corresponding Secretary of the Dominion Alliance. The Rev. Thos. Gales, who was Secretary of the Alliance since its organization in 1876, died in Montreal on the 24th of October, last. A few days before his death, and while dissolution was imminent, he requested me to make the necessary arrangements for the present Council Meeting. It was impossible for me to refuse, and I consented, with extreme reluctance, temporarily to accept the post, my acceptance having been sanctioned by the President of the Alliance and the Chairman of the Executive. The great misfortune which has befallen the Alliance and the temperance cause generally throughout the Dominion, in the death of Mr. Gales, will be more fittingly set forth by resolution during this course of the meeting.

LEGISLATION.

The chief legislative event of the year is the passage of the "Liquor License Act, 1883," which will only come into full operation May next. Except in Nova Scotia, where it superseded in some respects, more effective provincial legislation, the Act was generally received with much satisfaction by the temperance public, as marking a very distinctive advance in restrictive legislation, but the high hopes conceived of its value have been lessened in some minds by doubts cast upon its constitutionality.