

THE SENATE AMENDMENT.

OUTBURST OF POPULAR INDIGNATION.

Honest People Everywhere Protest Against the Infamous Proposal.

Still we are receiving reports of strong and earnest denunciation of the action of the Dominion Senate. We have only space to give some of the resolutions in nearly every case adopted by overwhelming majorities.

Chatham.—At a great temperance demonstration held at Chatham recently to celebrate their glorious Scott Act victory, the following resolution was enthusiastically carried:—"That this meeting desires to enter an emphatic protest against the outrage perpetrated by the Dominion Senate in attempting to destroy the Scott Act in defiance of the moral sentiment of the country, treacherously breaking faith with the electors who have voted for the law, and endeavoring to force upon an insulted community the home-cursing traffic that has been outlawed by overwhelming majorities in the interests of progress and morality. 2. That we earnestly call upon the House of Commons to refuse its sanction to the iniquitous and disgraceful measure that has been transmitted to them for concurrence by a legislative chamber that we cannot reach by our votes, and that has refused to accede to our petitions."

London.—At the annual meeting of the London Methodist Conference, the Temperance Committee, in submitting their report, referred to the wonderful success in the passing of the Scott Act during the past year; to the prominent part the Methodist Church has taken in that work; to the large increase in the numbers in our Sunday schools who are reported as having the total abstinence pledge; to the necessity of continued and increased effort along the line of moral suasion, and to the action of the Senate in amending to destroy the Canada Temperance Act. The committee recommended the Conference to formulate and forward a memorial on the question. A resolution, moved by Rev. C. Clermont and seconded by Dr. Parker, was unanimously carried, protesting against the action of the Senate, and praying the House of Commons not to sanction the same.

The Middlesex County Alliance in recent session in London passed the following resolution:—"1. That we, the members of the Middlesex County Alliance assembled, beg to submit their protest against the action of the Senate in exempting wines and beer from the operation of the Temperance Act; and beg further to express the wish that said amendment may not receive the sanction of the House of Commons. 2. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our representatives, with a request that the attention of the House be called to the above resolution."

Hamilton.—At the annual meeting of the Congregational Union held in this city, the following resolution was brought forward by Mr. H. J. Clark, of Toronto, and carried unanimously:—"That this union, composed of representatives, ministerial and lay, of the Congregational churches of Ontario and Quebec, has heard with deep regret of the amendments introduced into the Scott Act by the Senate of the Dominion. This union respectfully petitions the House of Commons not to concur in these amendments, as they involve a serious breach of faith with those constituencies which have voted upon the Act as it now stands, and by majorities exceeding in the aggregate fifty thousand have testified their approval of its provisions, while these amendments would practically nullify the Act, and rob the electors of the results of the exercise of their franchise. Further, this union finds that the experience of places where the sale of beer especially has been encouraged, shows that drunkenness, brutality, and immorality have greatly increased, and this union believes that any attempt to foster the sale in this Dominion would be followed by like lamentable results."

Winnipeg.—At the Methodist Conference held in this city the following resolution was adopted on motion of J. W. Sifton, seconded by Geo. F. M. Finn, the mover stating that it embodied the sentiments of every Methodist and every temperance man in the country:—"That we have learned with astonishment and concern of the action of the Senate of Canada, amending the Scott Act so as to legalize the sale of beer and wine where the Scott Act is in operation. We regard this amendment as practically neutralizing the Act, and as wholly destroying its value, and as calculated to discourage all further effort in securing its adoption and enforcing it where already adopted; and we believe, with pain and alarm, that the grave body using its influence to carry this amendment into statute book intended to destroy the Scott Act. In view of the immense majorities that have declared in favor of this Act during the past year, we regard this effort of the Senate to defeat the aims of these majorities as a menace against the liberties of the people of Canada, being an intimation that the majority must submit to the convenience and desires of the minority. We do most firmly and earnestly protest against such violation of the spirit of the principle of constitutional government, and hope and pray that the House of Commons will so wisely appreciate the gravity of the case as to withhold its sanction from this mutilation of a valuable Act." The mover and seconder, Rev. Stafford, and others made strong speeches in support of the motion and in condemnation of the Senate's action.

Hamilton.—At the regular meeting of the Central Labor Union, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—"Whereas the Senate of the Dominion of Canada, a body of legislators not responsible to the people, have passed a bill amending the Scott Act so as to allow the sale of light drinks, such as wine, beer, etc., thereby destroying the effectiveness of the Act; and whereas the Scott Act has been submitted to the people and carried in several constituencies, the amendments becoming law would be a direct attack on the rights and liberties of the people, as the majority of the electors in the aforesaid constituencies have supported the Act; and whereas this body believe in true liberty to be ruling by the majority of the people; therefore, be it resolved, That the Central Labor Union, the representative of the organization labor of Hamilton, utter their protest against the House of Commons passing these amendments, the passing of which we consider would be a betrayal of the trust reposed in them by the electors; and be it further resolved, That the Hamilton representatives, Messrs. Kilvert and Robertson, be asked to use their influence against the passing of these amendments, and that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to them to present to the Government; and be it further resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to each of the city papers."

Hastings.—The presentment of the Grand Jury of the county of Hastings, referring to a visit to the County Gaol, states that of the 70 prisoners confined since the beginning of the year 43 were classified as intemperate, that of the 178 prisoners confined in the gaol during 1884, 112 were classed as intemperate, while many of those classed as temperate used intoxicating liquors. Reference was also made to the fact that of the 723 prisoners confined in the Central Prison last year 638 were classed as intemperate. The Grand Jury therefore declared:—"That the above statistics clearly show that the cost to the Province in prosecuting and maintaining these criminals must be very great, and also bear out the testimony of the various judges that at least three-fourths of the crime committed in the country is attributable to drunkenness. In view of the above facts we, the Grand Jurors of the county of Hastings, feel it our duty to place on record our regret at the course the Senate of the Dominion of Canada have taken in mutilating the Canada Temperance Act as to destroy the prospective benefits that might be derived therefrom, and we desire to express a hope that the House of Commons, when the matter comes before them, will deem it right and proper to reject the mutilation of the Act made by the Senate. (Signed) E. H. Coleman, Foreman of the Grand Jury."

Whitby.—At the annual session of the Bay of Quinte Methodist Conference, held at Whitby, the following resolution, moved by Rev. A. Browning, seconded by Dr. Ford, was carried unanimously, and the Secretary was directed to forward a copy of the same to each member of the Dominion Parliament:—"That we, the members, lay and clerical, of the Bay of Quinte Conference of the Methodist Church, having learned with alarm and indignation of the design of the Senate of Canada in so amending the Canada Temperance Act as to exempt from its operations the sale of porter, ale, lager beer, cider and light wines containing not more than 12 per cent. of alcohol, which amendments are now awaiting the sanction of the House of Commons, desire to express their opinion that such action is in direct violation of the solemn compact entered into by the Senate with the people of Canada when that honorable body passed the Canada Temperance Act of 1878, by which they undertook that any county or city which choose to adopt its provisions should be undisturbed in the possession of them for at least three years, and is such a total disregard and defiance of the popular will as expressed in the prayer of over 100,000 petitioners and the vote of seventy-five constituencies, giving a majority of 46,000 in an aggregate vote of 200,000, as merits their strongest and most emphatic condemnation. That the members of this Conference appeal with confidence to the representatives of the people in the House of Commons to withhold their sanction from this unrighteous attempt to defraud the people of their rights by utterly destroying the usefulness of the Act in question, to pledge themselves in every legitimate way to oppose the re-election of every representative who by his vote or influence seeks to counteract the will of the majority and perpetuate the injustice of the Liquor Traffic."

Belloville.—On Thursday of last week, there was a large and enthusiastic Scott Act meeting, held at Belloville, presided over by Rev. Mr. Sherman, and addressed by Mr. F. S. Spence, of Toronto, and Rev. D. Nichol, of St. George. At the close of the meeting the following resolutions were moved by Mr. Reavely, seconded by Mr. Kilborn, and carried unanimously:—"Whereas, it plainly appears that the 'Scott Act' is spreading consternation in King Alcohol's camp, as is evinced by the sturdy opposition to its passage by all the friends and allies of the drink traffic; and whereas the cause of temperance is liable to suffer most from its professed friends, who are really in league with the Traffic, we utter thus publicly a word of warning for the benefit of all true friends of temperance; and also in the following, do express our unqualified disapproval of the cause and action taken by certain dignitaries who 'pose' as friends of temperance, while really acting in the direct interest of its enemies; therefore resolved, That we, the citizens and friends of temperance, condemn and execrate the action of certain parties (members of the Dominion Parliament), who are working with might and main to so change the provisions of the 'Scott Act' as to render it non-effective. 2nd. Resolved,—That we will steadfastly oppose any and all changes to said Act, and will spot those members who are trying to mutilate it, and to the extent of our votes, will relegate them to private life. 3rd. Resolved,—That James Beatty, Jr., M.P., should be placed under ban of every friend of temperance for the silly, contemptible, and babyish speech made by him in the House recently, on partial prohibition, because while he poses as a Christian, a preacher, and a temperance advocate, his object is self evident, i. e., to defeat effective temperance legislation. 4th. Resolved, That these resolutions be sent to the CANADA CITIZEN for publication, and that the temperance people everywhere be asked to express themselves against these wolves in sheep's clothing, in a similar manner."

Toronto.—At a large public meeting, held under the auspices of the Toronto Methodist Conference, in the Metropolitan church, the following resolution was moved by Rev. J. W. Annis, of Barrie, seconded by J. B. Bonstead, J.P., of Toronto, and adopted unanimously by a standing vote:—"Whereas the evils of intemperance, the direct result of the common sale of intoxicating liquors, constitute a national peril of alarming magnitude, and the Dominion Parliament of Canada has placed in the hands of the people the power to prohibit by the Scott Act the retail sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes; and whereas 59 cities and counties have availed themselves of the power thus conferred, and voted for prohibition by the Scott Act, recording in favor of this law a majority of upwards of 50,000 votes; and the Scott Act having already come into operation in 42 cities and counties, and is doing much to remedy the terrible evils of intemperance and elevate the moral tone of the community; and whereas the Dominion Senate has passed legislation permitting the sale of beer and wines in the counties and cities where the Scott Act is in operation, and it having been demonstrated that such sale invariably leads to drunkenness, with all its attendant evils; therefore be it resolved, That this meeting desires to record an emphatic protest against actions so unwarranted, uncalculated, and detrimental to social progress and morality; that we strongly denounce the action of our responsible legislators in attempting, in the interests of the liquor traffic, to force upon our country retrogressive measures in spite of the halloo protests of loyal citizens, and the earnest petitions of suffering women and children; that we call upon the House of Commons, as our chosen representatives, as guardians of our public interests, as the chosen protectors of our homes, as honest men, as true patriots, and as Christian legislators, to refuse their concurrence to the changes in the Scott Act proposed by the Senate."

At the Methodist Conference held in this city, the following resolution was moved by Rev. Dr. Dewar, seconded by Mr. Warring Kennedy, and unanimously adopted:—"That the Conference desires to take the earliest opportunity of expressing its profound regret at and dissatisfaction with the reprehensible action of the Senate of Canada in amending the Canada Temperance Act in a way that would destroy its value as a prohibitory measure, and render the successful efforts for its adoption in a large number of districts fruitless and unavailing; and we hereby declare our strong and earnest conviction, that if the House of Commons should so far forget its duty to the country as to sanction this impetuous and treacherous mutilation of the Scott Act, it would by doing so break faith with the people, greatly injure the cause of public order and morality, and show itself to be unworthy of the confidence of all who have at heart the social and moral progress of our country."