

giving publicity to all matters pertaining to the Scott Act agitation which is now in progress, and which has become the leading topic of discussion. Not a few of those papers have made considerable pecuniary sacrifice through their advocacy of our principles and their attacks on the Licensed Liquor Traffic, and it is not the least gratifying sign of the progress of our cause, that the leading newspapers of the Province are so unanimous in their condemnation of the whole Liquor business.

Under this heading, I would like to call your attention, and through you to the Order generally, to the weekly newspaper published in Toronto under the name of the CANADA CITIZEN. This paper is published in the interest of temperance workers, and in aid of temperance work, and giving great assistance to the cause by making a specialty of Scott Act news and publishing and disseminating Scott Act literature. Such a paper is absolutely necessary to us at the present time, and no active temperance worker should be without it. I trust that before long a copy will find its way into the home of every temperance man in this Province. Its pages are filled with information required by all of us engaged in active prosecution of the work.

In conclusion, Brethren I desire to return my hearty and sincere thanks to the Grand Scribe, to my Associates in office, to the Deputies of the different Subordinate Divisions, and to the members generally for the assistance rendered me in the discharge of my duties as Grand Worthy Patriarch. I trust that the confidence reposed in me when I was selected to fill this chair has not been misplaced, and that in my efforts to advance the interests and preserved unsullied the reputation of the Sons of Temperance, I have succeeded in retaining your esteem and confidence, and that no action of mine has stained the one or retarded the progress of the other. I may not at all times have been able to meet your expectations, but where I have failed I have done so through inability and not through negligence. I am assured in my own mind that the success which has crowned our efforts during the two years I have held office could only have been obtained by the assistance rendered me by the members of the Order generally, whom I have found ever ready to second my efforts. I would bespeak for my successor the same hearty co-operation and support, feeling assured that it will be accorded, and that the best interests of the Order will be promoted thereby.

The Grand Worthy Scribe presented his annual report, of which the following is a summary:—

In submitting my Annual Report on the present occasion, I do so with feeling; of great gratitude to the Giver of all good for permitting us once more to meet in this city, interwoven as it is with so many interesting memories connected with the earlier years of the existence of the Sons of Temperance, in this Province. Here the second Division of our Order was established, and the first Session of this Grand Division held, after it was organized in the Town of Brockville. Here, too, in 1849, the first Section of that noble auxiliary to our Order, the Cadets of Temperance, was organized. In fact, in Kingston and vicinity, a large amount of the early pioneer work of the Order was performed, and the firm foothold which it has, ever since held, is mainly due to the cause.

It is now over sixteen years since last we met in this city as a Grand Division, during which time great changes have taken place in the personnel of this body. Very few who were present then compose the Representatives to-day. Of the sixty-six then present, eight have passed away from this life to their reward; some have removed from the jurisdiction; and others, after years of service, have retired from active work in our Divisions.

The work of the order in the Province of Ontario, during the past year, has been of an unusually progressive and aggressive character—progressive in extending our principles, and aggressive in the efforts of our members in suppressing the traffic in intoxicating liquors. It is unnecessary for me to refer at length to the grand work which has been accomplished in this connection, as our Grand Worthy Patriarch will no doubt refer to the success which has crowned the efforts of our friends in the several counties where the Temperance Act of 1878 has been submitted. But I have great pleasure in stating that in the various battles that have been so far fought for the cause of temperance, the Divisions of our Order have taken an active part, and I say with pride that in the counties where our Order has been the strongest, the greatest majorities for the Scott Act have been obtained. This, to me, clearly shows the power our Order has attained as an educating factor, and the great good it can yet be made to do if properly handled.

During the official year the work of organization may be summed up as follows:—

Number of new Divisions reported at the Semi-Annual Session	22
Number reported at this Session	13
Number reported resuscitated at the Semi-Annual Session	5
Number reported as resuscitated this Session	5
Total	45

From the above it will be seen that forty-five Divisions have been organized and resuscitated during the past year.

I beg to submit the following synopsis of returns received for the quarters ending June and September last:—

	June.	September.
Number of Divisions making returns	147	139
“ “ Members admitted last year	1,172	642
“ “ “ reinstated	47	31
“ “ “ withdrawn	283	280
“ “ “ suspended	131	237
“ “ “ expelled for violation of the Pledge	26	43
“ “ “ “ for other causes	55	92
“ “ “ died	6	4
“ “ “ violated the Pledge	46	86
“ “ “ in Divisions making returns	7,495	7,213

The following statement, based on latest returns, will show the present state of the Order:—

Number in Divisions making returns for September quarter	7,213
Number in Divisions that have failed to make returns to date computed from previous returns	1,012
Total	8,225

By reference to my report for the same term last year, it will be observed that the returns, as far as received, show an increase of over one thousand members, and more than five hundred over the returns for quarter ending March last, as reported at our Semi-Annual Session. It will also be noticed that there are more returns received for quarter ending June than for September. This is caused by several Divisions, known to be in good working order, neglecting to send in their returns. Could I have placed before you the returns of all those Divisions, I would no doubt have been able to report a membership of over 8000.

I have endeavoured by correspondence and otherwise to set forth the advantages of District Divisions, with the view of having several more Districts organized, but have failed to accomplish my object. Many of our Divisions apparently consider that the present system of work through the Grand Division is all that is required. In the Districts which are organized, namely, the Counties of York, Northumberland, Brant and Niagara District, which includes the Counties of Lincoln and Welland, the system has proved to be a great advantage in extending the work and usefulness of the Order.

No regular lecturer has been employed since the Semi-Annual Session. The present agitation for the adoption of the Scott Act seems to have absorbed all the attention of Temperance workers; but, as will be seen by the list of New Divisions organized, the work of organizations has not been neglected. Bro. D. Lucas Huff, D.G.W.P., from the Grand Division of Michigan has devoted a portion of his time to the work, and succeeded in organizing several divisions. Bro. S. Holland, D.G.W.P., has also devoted a portion of his time to this work. Rev. Bro. A. E. Griffith, who labored so successfully with us a year since as organizer, has again entered the field, and during the past month held several meetings. Our veteran worker, Bro. Edward Carswell, P.M.W.A., has been working for us in the eastern district, and also by special invitation in the west. As will be seen he has succeeded in organizing at important points. I understand that Bro. Carswell will soon be in a position to devote more of his time to the lecture work in this province, if so desired, during the ensuing year. The services of Bros. Griffith, Huff and Holland, may also be secured as organizers, they having expressed themselves as open for engagement. I have no doubt, if satisfactory arrangements can be made with those brethren, that good work will be accomplished for the Order, during the approaching winter months.

The work in the juvenile department seems to be carried on by our Divisions admitting persons as consistent with the Constitution into the Divisions. This seems to be more generally preferred than the organization of Sections of Cadets. We have, however, a few Sections in operation, but little interest seems to be manifested in the auxiliary to our Order.

In conclusion I desire briefly to refer to the great work that has been accomplished during the year now drawing to a close. The fruits of years of labor in the temperance reform is now beginning to show itself, and all over the land we hear almost daily the glad shout of "victory." The chains of the enthralled are being broken, and the intemperate captive made free. But while so much has been achieved in the past, we must remember that the battle has but commenced. Every inch of ground will be contested by our opponents; every effort will be made to bring the Scott Act into disrepute, by encouraging its violation, and in this way influence public opinion with a view of repeal. To counteract this, I think our Divisions should be active in seeing to its enforcement. The more Divisions we have, the better the law will be enforced and respected. I regret that in some instances there seems to be an impression that the Temperance Act having been carried, there is no longer necessity for a Division. This idea should not be entertained, for the need for our Order will be found to be as great as ever.