

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

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# THE DOMINION ALLIANCE

*Held in Ottawa, March 4th and 5th, 1886.*

The Council of the Dominion Alliance met in the City Hall, Ottawa, on Thursday, March 4th, at ten o'clock, a.m.

The President, Hon. Senator Vidal, called the meeting to order.

Prayer was offered by the Rev. Geo. Jamieson.

On motion of the Rev. J. Wood, seconded by C. Burpee, M.P., the Rev. A. P. McDiarmid was appointed Recording Secretary.

A brief address was delivered by the President.

On motion, the minutes of last year's meeting were taken as read and adopted.

The Annual Report of the Executive Committee was read by the Secretary, and on motion of J. J. McLaren, Q.C., was received and laid on the table.

### ANNUAL REPORT.

The Executive Committee of the Dominion Alliance, in presenting their Annual Report to the Council, feel that we may well come together, in annual session, in the spirit of mutual felicitation and thankfulness to Almighty God for the large measure of success He has given us in our work, and the rapid growth of the temperance sentiment throughout the country, as seen in the number of Scott Act victories achieved during the year. When last we met we were rejoicing over the then recently achieved victory in the metropolitan County of Carleton, which, by the handsome majority of 693, had expressed its determination to stamp out the liquor traffic within its bounds. Since that date the Act has been submitted to popular vote in 23 counties and cities, in 16 of which it has been adopted, generally by overwhelming majorities, the total plurality amounting to 17,151 votes; while in the other contests the verdict has been for drink and its bitter fruits, by a total majority of 3,019. The registered majority in favor of the Act in the Dominion of Canada is now over 50,000, the proportions of the votes cast being, as nearly as possible, 60 per cent. for and 40 per cent. against it. The defeats have been met with chiefly in those counties of eastern Ontario and Quebec in which the French-Canadian element has preponderated. We have great hope, however, that the attitude of the Archbishop of Quebec, and of many of his clergy, on the question of local prohibition, will shortly lead to very different results. It is extremely satisfactory and significant to note the fact that in no single instance in which the Scott Act has been adopted has it ever been repealed by the people, although the difficulties thrown in the way of its enforcement might well have so discouraged its supporters as to lead to its rejection on a second polling. The all but unanimous testimony from Scott Act counties is, that wherever there is a fair attempt to apply the provisions of the law, treating, rowdism, and drunkenness are greatly diminished. The honesty of the testimony to the contrary