

Dominion Alliance Manifesto

NO REFERENDUM!

The Act, the Whole Act, and Nothing But the Act

To the members of the Manitoba
Branch of the Dominion Alliance.

You are aware that the Manitoba branch of the Dominion Alliance during its late convention in Winnipeg, (at which were present over 500 delegates, representing all parts of the province and all political parties) approached the government and pleaded that without any further reference to the people the prohibitory liquor law on our statute book be proclaimed in force. The Ministerial Association of this city, without a dissenting voice also, and at the same time, urged this course upon the government as the only consistent one in view of the action already taken by the government and of its pledges to the people. To the convention the premier replied on behalf of the government in the following note:

Rev. E. J. Chegwin, Secretary Manitoba
Branch Dominion Alliance, City:

Winnipeg, Jan. 15, 1902.

Rev. and Dear Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of yours of even date, asking an answer to the requests that were made to the government and legislature to-day, jointly, by the representatives of your body and those of the Ministerial association of the city. In reply beg to say that after carefully considering the statements made to-day by members of the Ministerial association and the Dominion Alliance, the government, after consulting with their supporters in caucus, still believe it is desirable that a referendum should be held, such referendum deciding the

fate of the Act, the government pledging to the strict enforcement of the Act, if so brought into force by the referendum. I have the honor to be your obedient servant.

(Sgd.) R. P. ROBLIN.

The Alliance, after some consideration of this reply, appointed a committee to prepare a suitable finding, which reads as follows:

"Moved by Rev. Joseph Hogg, seconded by J. J. Ring, Esq. Whereas "the convention has expressed itself "already by unanimous resolution "against the so-called referendum in "the case of the Liquor Act, and "Whereas such a referendum has been "finally decided upon by the government, therefore resolved we recommend:

"That the temperance people of "this province ignore this referendum "and abstain from polling their votes "thereon. And that the executive "committee be instructed to prepare "for distribution a fuller statement "of the principles and considerations "which have guided us to this conclusion."

In all that great convention not more than six could be counted as voting against the above resolution and upon further motion this became the unanimous finding of the meeting.

According to the instructions of the Alliance we now give you the considerations which induced them to adopt the resolution to ignore the so-called referendum.

The prohibitory liquor law now on our statute book is a government