

GREY.—A Convention called for the east riding of Grey, met at Flesherton on the 17th. Mr. Sing, of Meaford, briefly stated that the object of the meeting was to complete the organization for the obtaining of the necessary number of names of the ratepayers, and to organize the different municipalities. He stated that his position as Collector of Customs prevented him taking as active a part as he would like, yet he would work for the Scott Act, and he believed it would carry in the County of Grey. The chairman called upon the delegates from the different parts, who gave very encouraging reports. After complete organization, it was decided to ask the County Secretary to hold another Convention at some central place in the county; and that Mr. F. S. Spence, Secretary Dominion Alliance, be requested to deliver an address on the Scott Act at an early date.

WELLINGTON AND GUELPH.—The Scott Act agitation in Wellington county, Ont., is on the increase, and there should be no relaxation of efforts now put forward until victory perches upon the banners of the army. At a recent convention of the temperance delegates held in Fergus in that county, the hotel-keepers closed their doors to the delegates. In one case three ladies without escort had the doors of the hotels shut in their faces and the stables closed against their horses. The hotel-keepers showed their true colors in thus doing. Men who fatten upon the ruin of their fellows might be expected to act in such a manner. Their action was an insult, not to the delegates, but to the good name of Fergus, a place whose hospitality to visitors is a proverb. None of the delegates were allowed to suffer any but a temporary inconvenience. They were cared for by the people of Fergus with true fellowship. The meeting was a very encouraging one; by a standing vote it was unanimously resolved to submit the Scott Act in Wellington county and Guelph city. The result has given Wellington the nucleus of an army of workers who know no such word as fail. The Scott Act is certain to be carried in the end, and the cry is "agitate! agitate!" The Guelph Christian Temperance Club, after conferring, has expressed the opinion that the people of the city are prepared to adopt the Scott Act.—*War Notes.*

ARTHABASKA, P. Q.—If Parliament or people want an expression of public sentiment on the liquor question, let them study yesterday's vote in Arthabaska County, for the result will be an eye-opener, even to many friends of temperance. The splendid majority of 1,252 does not tell the whole story. Neither does the small adverse vote of 235 tell it. Six to one is a striking victory, but that is not all the question. Deduct from 235 all there are in a whole county who are pecuniarily interested in the traffic, and those who are under the bad influence and evil power of the trafficker, and what have you for an exhibit of public opinion in favor of license? Compare with that small showing the large number who were prompt to take this the first opportunity offered them to demand prohibition, and we have clear evidence of a public sentiment all for prohibition. Much as is told by mere numbers there is more emphasis in the character behind them. On the one side is strongly represented the best the county can produce. If, on the other side, there were a single respectable representative of a respectable class he has not the proud satisfaction of being in an honorable minority, but rather the shame of having chosen to stand alone in the bad company of self-interest, degradation and purchased manhood. Know that all the support Arthabaska could afford to uphold license has been called out by desperate self-interest, and, therefore, the liquor traffic in Arthabaska has shown its full strength. Remember that where self-interest is not present it is a human failing to be apathetic, and therefore, that if more strength were wanted to deal a death blow to a recognized evil Arthabaska has more to draw upon.

#### NOTABLE POINTS.

Arthabaska is the first county in the Province of Quebec to adopt the Scott Act. It was submitted in the adjoining county of Megantic and lost by a vote 341 to 372, and by the county of Stanstead and lost by a vote of 941 to 760. Arthabaska thus occupies the proud position of being first and she has earned the gratitude of workers all over Canada for her yeoman service in sweeping the field as she has done.

Arthabaska is the first county in the Province to submit the Act since it was declared constitutional and the agitation has been renewed. The counties of Stanstead and Megantic had submitted the Act under the more adverse circumstances of constitutional doubt. Let it be noted here that the majority for the Act now in Artha-

baska (1,252) is nearly double the combined adverse majorities in both the counties of Stanstead and Megantic then, (650.)

Arthabaska is almost wholly a Catholic county. A gentleman in one of its villages saw an extract from an Ontario paper wherein it was claimed that for this reason the Scott Act would not pass in the county! Do we all know that the father of this "Canada Temperance Act," the Hon. R. W. Scott, of Ottawa, is a Roman Catholic? A Catholic priest informs the writer that the Catholic clergy are all warm friends of temperance. On the other hand, a Scotchman was this day complaining here that some of the Ontario Scotch Presbyterians were still "foolishly prating about individual liberty, forbidding men to use the good creatures of God," &c. Catholic Arthabaska suggested to herself the attempt to obtain prohibition, and to her religious teachers does she owe the large vote. Let Protestant Ontario know, for the encouragement of her moral community, and a warning to her liquor advocates, that Catholic Quebec, like herself, has suffered from intemperance to the limits of endurance, and she, too, may be counted upon to do her part in the hard conflict that is upon us.

Religious differences were forgotten in the campaign just ended. The writer has a letter from one of the priests equally earnest with his *confreres*, unreservedly expressing his thankfulness for certain slight aid that was offered him, and welcoming any help that could be given, making no suggestion of creed, distinction or place. There has been the ready fellowship that grows from a sense of present danger and the warm feeling that comes of a common purpose.

Arthabaska has been somewhat notorious for the drinking habits of her people. Residents in adjoining counties were slow to believe that she could do herself any credit in what seemed to be a new role in which she was ill-fitted to act. But this drunkenness from which she was suffering has disgusted and sickened the thinking portion, and all were glad to do something that gave promise of relief.

It is interesting to note that Drummond, of which Arthabaska then formed a part, was first to elect Judge Dunkin who gave old Canada the Dunkin Act, the fore-runner of the Scott Act. It was bread cast upon the waters. The example of the success of the Dunkin Act, on the borders of Arthabaska, and, perhaps, the help of friends who had fought to enforce that Act, had something to do in preparing for the good result we note.

Among the friends and workers were two resident members of Parliament—Hon. W. Laurier and D. O. Bourbeau. The latter represents the county, and the former was once a representative, but is now member for Quebec East. Neither of these gentlemen voted on the Alliance resolutions at Ottawa last winter. Give them a chance next session.

#### WHAT GAINED THE BATTLE.

Hard work had its usual place here. Thorough organization, in some places at least, and the circulation of literature had a good effect. The influence of the clergy, who spoke with no uncertain sound was very great. Bishop Latteche when making his pastoral tour through the county recently, spoke strongly for temperance. Some of the municipalities had already taken the life of the thing in their midst. There was successful municipal prohibition in Warwick, parts of Tngwick and elsewhere in the county. This was important, as in such places there were no local interests to oppose the new law. Open bars and dealers behind them who wore fearful their occupation would be gone, would have had a bad effect on poor human nature.

The weather was especially favorable. Had people been haying at this season, which is usually so busy, they would not have come out in such numbers, although there is no doubt the Act would have carried. The rain for days past has kept the farmers out of the hay fields. Voting day the weather cleared up, not enough for hay-making, but enough to send the voters out to the polls, cheered by the bright sunshine that seemed to smile on the good work.

#### AN INCIDENT.

The liquor interest had enlisted, in opposition to the temperance effort, a brawny lover of the fiery liquid, and sent him out with the necessary quantity of the stuff to fortify weak supporters of the traffic, or weaken strong supporters of the Scott Act. Before he had made his tour and returned he had shown the courage of his own convictions by getting "dead drunk" himself. He furnished an illustration of the merit of his advocacy hardly profitable to his patrons. They paid too dear for wetting so many whistles.

#### HOPED FOR RESULTS.

Other counties will take courage and work with more hope.