

The Temperance Worker

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1.

THE SCOTT ACT CAMPAIGN.

TWELVE OUT OF THIRTEEN contests this year have resulted in victory for prohibition and the Scott Act. Five more elections will have been held before this number reaches our readers. Bruce, Dufferin, Huron and Prince Edward in Ontario, and York in New Brunswick, are voting on Thursday, 30th October. Renfrew votes on the 7th of November, and Norfolk on the 11th. You who live in other counties, help with your prayers.

A DEFEAT AND ITS LESSONS.—The Scott Act has been defeated, in the county of Peel, by a majority of 198. While extremely regretting that even one county should doom itself to be the victim of a licensed liquor traffic for three years to come, the defeat will undoubtedly have a good effect. Victory after victory always has a tendency to make the victors overconfident. This was, no doubt, the case in Peel, where the hotel-keepers' organ had itself been speaking as if theirs was a hopeless case. The friends of temperance all over the country will only be stirred up by this reverse to take every precaution against more such. Every weak point must be seen to. Every organization must be complete and in thorough working order. Not only must there be plenty of light given, in public meetings or in campaign literature, but every possible vote must be polled. Let not one voter be allowed to stay at home for want of means to reach the polling station.

EVERYONE MAY HELP in this great contest, by distributing cheap temperance literature. Send one dollar to John Dougall & Son, Montreal, and you will receive twenty copies of *War Notes* every week for three months, or sixty copies a week for one month, or 250 copies of any single number. *War Notes* is full of the most indispensable and interesting facts and arguments.

TORONTO.—The employees of business houses, public offices, etc., in Toronto, are having private contests on the Scott Act question, and most of them declare in favor of the Act by considerable majorities. Organization for the great contest in this city is steadily progressing. At a meeting of the Toronto Temperance Electoral Union, it was resolved "that it is desirable that steps should be taken to submit the Scott Act in Toronto, and that the Executive Committee be instructed to solicit subscriptions and make preparations for the carrying on of the campaign." It is understood that the Executive will at once organize a series of ward meetings to discuss the question, and other active steps will be taken in the preliminary work of the contest.

LAMBTON.—In this county the prospects are much brighter than ever before. In some places, reports say that more than fifty percent have signed the petition. In Bridgen and surrounding country the canvasser says he has only met about a dozen refusals. It is expected an overwhelming majority will be rolled up in favor of the Scott Act. There was never the same interest taken in the matter in any previous campaign.—*Bridgen Beadle.*

A correspondent writes as follows: "The second vote on the Scott Act in this county was defeated because it was brought on in another arbitrary way, when the constitution-

ality of the act was before the English Privy Council undecided; that was the great reason of its defeat, as we would take no interest in a matter that might go against us,—but Lambton will do her full duty next time, never fear!"

ARGENTVILLE.—The Scott Act is wanted in this county. It will encounter great opposition at first, till the electors are thoroughly informed on this question—particularly on the difference between the Dunkin and Scott Act.

AN OAKVILLE (Halton) bar-room has been turned into a flour and feed store. That's good!

KINGSTON.—The temperance wave is spreading in the old granite city. The Mayor presided at a meeting when the Scott Act campaign was opened, and a hundred persons took the pledge and donned the blue ribbon.

WELLINGTON.—In the town of Harriston the Scott Act petition was signed by half the largest number of voters who have taken part in any previous election, and many will vote right who did not care to sign.—Meetings are being held all over Minto township.

RICHMOND.—The *Richmond Times* is strongly in favor of the Scott Act for this county. It says that the voters of Shipton and Danville are so well protected by the Dunkin Act that they do not care to help make prohibition effective in the rest of the county. This won't do. When you know what a good thing prohibition is, you ought to be the more anxious for your neighbors to share it. Scott Act for Richmond!

GREY.—The *Owen Sound Times* says that the Scott Act petition is found not to contain the required one-fourth of the present voters of the county, and the new canvass rendered necessary will keep the Act from coming into force before 1886.

VICTORIA AND PETERBOROUGH.—"It has been hinted that Victoria and Peterborough counties are to be tried next, with what chances of success remains to be seen. Our hotel keepers have however one year before it can be submitted now, and are disposed to take the defeat of their friends elsewhere more coolly than they otherwise would."—*Victoria Warder.*

THE FIRST TWO CASES under the Scott Act in Yarmouth, N.S., have ended in convictions. Thomas Carter and F. J. Major have each been fined \$50, and a second (or hundred-dollar) fine is registered against Major. The county temperance convention has appointed a prosecuting officer, Mr. D. C. Weston, and there is to be no lukewarm enforcement of the law in Yarmouth!

RENFREW is the next constituency to vote on the Scott Act question; and we have reason to believe that the people of Renfrew will appreciate the greatness of the question on which they have to decide: Rumshop on one side, with all the blighting influences that come from it; Home and God on the other side. As an English brewer said, this is a contest between heaven and hell. Which side will get your vote?

QUEBEC.—*Le Canadien*, one of the most influential journals of Quebec, has come out strongly in favor of the Scott Act in that city.

KENT AND PERTH.—The government has decided to lay the objections against the Kent and Perth petitions before the Supreme Court on the 28th of November.

LENOX AND ADDINGTON.—At a meeting of the Scott Act Committee in Nanapanee it was reported that the petitions were almost

completed, and contained considerably more than the required number of names. An attempt is being made to get a polling day before 1st of December.

PRESCOTT AND RUSSELL.—The Vankleek Hill correspondent of the *Montreal Witness* writes: "At a meeting of the temperance workers, held in the Congregational Church, Mr. James Boyd, merchant of this place, gave a rousing speech in favor of the Act. He urged the necessity of immediate action by prayer, by work and by vote. He cited cases in our very midst where liquor had done its daily and deadly work. It was moved by A. McInnis, seconded by the Rev. J. Ferguson, and resolved: "Inasmuch as funds are needed to carry on the Scott Act campaign in these united counties, that we at this meeting open a subscription list for that purpose, and that the mover and Mr. McEwing, the chairman, constitute a committee to further solicit subscriptions to be forwarded to the central committee at West Hawkesbury's share of expenses." The handsome sum of \$131.50 was subscribed on the spot. The petitions in these counties are nearly ready for presentation. They have been well signed, and there is no doubt but that the Act will be carried in Prescott and Russell by a sweeping majority. The executive committee meets soon to make final arrangements.

TAKE CARE not to mark your ballot so as to give the lie to your prayers.

AN EXPERIMENT, AND A PROPHECY.

Mr. Peter M'Lagan M. P., speaking at the recent annual meeting of the Permissive Bill association of Scotland, said: "About the middle of the last century, the loss to the nation from death and disease due entirely to excessive drinking was quite alarming, and fears were actually entertained that in a score of years the common people of the Metropolis would exterminate themselves. Crime of all sorts flourished, and the most stringent measures were taken to suppress, or, at all events, reduce the prevailing drunkenness. It was then enacted that distillers should neither retail themselves nor sell spirituous liquors to unlicensed retailers, all debts for drink were made irrecoverable, and liberty of magistrates was restricted in issuing licences, and public-houses were subjected to severe regulations. And when, a few years after, the country was threatened by a famine, an Act was passed prohibiting all exportation of grain and the distillation of spirits.

Now mark the effects of this prohibition. After this Act had been in operation for two years an attempt was made to repeal it, when petitions flowed in from all parts of the country praying that that part of it prohibiting distillation should be made perpetual, showing the beneficial effects of the Act on the health and morals of the people, and declaring that the liquor shops had been proved to be the harbors of highwaymen and thieves; and that since the prohibition the laboring classes had been more sober, healthy, and industrious. That was the effect of prohibition then. That would be the effect of prohibition now, if our Veto Bill were to pass. And yet some of our wise men say that what we ask for is Utopian. Prohibition has been once the law of the land; it will be so again.

A YOUNG PRINCE-EDWARD-ISLANDER named Cameron went to Winnipeg, and on Monday last got drunk for the first time. Poor fellow, it was once too often! He was shot dead by the keeper of a disreputable house.

EVIDENCE FROM AUSTRALIA.

O great King Drink, King Alcohol, or whatever your majesty likes to call yourself—however varied the mountain of crimes that compose your throne, you may yet boast that your government, in all ages and in every land, is carried on with a consistency and immutability, in method and in results, putting in the shade the most unchangeable code ever devised by the Medes and Persians! You have established your kingdom firmly even in Australia, and you are already exacting a heavy tribute of blood and money from that young country.

A Sydney minister, the Rev. F. B. Boyce, writes that with a population of only 817,000, New South Wales had a black year's record of 50,100 convictions, and of these no less than 22,400 were directly caused by drinking. The *Sydney Morning Herald* says: "If out of 50,100 convictions we take 3,500 representing offences against property, nearly all the rest may be put to the credit of intemperance."

And Mr. Justice Dowling, in the court at Newcastle, expressed himself as follows: "He was perhaps the oldest Judge in the colony, and had probably tried more criminal cases in New South Wales than any other man. Since 1849 he had sat either as a judge or police magistrate, and was in a position to know what was the cause of our goils being so full. He had not any hesitation in saying the cause was the drunken habits of our communities. He said this advisedly, not being a teetotaler, and not having any wish to run a tilt against any man. He felt convinced that if nine-tenths of the colony's public-houses were closed, he, as a criminal judge, would soon have nothing to do, and the goils of the country would be almost empty."

"PERSONAL LIBERTY is in danger," shout the liquor-sellers. Have they personal liberty to keep a gambling house, or a house of immorality? Has he personal liberty to sell, or even to show, immoral books or pictures? Has he personal liberty to keep a dangerous dog? More than that,—are not 499 out of every 500 of us already deprived of our personal liberty to sell liquor? Then why, in the name of common sense, should we not deprive the 500th man of the same amount of liberty which we have ourselves given up, if we consider that the country would be immensely benefitted by placing the liquor-selling business along with the other offensive trades that we have mentioned?

IN HALTON GAOL.—During the recent prohibition campaign in Halton, the Rev. D. V. Lucas paid a visit to the county gaol, and carefully examined the books. He found that the decrease in the inmates in the last twelve months was no less than 40 percent. Mr. Lucas continues: "The only incarcerated inmate at present and for the past six weeks is an insane woman. Mr. Van Allen kindly took me all through. He (the gaoler) says the Scott Act has wrought a wonderful change; they never were so long before at any one time without prisoners. Prior to the Act he has had as many as twelve drunk and disorderlies all in at one time. Such a thing has never occurred since the Act came into force, nor does he think it possible such a thing could occur while the Act continues in force."

TWO STEAMERS from Genoa with 400 passengers for South America have arrived at Buenos Ayres. The government of the Argentine Republic will not allow them to land, and the Italian consul may make trouble.

THE HUNGARIAN from New York released.

AN ATTEMPT to train carryings but fortunate.

AN ASYLUM \$600,000, has a Jewish school in Montefiore, completed his last week.

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