

the Dominion Parliament has power to prohibit the liquor traffic by virtue of its jurisdiction over matters affecting trade and commerce, no decision has yet asserted that the local legislatures have not similar power arising out of their right to legislate upon other matters, as for example, in the interests of order, public morality, etc. In fact the Ontario Legislature has virtually asserted its right to exercise this power, by the Ontario Temperance Act, which delegates such power to municipal councils, and ratepayers, and also by the License Law amendment Act of 1884 which delegates, to a majority of electors in any polling sub-division, the right to prevent the issue of licenses therein. In fact a few weeks ago the township council of Belmont and Methuen passed a by-law prohibiting the issue of licenses in that municipality. Under these circumstances it would seem that the provincial legislatures could provide for prohibiting the issue of licenses in any municipality by a majority vote of ratepayers. Such a vote could be provided for in connection with the municipal elections, at very small expense, and with great advantage to many localities.

THE QUESTION OF A PLEBISCITE was thoroughly discussed by the Convention. A resolution on the matter was submitted by the Committee on Legislation and the proposal was emphatically negatived. The views of our friends on this matter have been somewhat misrepresented by a section of the press. The Alliance rejected the *plebiscite* proposal, because in the first place the necessity for it no longer exists, in the second place it would involve delay in the final settlement of the prohibition question, and in the third place it would divert the energies of our workers from the present useful Scott Act agitation, and would so lead to the abandonment of work that now practically secures prohibition, for an agitation that, at best, could only secure a mere expression of opinion on the question of prohibition. All that could be gained by a *plebiscite* is being now gained by Scott Act work with the additional advantage, that in thus securing an expression of sentiment, we are also securing actual and effective local prohibition.

Some years ago temperance men asked for a direct *plebiscite*; the request was refused and we accepted the Scott Act as an alternative. We have now through the Scott Act taken a *plebiscite* in fifty-six cities and counties and are getting ready to take it in many more. Organizations are formed, money is subscribed, literature is prepared; good has been done and is being done. Temperance sentiment could not be any more clearly or strongly expressed in any other way. We do not want a *plebiscite*, we know what public sentiment is. Parliament needs no *plebiscite* to inform it of that sentiment. Then why should a proposal be entertained, the carrying out of which would not place us in any better position, but would effectually impede our progress and ensure unnecessary delay? The time has now come for our legislators to abandon any policy of procrastination on this question. An emphatic statement has been made that parliament "is of the opinion, that the right and most effectual legislative remedy for the evils of intemperance is to be found in the enactment and enforcement of a law prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes. And this House is prepared, so soon as public opinion will sufficiently sustain stringent measures, to promote such legislation, so far as the same is within the competency of the Parliament of Canada."

If our legislators are not prepared to redeem that pledge, we must not at any rate ask them to assume that all that we have said and done means nothing, and that we now want an opportunity to express our real sentiment. It is the duty of all prohibitionists, not merely to avoid making, but determinedly to resist, any such unfair and unreasonable proposal.

THE REPORT OF THE LITERATURE COMMITTEE was an unusually extensive and carefully prepared document. Many delegates were much impressed with the immense amount of work that had been accomplished at a very small cost. The plans proposed by the committee and endorsed by the convention ought to commend themselves to the support of every friend of the prohibitory movement. The large success of Scott Act work during the past year was largely due to the extensive circulation of carefully prepared literature, and workers in coming contests should see that this important branch of their work receives the attention that it merits.

THE NEWLY ELECTED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE is composed of the very best and most advanced workers and thinkers of the province. In the election of officers there was nothing in the shape of anxiety or effort to secure position, and at the same time there was no hesitation or reluctance, on the part of any one, to undertake any work that the convention thought fit to assign him. The whole proceedings were characteristic of the present position of our great movement and full of promise of still greater things to come.

#### ROYAL TEMPLARS.

The large number of delegates and representatives from the Councils of this new temperance order, which attended the Ontario Alliance Convention last week, reminds us of its importance and its wonderful development. One gentleman remarked in the Convention that he did not know before that the Royal Templars Order was a prohibition society, and in view of the fact that the institution is the growth of a few years, some allowance can be made for the remark, but we venture to say that for the future such ignorance will be inexcusable in a temperance man. The peculiar feature of the Order is the beneficiary plan, providing weekly benefits and medical attendance to its members during sickness, and a sum of from \$500 to \$2,000 to the families of deceased members. The payments upon benefits are made monthly, and as none but total abstainers participate, the cost is reduced very much below societies which take non-abstainers. This beneficiary feature wins to the Order many substantial members, and gives it a degree of solidity and permanency not enjoyed by any simple temperance society. The Order is, however, pre-eminently a temperance and prohibition organization, with its doors open to every man and woman willing to aid our common cause. Only those who desire to participate in the benefits are assessed to support that branch of the Order.

Less than three years ago the first Grand Council in Canada was organized in Ontario, there being at that time about 700 members in the jurisdiction. To-day there are Grand Councils in Ontario, New Brunswick and Manitoba, and Select Councils in every province of the Dominion and in Newfoundland, with a membership safely estimated at 5,000. The Dominion Council which has jurisdiction over British North America, manages the beneficiary department, and in the last three months of 1884 issued upwards of 1,500 certificates representing in death benefits \$2,000,000. Manitoba Grand Council met last week in Winnipeg and reported a membership in the Province of about 1,000, growing from 150 a year ago. Ontario Grand Council will meet in Toronto on the 10th of Feb. In December, the Order was introduced into British Columbia and Prince Edward Island. A bright and well edited monthly is published by the Dominion Council, and a copy full of information about the Order may be obtained by addressing the Canadian Royal Templar, Hamilton, Ont.

#### POLLINGS FIXED.

REMEMBER THE WORKERS IN YOUR PRAYERS.  
Durham & Northumberland. .Feb. 26 | Drummond, Que. . .Mar. 5th