

the speeches a unanimous resolution was adopted approving of the adoption of the Scott Act in the county, and pledging personal and united effort to carry out that object.

Selected Articles.

THE COMING STRUGGLE.

This year is likely to be specially noted for a deadly struggle between the Prohibition and liquor parties in Ontario. Prohibitionists are closing up the ranks of the various temperance elements, and as far as possible making their union perfect. They have been greatly encouraged by the measure of success which has attended the operation of the Scott Act in this county during the past two years, and are working with a spirit of vigor and earnestness unparalleled in the history of the temperance movement in this province. The overwhelming majority in favor of the act in Oxford county recently has also done much towards increasing their zeal and filling their breasts with brighter hopes for the future. This unanimity of thought and prompt responsive action seems to have awakened the liquor party to a lively apprehension of the danger in store for it, and the "sinews of war" have been thrown out before the public eyes with a flourish quite characteristic of the inwardness of the whole business. This premonitory symptom of a conflict between right and principle, and the good of the human race on the one hand, and a lucrative though demoralizing trade on the other, is but the prelude to one of the severest and most uncompromising struggles ever known. Philanthropists appeal to the higher, nobler instincts of men's natures for their verdict upon the traffic now arraigned for trial, but the traffic appeals to what? Money! This constitutes their "sinews of war." A few thousand dollars are to be spent in each constituency for the purpose of fighting the Scott Act. No, not fighting the Scott Act; but fighting against the principles which elevate men, which lift them out of a bondage worse than slavery, and from a mental, moral, and social desolation appalling as it has been disastrous. In one end of the scale which justice, blindfolded, holds in her hands, we place (1) the sacred ties which bind men to home, family and friends; (2) virtue, honor, peace, prosperity, contentment, happiness; (3) every temperance organization in the land; (4) all the churches (with a few painful exceptions); and (5) the earnest, pleading heart-rending cries of the irreclaimable drunkard for liberty from a thralldom worse than death. What shall be put in the other end of the scale? What is there available that can be placed there? Nothing but money! This is the only portion of the assets which can be safely put in, the remainder is not comely to look upon. Money is the omnipotent thing, and is supposed by its devotees to outweigh the contents of the other end of the scale. What an estimate the liquor interest makes of the strength of its adversaries when it presumes to enter the conflict having for its sole weapon a few thousand dollars in money! Is this to be its sole argument? It indeed seems to be so. There is no doubt that were there anything better we would hear of it. But money was tried in Oxford and to little purpose save in the towns and villages. Much of it was used in corruptly influencing those who could be bought, and some was squandered on a few public speakers who were dear at any price. The liquor party anticipated a victory by a majority of four or five hundred, but were confronted on the night of the election by a majority of nearly 800 on the other side. So that the omnipotent influences they put to work there are hardly likely to prove any more powerful elsewhere.—*Halton News*.

THE SCOTT ACT IN HALTON.

"The second year of the Scott Act reign has expired, and during the past year it has been clearly and satisfactorily demonstrated that the Scott Act can be enforced so as to very greatly decrease the consumption of intoxicating beverages, and this fact is continually growing more patent to every mind. That the Act has in no way injured business, our merchants are (almost without exception) willing and ready to testify. Business has not left the country because whiskey is gone. Our farmers would consider it an insult if any one dared to say that because whiskey was banished they would go out of Halton and do business where it could be obtained. The

treating system, the curse of the liquor traffic, is entirely wiped out. It has cost the county nothing to enforce the Act, the fines being more than sufficient to meet the expenses incurred in its enforcement. The following results have already been achieved:—1. The Act can be enforced; 2. Business is not injured; 3. Treating system is killed; 4. There are no shebeens; 5. Costs the country nothing to enforce the Act; 6. Drinking and drunkenness very materially decreased; 7. The people of our county very generally satisfied with the Act. We are now entering upon the third year under the Scott Act, but we have not the slightest apprehension that it will be the last year. During the first six months after the Act came into force considerable was said about its repeal. Lately, however, nothing has been heard on that subject, and we feel almost satisfied that no further action will take place in that direction. But in case the matter is taken up, there is certainly no prospect whatever of a repeal of the Act. Where prohibition has once been fairly and practically tried, the people would almost as soon think of licensing murder or any other crime, as the liquor traffic, who, while asserting that prohibitory laws do not prohibit, yet in their own interests oppose prohibitory laws" *Acton Free Press*

"THE LIVING ISSUE."

BY REV. A. A. PHELPS.

Words are signs of ideas. A name often represents a significant fact. The above phrase is a grand heading for a reform paper for it calls attention to something radical and vital as distinguished from what is trifling and commonplace.

How sad the spectacle presented by the great political parties of the day—wasting countless treasures of time, talent, and money on technicalities and trifles, while humanity groans under its burden of unalleviated suffering and giant evils stalk forth with desolating tread!

Political orators have often felt the want of some great inspiration not supplied by anything in their party platform. They have longed for some living question to enthuse their hearts and electrify their lips. If the enthusiasm arising from their personal acrimony and secondary considerations were abstracted from political pugilists, the fire would go out for lack of fuel. What is more pitiable than a great organization or movement that has no vital principle—no grand issue—no soul to give sparkle and power to its utterances and actions?

But there is an issue that is as grand as it is vital, and it is taking on fresh importance every day. It is the stupendous question, whether rum shall rule and ruin the country, or whether our nation will arise in its majesty and throttle this ghastly desolator of human hopes and homes. This is emphatically a *living* issue, and it is destined to become more and more so for years to come. The question is up to stay. Political tricksters deplore the fact, but they have no power to suppress the rising tide. Public conscience is beginning to awake to the terrible criminality of legalized traffic in tears and blood. When it becomes fully aroused, look out for thunderbolts of an indignant people, falling in vengeful ruin upon the drunkard factories of our imperiled country.

What is the tariff question compared to this? Our legislatures spend months of time and millions of money in discussing rivers, harbors, forests, fences, lines, fish, birds, dogs, and a thousand other subjects, but they have seemed to be little concerned for the improvement of human stock or the protection of society against the most destructive foe that ever invaded the home circle. The liquor oligarchy has largely succeeded in buying up and scaring out the men who ought to have hurled their thunders against this arrogant destroyer. But, thank God, some heroic souls are rising up to grapple this giant foe, and their voices and votes are sending consternation among the ranks of liquordom.

The war has begun. Look out for lively times the next five years. Men and women are waking up to the magnitude of this question. Communities are waking up to appreciate the ravages of rum. Temperance societies are waking up to see that something more is demanded than glittering regalia and routine ceremonies. Churches are waking up to see that a religion which apologizes for rum is a sham religion. Editors, ministers and legislators are waking up to an issue that is every way worthy of them. State after state, province after province, county after county, will join a square issue, fight a hot battle; and achieve a signal victory. Let the agitation go on. It is both hopeful and helpful.