

REPORT OF THE NOVA SCOTIA BRANCH.

(Received too late to be presented at the annual meeting of the Dominion Council).

Alliance work in this Province during the past year has been carried on with as much activity as could be desired, but the friends of our cause have been assiduously devoting themselves to the pushing forward of the work of the different temperance organizations, and building up a strong, healthy public sentiment which will tell powerfully in enabling us to hold what we have won and go on to further conquests.

On June 26th, 1885, the Scott Act was voted upon in the County of Guysboro', and carried by a majority of 239. This makes thirteen Scott Act counties in this Province. Active efforts looking towards the submission of the Act are being made in the Counties of Lunenburg and Halifax, and in the city of Halifax. The thirteen counties in Nova Scotia which have adopted the Scott Act contain a population of 289,000, and are represented in the Dominion House of Commons by fifteen members.

Hitherto it has been difficult to get the different counties of the Province into line with this Provincial Branch, very few having yet become affiliated with it. At the annual meeting, however, of the Branch in November last, a new constitution was adopted providing machinery for the better combining of our forces, and there are good prospects that shortly Nova Scotia counties will present a thoroughly solid, organized and united front in the prohibition fight. The meeting just mentioned was of special interest, and its results will tell on the prohibitory history of this Province.

During the year a great deal of trouble was experienced in enforcing the law, one chief cause being the numerous appeals taken against convictions secured, and the great delay in obtaining decisions thereon in the Supreme Court. Another cause was the uncertainty arising from the controversy over the constitutionality of the McCarthy Act. Both of these difficulties have been to a great extent removed, and we look for good enforcement results in the near future.

At the annual meeting a great many important questions came up for consideration. The plan of organization already referred to, submitted by the Secretary, was carefully considered and adopted, as were also the following resolutions, which clearly state the platform and principles of this Alliance, and the sentiment of our temperance workers:—

"That all temperance men in Nova Scotia make the destruction of the liquor traffic the primary question at the polls."

"That the temperance forces be organized in every county and electoral district of the Province on the lines laid down by this Alliance."

"That temperance men, as temperance men duly organized, attend caucuses and secure the nomination and election of such candidate for municipal, provincial, and Dominion honors, as are in thorough sympathy with prohibition, and will on all occasions use their influence in favor, and vote for prohibition."

"That party allegiance should not prevent any temperance man from casting his vote in favor of prohibition and a prohibitionist, when the candidate of the party is not sound on the prohibition question."

"That we continue to urge the adoption of the Canada Temperance Act upon all the counties of this Province, and to aim at the time when the temperance sentiment shall be strong enough to demand prohibition of Parliament."

"That this Alliance, while not unmindful of the services rendered the temperance reform by the Senate of Canada in the Scott Act, cannot but deplore its action last winter in its support of the Almon amendment. The adoption of this amendment would have destroyed the work of the last half century, and rendered useless the best efforts of temperance men."

"That the course of the Senate last winter is calculated to press on the attention of the people of Canada the non-elective and irresponsible nature of that body by which it is enabled to defy public opinion."

"That in any temperance legislation this meeting is of opinion that recent appointments to the Senate have not been of a character calculated to raise that body in the estimation of the people of Canada, and that until such time as the Senate is reformed, none should be appointed to seats therein but persons favorable to the total prohibition of the liquor traffic. That a committee be appointed to urge these views on the Government, and to assure them that they (the Government) shall be held responsible for all future appointments."