

Reference is made to the License Act as follows:—

Your executive, assisted by the executives of the I.O.G.T., and the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance, prepared a series of amendments which we desired to have made to the Crooks' License Act, in order to increase its efficiency as a restrictive measure. Those amendments were presented to the Attorney-General and the Hon. Mr. Hardy by a very influential deputation, with what success you are already aware. Suffice it to say that the Crooks' License Act as amended is as near perfection as license Acts are ever likely to be, and if our ultimate aim was the perfection of the license system we might congratulate ourselves on the attainment of our ambition. Happily for humanity, such has not been our aim; while we have been willing to aid in any legislation which would help to minimize the evil, we have never lost sight of the fact that prohibition is the only safe, sure and speedy remedy for the evils resulting from the use of intoxicating liquors. Recent events have shown unmistakably that no license law, however good or however well enforced, will satisfy the desire of the people of this province, and it is a gratifying proof of the intelligence of our citizens that so many of them are to be found ready to vote in favor of prohibitory legislation. Not the least of the indications of popular feeling is that shown by the recent vote taken by the ratepayers of Toronto, in order to secure the separation of the sale of liquors from groceries. The moral effects of the victory gained on that occasion has been felt in every portion of the Dominion.

The G. W. P. makes the following reference and suggestions in regard to the Scott Act:

In response to a call to action made by the Ontario Alliance at its last annual session, twenty-five counties in this province have taken the initiatory steps toward submitting the Scott Act to a vote, in their several municipalities, at as early a date as possible. And there are other counties willing to pursue the same course, if so desired, by the Alliance Executive. We have every reason to expect success in all the counties engaged in the contest at present, and nothing but gross mismanagement or criminal indifference on the part of the friends of temperance can defeat the measure in the several counties grouped by the Alliance.

I desire that the attention of the Grand Division should be given to this matter, and that such action may be taken by us now as will tend to strengthen the hands of the executive of the Ontario Alliance and enable them to carry out successfully the work they have inaugurated.

At no time in the history of the temperance cause in this country has there been a greater necessity for wise counsel to prevail at our deliberation. The whole power of the liquor traffic is in arms to oppose the passage of the Scott Act wherever submitted. A very large sum of money has been subscribed (by those interested in the traffic) towards a general fund in order to secure the defeat of the measure at the polls. The verdict is with the people, and it should be our duty to so educate them as to enable them to give an intelligent vote on the question when submitted.

I would recommend the following suggestion to the careful consideration of the members of the Grand Division, viz., that a sum of money be voted by this body to the Executive of the Alliance in order to enable them to carry out to a successful issue the work they have undertaken, and that the Grand Worthy Patriarch be authorized to issue a circular letter to the Subordinate Divisions urging them as a matter of duty to make a regular annual subscription to the funds of the Alliance. This is a matter which has, I think, been overlooked, and I believe only requires that the attention of our divisions be drawn to it in order to meet with a hearty response.

The report closes with the following remarks as to the duty of the members and the prospects for the future:

Briefly then, brethren, the present state of affairs in regard to temperance reform in the province is so very encouraging as to give us strong assurance that the good seed sown by the Order of the Sons of Temperance during the past thirty five years has not been in vain. And that when the reaping time comes it will be found that while the distillers and brewers have been making money, we have been making votes, and that the ballot in the hands of an intelligent electorate will speedily purge the country from all complicity in a traffic so thoroughly evil in all its influence, and demoralizing in its tendencies.

In the past the Order which we represent has been found ever foremost in the work of educating the people in favor of temperance and prohibition; for zeal and earnestness in the cause we have obtained an honorable record; and in the present crisis I feel confident that we will not bring discredit on the reputation we have obtained, but that each member will be found willing to do all that in him lays for the advancement of the good cause.

Mr. Thos. Webster, the Grand Scribe, followed with his half-yearly report which is necessarily of a statistical character. After referring to the progress of the order during the many years of its existence, he says:

"Since then public opinion, through the instrumentality of the Sons of Temperance and kindred societies, has blossomed out to such an extent that the question of total abstinence and the legal prohibition of the manu-

facture and sale of liquors have become the burning questions of the hour, and the time is rapidly approaching when we may approach the Dominion Parliament, and demand the passing of a Prohibitory Liquor law that will forever sweep the accursed drink traffic from our midst.

The returns made to the National Division is then referred to, showing an increase in membership for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1883, of over 1,200 members; the quarterly returns for the past four quarters are tabulated as follows:—

	1883 March.	1883 June.	1883 Sept.	1883 Dec.	1884 March.
Divisions making returns	116	129	140	144	162
No. of members report'd	5,140	6,087	6,184	6,449	6,768

Showing a net increase for the past year of 1,628 members.

About fifty divisions have failed to make returns for four quarters.

From the above it will be seen, that when compared with returns reported at our Semi-Annual Session last year, as well as for each subsequent quarter, there has been a large increase both in divisions making returns and also in the number of members.

Twenty-seven divisions have been organized during the first half of the present year, and two sections of cadets have been added to the juvenile auxiliary of the Order. Reference is made as follows to the lecture work:—

Our lecture work has been confined to the efforts of Sister Mrs. Susannah Evans Pech. As suggested in the supplement to my Annual Report, the services of this earnest and faithful advocate of our cause and order were retained during the winter months, and she held about sixty meetings in the counties of York, Ontario, Simcoe, Durham, Northumberland, Prince Edward, Peel, Halton, Wentworth, Waterloo, Brant, Lincoln and Welland. Her efforts were very successful and succeeded in creating a great interest in the work of the order. In most instances where arrangements had been made for meetings in localities where no Divisions existed Divisions were shortly afterwards organized. From letters received from members of the Order in places she visited, I learn that the labors of the sister were highly appreciated and her addresses well received. If her services can again be secured during the coming lecture season, I would recommend that such arrangements be made that she can visit as far as possible every county in the province, and lecture under the auspices of our District Division.

In concluding his report the Grand Scribe says:

Permit me to congratulate the Grand Division on the result of our labors during the first half of the present year. The membership has been largely increased, and a greater interest is manifested in the good work. Our prospects for the future are much brighter than they have been for many years past. The novelty of the new organizations is fast wearing away, and many who years ago abandoned the Sons of Temperance to join other societies are now coming back to their "first love."

Mr. Henry Alexander, of Ottawa, the Grand Treasurer, then presented his financial report for the past six months, from which it appears that the

Cash received (including that in hand, namely, \$494.04, on 1st January) amounted to.....	\$1,840 37
And the expenditure	\$1,507 61
Balance in hand	332 76
	\$1,840 37

The officers reports were referred to appropriate committees, who subsequently reported on the several suggestions contained therein. The sum of fifty dollars was appropriated to the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance, and it was also recommended that as suggested by the G. W. P., the Subordinate Divisions be requested to assist the Alliance by an annual subscription in carrying on the agitation for the passage of the Scott Act in different parts of Ontario, and also the instructions to the executive in regard to the lecture work for the present year, and also the instructions to the Grand Scribe to take special steps to promote the juvenile work.

The Finance Committee made a report congratulating the Grand Division on its present condition, the receipts for the present year being in excess of those of the previous year.

The Lecture Committee endorsed the work in Ontario during the past six months of Mrs. Susanna Evans Pech, of New York. They recommended the pushing of the lecture work during the coming fall and winter, as well as the employment of agents for the organizations of divisions throughout the province.

The reports were discussed thoroughly and adopted.

The Grand Division closed the labors of the session on the evening of the second day to meet in Annual Session in the City of Kingston, on Tuesday, 2nd Dec. next.

The public meeting on the first evening was held in the Ontario Hall, which was crowded to excess, the G.W.P. Bro. John McMillan presided. The speakers were P.G.W.P. J. W. Manning, of Almonte, and the Grand Chaplain, Rev. D. L. Brethour, of Milton. At the close of