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THE TEMPERANCE HERALD,

A WEEKLY FAMILY JOURNAL OF SOCIAL PROGRESS AND MORAL REFORM

"FREEDOM FOR THE RIGHT MEANS SUPPRESSION OF THE WRONG."

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ONWARD!

AGGRESSIVE ACTION STILL.

The Dominion Alliance--Annual Meeting of the Ontario Branch--A Rally of the Prohibitionists--They will Push for Prohibition--As well as Scott Act Amendment and Enforcement--Repeat Movement to be Vigorously Fought--A Rousing Meeting.

The Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance convened on Tuesday last in the Temperance Hall, Toronto, in its ninth annual meeting.

There was present a good attendance of delegates from different parts of the province. President, W. H. Howland, took charge of the meeting, and after appointing J. S. Robertson recording secretary, called upon Rev. M. Fawcett who opened the meeting with devotional exercises.

The president nominated as a business committee Messrs. MacLaren, Kettlewell, Chown, Robertson and Spence. The committee at once retired, and during its absence brief addresses were made by delegates.

In a few minutes the committee returned, reported an order of business, and the nomination of Committees on Law Enforcement, Legislation, Literature, Finance, Campaign Work, Political Action and Resolutions.

The report was adopted, and the meeting of earnest workers settled down to business.

Mr. J. J. MacLaren presented and read the following

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Your Executive Committee begs to respectfully submit to you the report of another year of work for the promotion of our common cause, and has much pleasure in doing so, in view of the fact that the year has been one of definite progress towards the attainment of total prohibition.

Parliamentary Action.

Shortly after your last convention, delegates from this branch of the Alliance, met at Ottawa, with other prohibition workers in the Council of the Dominion Alliance and decided that a wise line of action would be the introducing in the Dominion House of Commons, of a resolution in favor of total prohibition and having the same voted upon, that we might know exactly where the people's representatives stood. This proposal was carried out, and a resolution in accordance with it was voted upon on June 13th, 1887. The resolution was introduced by Mr. J. Jamieson, seconded by Mr. S. A. Fisher, and was negatived by a vote of 112 to 70.

We are pleased however to have to call your attention to the fact, that at the same time a proposal to strike the Scott Act from the statute books was defeated by a vote of 145 to 38, and a motion to exempt wine and beer from Scott Act prohibition was defeated by a vote of 145 to 37. These divisions made it clear that although our legislators are not yet so far advanced as they will be on the Prohibition question, they have recognized the strong public sentiment in favor of our local option law, and will not yield to the persistent demands made by the liquor traffic for the destruction or weakening of the Canada Temperance Act. During the present session of the Dominion Parliament the Opposition have formally adopted as a plank of their policy the removal of all legal impediments to the efficient working of the Canada Temperance Act.

There has not therefore yet been made any definite progress in the line of Scott Act amendment. Defects in the law have been pointed out; the Dominion Parliament has been urged to remove these defects; but so far we have failed, and are compelled to work with the Scott Act in such form that it cannot be made as effective as it would be if some technical difficulties in the way of its enforcement were removed. There is no reason why these amendments should not be granted, and the failure to make them, must be looked upon as evidencing an indifference to right public opinion on the part of our legislators which is little short of pandering to liquor influences. We have been hoping for an improvement in this matter and in order that the bill embodying the necessary amendments might be certain to be reached it was introduced at the earliest possible moment of the present session. Some of our friends believe that such a bill cannot be passed unless brought forward as a Government measure.

uro. The present session will probably be decisive upon this point. If the prophecy unfortunately proves to be true, it will be necessary to call upon all true friends of temperance to put principle above party, and insist upon such legislation as will enable those who have in good faith adopted the Act to have a fair trial of the principle of local prohibition.

A Scott Act Contest.

The only Scott Act contest that has taken place in this Province since the last meeting of this branch of the Alliance was the vote in Halton on the 1st inst., in which the Scott Act was for the first time repealed by a constituency that had adopted it. Various reasons have been given for this reverse, the best authenticated being that--(1) The Liquor party secured, through the Dominion Franchise Law, an alteration in the electorate, in their interests, (2) The Dominion election, which was held only a few days before, had created feelings and animosities which prevented a full, fair vote on the principles involved in the later contest.

Law Enforcement.

The work of Scott Act enforcement in this province has been pushed, during the year that has just closed, with results that are exceedingly gratifying. At your request a year ago a deputation waited upon the Provincial Government and urged the desirability of a rigid enforcement of the law, the necessity for appointing police magistrates in all Scott Act counties, asked that some steps should be taken to secure more efficient work by Scott Act inspectors, and that some effort be made to suppress the rowdism rampant in some parts of the country, finding expression in outrages against the persons and property of temperance workers. The Government responded to our first request by calling upon the inspectors to do their duty more thoroughly, and the number of convictions made for Scott Act violation rapidly increased. In some places there was still manifested some dereliction of duty, and your Executive, as requested by a convention which met in this city in September last, again waited upon the Provincial Government, and urgently pressed the same matters on their attention. This deputation was received by a full Cabinet, and a promise was given by the Premier that the matter would have his careful attention. We are pleased to be able to state that the Government, at the close of the current license quarter, issued to all Scott Act inspectors who were neglecting their duty, a circular of which the following is a copy.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT, LICENSING BRANCH.

Canada Temperance Act Division

TORONTO, Nov. 14th., 1887

Sir,--The Reports of Convictions and Fines for violation of the Canada Temperance Act, 1878, for the quarter ending 31st ult., show a marked increase in the number of cases brought to trial, but at the same time they also show that many inspectors do not in the Informations lay the charge as for a second or third offence.

Much complaint is made to the Government in respect to this omission; I am therefore directed by the Hon. Provincial Secretary to say that when a former conviction is susceptible of proof it is the duty of the Inspector, or other person laying the Information, to proceed as for a second or third offence, as the case may be, unless, where the presiding Magistrate or County Attorney, or other prosecuting officer is of opinion that the circumstances in the particular case are such as warrant the exercise under the Statute of the option of prosecuting as though for a first offence.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your obedient Servant, J. W. MANNING, Chief Officer.

To the License Inspector.

The results of this action have been remarkably encouraging, as will be seen by the subjoined table, which gives the number of Informations laid by Inspectors and convictions secured against Scott Act violators in this province for seven quarters beginning May, 1886. In several cases the Government has dismissed Inspectors who still neglected to carry out the instructions of the Government, and the intention of the law

TABLE OF WORK, DONE BY ONTARIO LICENSING INSPECTORS FROM MAY 1ST, 1886, TO JULY 30TH, 1887

Table with 3 columns: Quarter, Informations, Convictions. Rows: 1st Quarter, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, Total.

The experience of the past year has made it clearly manifest that with efficient officers, the Scott Act is remarkably successful in suppressing the liquor traffic and diminishing intemperance with its resulting evils. This fact is very forcibly brought

out by the returns of convictions for drunkenness lately laid before the Local Legislature by the Provincial Secretary. From these returns we learn that there are in this province nineteen judicial counties that were entirely under Scott Act for 1887 and that were entirely under license in 1884, the change from license to prohibition taking place in some of them in 1885 and in others in 1886. For them, as a whole, 1884 was the last full year of license, 1887 the first full year of Scott Act.

In these counties the commitments to jail for drunkenness were as follows

In 1884 (under license) 708 In 1887 (under Scott Act) 194.

These figures need no comment, they state forcibly the important fact that the Scott Act diminishes crime and promotes the moral welfare of the people

Recommendations.

Looking carefully over the ground that we have travelled, and in view of our present position, we beg respectfully to submit to you the following suggestion--

1. The success of the Scott Act in the different places in which it is in operation, has aroused the bitter hostility of the liquor party, and a determined effort is at present being made to secure its repeal. On the 19th April the counties of Bruce, Huron, Norfolk, Dufferin, Simcoe, Renfrew, Dundas, Stormont and Glengarry, will vote on the question of repeal. These counties were among the first to respond four years ago to the Dominion Alliance call to battle. They came promptly and loyally into line of fight. They fought nobly, and we must not forget them in their hour of trial. We sent men to assist in getting them into the conflict, in which they are now engaged, to aid and advise them in their former campaign, and we owe to them support, co-operation and assistance in every form and to any extent that it can be given. Members of the Alliance are urged to contribute all they can, both in money and by personal effort, to this important work. Any contributions sent in aid of it to our treasurer, will be promptly acknowledged and carefully applied, so as to be most beneficial. There ought to be a united rally all along the lines in support of those counties which are fighting the whiskey power of the Dominion to-day.

2. There are several counties in our Province which have not yet voted upon the Scott Act, and there are some in which the Act was defeated years ago. Temperance sentiment has been growing, and the Scott Act has been growing in favor, as it has become better understood, and more experience in working it has been acquired. It is strongly recommended that our friends in these localities take immediate steps to have petitions circulated, praying for the submission of the Scott Act. This is already being done in Prince Edward County. The success of the law where it is already in operation is such as to make it specially desirable that all our Province should be placed in position to participate in these advantages.

3. The increasing prominence given to the prohibition question at election times, makes clear the fact that the growing independent sentiment of our electors is being recognized by politicians and parties. In this connection we would again urge our friends in every locality to unite regardless of party in definite, active organizations that will make themselves felt in every electoral contest. We know that by such plans temperance voters could hold the political balance of power, and secure everywhere, as representatives, men in harmony with our views. These organizations can be worked out, in connection with efforts for the enactment and against the repeal of the Scott Act. It is specially desirable that in the approaching campaigns there should be perfect union and determination in our ranks.

4. The many assaults that have been committed upon officers engaged in Scott Act enforcement, the atrocious outrages that have been perpetrated in different localities by the liquor party, and in general the attempts of the liquor traffic to terrorize those active in the work of law enforcement, demand special government action in the interests of law and order. It is therefore recommended, that again our Provincial government, be urged to appoint a small force of Provincial constables, that will be available for special service, where needed in suppressing rowdism and enforcing law

5. More and more the CANADA CITIZEN, is making itself a power in the land. It has accomplished much in aiding the building up of temperance sentiment, the compiling of important facts, and the supplying of powerful arguments. The TEMPERANCE HERALD has proved an invaluable aid, in fact a necessity to our local work. We ask our friends to give these publications all the support in their power, believing that in so doing they will be rendering material aid in the adopting and enforcing of the Scott Act, as well as the hastening of the advent of prohibition.

6. We cannot too strongly emphasize the importance of keeping up, all over the coun-

try, every form of organization and effort for the developing of public sentiment, and the advocacy of total abstinence. Every true friend of prohibition ought to give all the countenance and support in his power to the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the different societies, such as Good Templars, Sons of Temperance, and Royal Templars, especially Bands of Hope, and the various Church organizations that are working on the lines just named. The Prohibition Reform is based on principles that are equally arguments for total abstinence, and we rejoice in the progress made during past years by those who have been working in the interests of the organizations referred to.

7. Recent occurrences make more manifest than ever, the necessity for some agency to assist or supplement the officers of the law, who are charged with enforcing the different statutes for the restriction or the suppression of the sale of strong drink. Private organizations have given invaluable help to Scott Act enforcement, and are also generally needed, even in licensed localities. A "Law and Order League" ought to be formed in every municipality in the Province.

All of which is respectfully submitted J. J. MACLAREN, Chairman. F. S. SPENCE, Secretary.

Consideration of this report was deferred till later in the day, and Mr. H. O'Hara presented the

TREASURER'S REPORT.

showing the year's receipts to have been \$1,162, with an expenditure of \$1150.50, leaving on hand a balance of \$12.22.

The report was received and referred to the Finance Committee

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The meeting in the afternoon was still more numerous attended. Forenoon trains had brought in many delegates, and all were earnest and enthusiastic. Proceedings began with the

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Howland stated that he had learned a good deal when attending the colonial exhibition in London last year. There was a meeting of temperance workers from all parts of the English speaking world, and when the people saw all these earnest temperance workers together, they realized what a great movement it was, they saw that the men engaged in it were men of character and earnestness battling for the right. So it was with the meeting being now held. The work was preservative of the individual and preservative of the nation. It did not matter about set-backs. They would not die until they had accomplished what they had set out to do. In that way he looked at the defeat in Halton, and could not understand why so many sensible men could either be discouraged or take pleasure in seeing a good cause overthrown. He could only come to one conclusion with regard to the defeat of the Scott Act in Halton, viz., that it was the result of a very successful conspiracy. The weak spot it the Scott Act was the power the people had to repeal it. The liquor men raised the cry that the Scott Act was not enforced and had tried to make their own slander true. Another thing he had noticed was, that the people in Halton had allowed their temperance societies to go down, the younger generation were not being educated by this agency as their fathers were. If the Act had not been well carried out in Halton, its friends would have felt much worse than they did now. A lesson was learned that would not be forgotten. There was a tendency among temperance people to grow impatient. There was not a man there that did not know the honest reason why the Act was difficult to enforce, but they began to be dissatisfied with other difficulties of their own creating. Supposing they lost the Scott Act contests all over the country--he did not believe they would--they would learn from that to begin at the lowest step and climb up laboriously and surely. So far the Scott Act had been productive of the best results. In closing he wished to say, that there must be harmony and unity in the ranks, they must not have any grumblers but be ready, as one man, when any trouble arose. They were each and all responsible, and had their work before them. Let all go forward determined to succeed in the good work, and make it part of our religion.

The convention then took up the Executive Committee's report and referred its different parts to the different committees that had been appointed, a special committee being struck to consider the clause referring to Halton, and another to consider the question of union of different temperance organizations.

Mr. R. J. DALRY presented a report from the Committee on

CAMPAIGN WORK. To the Officers and Members of the Ontario Alliance

We, your "Campaign Committee," beg leave to report as follows--

1st. We would recommend that in all counties where repeal voting is coming on that the friends of temperance be earnestly requested to take prompt and immediate action in organizing for the coming contests.

2nd. In addition to public meetings we recommend that thorough organization be effected in every municipality and polling subdivisions, so that every voter may be canvassed personally.

3rd. Owing to the voters' lists of 1885 being used, we would urge upon our friends the importance of looking after the non-resident vote.

4th. We recommend a liberal distribution of campaign literature to be sent to every elector through the mails.

5th. We would strongly recommend all local organizations to secure space in every newspaper in their localities, whether the papers are favorable or unfavorable to the Scott Act, and appoint a special committee to provide matter suitable for said newspaper space

J. S. ROSS, Chairman.

H. J. DALRY, Secretary.

The report was adopted as a whole, as was also a report from the Business Committee adding to the Standing Committee, and a report from the Finance Committee certifying to the correctness of the Treasurers state ment.

A DOMINION CONVENTION.

The following communication was read.

Toronto, March 20, 1888.

W. H. HOWLAND, Esq., President Ont. Br. Dom. All.

DEAR SIR,--On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Council of the Dominion Alliance, I would respectfully ask that you would consult your Alliance workers and ascertain their views as to the desirability of the summoning of a representative National Prohibition Convention, to be held at some central point during the approaching summer, to consider the present position of our Reform, and plan for further aggressive action.

Yours sincerely, JOHN J. MACLAREN, Chairman Executive.

MR. SPENCE moved seconded by Mr. DOBSON,

That this Convention cordially endorses the proposition of the Executive Committee of the Council of the Alliance for the holding of a National Convention, and instructs the Executive Committee of this branch of the Alliance to co-operate with the Executive of the Council in arranging for the same.

The proposal was warmly endorsed in stirring speeches by Messrs. MacLaren, Spence, Moore, Keefer, Chown, Brethour, Bengough, Harrison, Dr. Parker, Sutherland, Turver, and Mrs. Youmans. The resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote.

MR. MUNNS presented a resolution in favor of provincial legislation against liquor selling in drug stores, which was referred to the Committee on Legislation

EVENING SESSION.

In Mr. Howland's absence, Mr. Brethour was called to the chair. After routine, Mr. Spence, seconded by Mr. O'Hara, moved

PROHIBITION IN THE NORTHWEST.

That this convention hail with much satisfaction the tidings of persistent effort in Great Britain and other European countries to suppress the traffic in strong drink with native African and Asiatic races, and dears in the same connection to express surprise and deep regret that an effort is being made to repeal the prohibitory law now in force in the Northwest Territories. We can hardly believe it possible that any right-minded citizen would entertain the idea of allowing that great territory to be cursed with the permitted sale of strong drink, a sale which it would be practically impossible to control and which would inevitably result in the ruin of both natives and settlers, and we call upon all members of Parliament who favor morality and decency to unite in resisting this infamous proposal.

MR. J. J. MACLAREN, presented the following report of the Committee on POLITICAL ACTION.

To the Alliance Convention. The Committee on Political Action beg leave to submit the following report.

1. They have carefully considered those portions of the report of Executive Committee referred to them, viz., the paragraphs under the heading of "Parliamentary Action" and "Recommendation No.

(Continued on page 8).