

SPECIAL  
ARTICLES

## Our Contributors

BOOK  
REVIEWS**AN IMPORTANT CONVENTION.**

At the recent Convention of the Ontario branch of the Dominion Alliance which was attended by nearly one thousand delegates, representing all sections of the Province, many important resolutions were adopted.

The Convention by a unanimous vote reaffirmed its position in regard to Provincial prohibition, and declared its unalterable stand by the position, that, in this Province, the liquor evil demands, and public opinion is prepared to endorse such legislation as will abolish the barroom, the treating system, and the drinking in clubs, and will impose on the liquor traffic such further restriction as will effectively curtail its operation and remedy its evil.

Having thus laid down its unswerving allegiance to the fundamental principles of the Alliance, the Convention went on to pass upon some practical legislation which is a direct issue today.

**The Three-fifths Requirement.**

That section of the Bill passed at the last session of the Legislature which requires three-fifths vote to carry a Local Option by-law was emphatically condemned by a standing vote. With great enthusiasm the delegates unanimously declared that "In the judgment of the Convention the present requirement for the three-fifths vote to carry Local Option legislation is contrary to justice, fair-play, and the spirit of our institutions, and deprives municipalities of a right long enjoyed, and that this provision of the present Liquor Act should be at once repealed."

The above declaration was in the minds of the delegates of prime importance. The deputation which waited upon the government was instructed to urge that alone, and everything the Convention could do was done to show that there was not the slightest yielding in regard to this unfair requirement.

**Hotels and Bar Rooms.**

The next most important resolution was that which stated that no licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquor should be granted in, or for, any house or place of public entertainment. The Convention felt that the separation of the sale of liquor from hotels would mean the solving of the hotel problem, and the clarifying of the issue in the campaign for bar room abolition.

In this connection the Convention also endorsed the proposition that all hotels, whether under license to sell liquor or not, should be under good license regulations and inspection, and be required to furnish accommodation to the public to the limit of their capacity without discrimination.

**The Local Option Principle.**

The Convention sought that a further application should be made of the Local Option principles, and recommended that the Government be requested to so amend the Liquor License Act that on the petition of twenty-five per cent. of the electors of any municipality, it shall be obligatory on a council to submit a by-law to the electors for the reduction of licenses and it shall also be obligatory on the council of such municipality to pass a by-law in accordance with such vote.

The same power was sought in regard to municipalities regulating the hours of sale for intoxicating liquors.

The Convention was of the opinion that in cities of thirty thousand and upwards, any Ward should have power

to vote upon a Local Option by-law in the same manner as any municipality.

**Securing Convictions.**

Legislation was recommended for the more effective detection of the illicit sale of liquor. If possible it will be made compulsory that anyone arrested for drunkenness within a municipality under Local Option shall divulge under oath the source from which the intoxicating liquor was obtained.

The experience in Owen Sound led to the passing of a resolution asking for legislation making illegal all sale of ale and beer by breweries within, or for delivery within, municipalities in which there is no license for the retail sale of the same.

**Equal Suffrage.**

The Convention declared for equal suffrage, saying that this was right, and, therefore, in the interests of justice and fair-play the franchise should be accorded to women.

**Law Enforcement.**

Strong ground was taken on the question of law enforcement, and delegates were urged to do everything in their power to secure the enforcement of existing laws relating to the liquor traffic, particularly in cases where there is open and pronounced lawlessness.

Gratification was expressed in regard to the action of the administration in liquor cases, and the decided improvement in the effort to enforce the law. There was, however, a statement that in some cases local Inspectors were not doing quite all they should in this regard.

It was suggested that those who knew of violation of the law should deal with the department directly in municipalities where the local officers could not be trusted to treat information confidentially.

The advisability of organizing law and order committees in every municipality to keep trace of the manner of observance of the Liquor Law, and to receive information of breaches of law was suggested. Delegates were urged to always bear in mind that the character of the municipal councillors is reflected in the manner of law enforcement.

**Unanimity Strength.**

A striking feature of the whole Convention was the thorough unanimity, and the intense earnestness of the delegates. There was practical and enthusiastic agreement in reference to all important conclusions.

The Convention was strong, not only in its representative character, and the number of delegates, but in the thorough harmony which existed, showing a most encouraging solidarity on the part of the temperance forces.

Dundee U. F. Presbytery has approved of a scheme for amalgamation of Sustentation and Augmentation funds.

There are fine touches of nobility in the Japanese character. They are erecting monuments to the memory of the Russian and Japanese soldiery who fell at Port Arthur.

It is stated that the ambition on the part of fishermen in Seafeld to exchange sailing boats for steam drifters, which cost about £3,000, is militating against early marriages.

King Edward is the fortunate possessor of one of the finest collections of pictures in the world, and one which, if it could be brought under one roof, would be a formidable rival to the National Gallery.

**THE LATE MRS. FRASER OF UXBRIDGE.**

The members of the Presbytery of Lindsay heard with great sorrow of the death of the beloved wife of our esteemed and well loved friend and co-presbyter, Rev. James R. Fraser of Uxbridge. This sad bereavement came with startling suddenness. Until ten days before her death Mrs. Fraser, had seemed to enjoy perfect health, when, without warning a severe hemorrhage of the stomach occurred. Physicians were at once called in. Nurses were obtained, later came relatives, her father and mother, Dr. and Mrs. Cryan of Demorestville, and Dr. H. Cryan, a brother. Everything that medical skill, nursing and loving devotion could devise was done, but it seemed that nothing could avert the end which came on Wednesday afternoon, February 20. Mrs. Fraser was the second daughter of Dr. Cryan of Demorestville. She won the degree of B. A. at Queen's University in '98, and soon after was happily married, and came to reside over the manse in Uxbridge. Every minister in the Presbytery has been gladdened by her bright and winsome personality and her gracious hospitality. The genuine worth and kindness of her disposition will long be a blessed influence in the community where she lived, while to her husband and two little children she was all that wife and mother should be. With all the sorrowing friends, but with these most deeply, we feel a genuine and heartfelt sympathy.

A public reception was given to Mr. and Mrs. Woodside by the Division Street congregation on the 5th inst. It was a large and hearty affair. The Moderator presided, Rev. Mr. McAlpine voiced the welcome of Knox Presbyterian church; Mr. Tark spoke for the Methodists and Mr. Cameron for the Baptists; and Revs. Dr. McLaren of Rockland and Dr. Fraser of Annan, formally welcomed Mr. Woodside on behalf of the Presbytery of Owen Sound. Dr. Somerville came up from Toronto to be present, and wished his successor all kinds of good things in the pastorate upon which he had just entered. Rev. Mr. Woodside, in replying to the various greetings, said that he could not feel that he was entitled to all the kind things that had been said of him, but he would seek to serve the congregation and hoped to have their co-operation and assistance. He did not like Dr. Somerville to feel that he was severed from the congregation, but invited him to come back and occupy the pulpit whenever he wished to do so.

We reproduce the following clipping from the Kosiusko (Mississippi) Star-Ledger, of March 1st:—"At a large meeting of the Presbyterian church members last Sunday morning Rev. R. J. Beattie offered his resignation as pastor, and then left the meeting. By a unanimous standing vote the members refused to join in the request to Presbytery. We understand also that several members of the Presbytery had signified their intention of opposing the call from Crowley, La. On Monday morning Dr. Beattie wired to Crowley that he would stay in Kosiusko. This will come as good news to the people of Kosiusko and vicinity."

(Mr. Beattie will be remembered by many of our readers as minister of the First Presbyterian church, Port Hope, and for several years pastor of Knox church, Quelp. He left Canada ten or twelve years ago, and has been laboring for some time in connection with the Southern Presbyterian church—Ed. D. P.)