

been taken in Manitoba. On July 23, 1892, the vote for prohibition was 19,637; against prohibition, 7,115, a majority in favour of prohibition of 12,522. On September 29, 1898, at the time of the Dominion plebiscite, another vote was taken, with the following result: for prohibition, 12,419; against prohibition, 2,978, a majority of 9,441 in favour of prohibition. I think that there can be no doubt as to what the result of the coming referendum in Manitoba will be. We have, therefore, the three great prairie provinces arrayed on the side of prohibition.

The province of British Columbia is attracting a great deal of attention just now in this connection. It lies alongside one of the large American states which has just adopted prohibition. In convention at Nanaimo, the Orange Grand Lodge adopted the following resolution:

That this Grand Lodge strongly endorses the principle of the prohibition of the manufacture, sale and importation of intoxicating liquors, and approves of the movement now on foot to have such a law enacted in British Columbia.

They passed another resolution to this effect:

That this R. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia comply with the request of the Executive Committee of the People's Prohibition Movement and appoint a committee of three to accompany the prohibition delegates in their conference with the Government at an early date, and to act as a standing committee of the prohibition movement in promoting the interests of prohibition during the year.

I quote the following as an instance of a commercial body favouring Dominion-wide prohibition:

Because the Board of Trade of Regina, Sask., believes that, "conditions prevailing throughout the British Empire and countries allied with it demand the conservation of every available source of power," it has placed itself on record as favouring immediate steps towards federal prohibition.

The board, in a resolution, holds that the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors are in themselves to a very great extent an economic waste and tend to lessen the forcefulness, energy and complete fitness of the people of the Dominion. The board urges Parliament to pass a law providing for prohibition and suggests that the measure be not repealed until after the question of repeal has been submitted to the voters.

Many resolutions have been passed by large religious bodies in Western Canada. At a recent meeting of the Session of St. Andrew's Church, Moosejaw, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Whereas a campaign has been launched in Ottawa and elsewhere, having for its object the abolition of the liquor traffic in all its branches from the Dominion of Canada, be it resolved that this session records its approval

of the same, pledging its sympathy and support, and that the clerk be instructed to forward a copy of this minute to the secretary of the organization which is prosecuting this good work.

We have, therefore, a plain indication of the fact that the feeling in Western Canada is undoubtedly in favour of prohibition. But the most important step taken within the last few days is that which has been taken by Ontario, the greatest and largest province of this Dominion. The Premier of that province has introduced a measure, the details of which we are not familiar with now, but which aims at the introduction of prohibition into the province and the holding of a referendum later. Mr. Rowell, the leader of the Opposition, has come out in support of the proposal, and, according to the present indications, there is no doubt that the measure will carry the House and the province.

We have seen what has been done in Quebec, in Ontario, and in Western Canada. So far as the Maritime Provinces are concerned, Prince Edward Island has prohibition, and Nova Scotia has it, with the exception of Halifax. I understand, however, that a private Bill has been introduced in the Legislature of Nova Scotia having in view the object of doing away with the 46 or 47 licenses in the city of Halifax. That will leave under license in the Maritime Provinces only a portion of the city of St. John, and in respect of which similar steps will likely be taken. If at the present session legislation of this kind is not introduced in this Parliament, at the coming session the whole Dominion of Canada, with the single exception of the province of Quebec, which has not yet taken any official stand in the matter beyond the reduction of the number of licenses, will be in favour of prohibition.

In Quebec, as has been said, we have over 900 municipalities which have adopted prohibition. This shows that there is an immense feeling all through Canada in favour of this great change. Apart from its moral aspect, the economic side of the question has become of immense importance. The ordeal through which Canada is now passing makes it imperative on the representatives of the people to give the country an opportunity of doing its share in the great work we have undertaken of seeing humanity and civilization through in this war.

I wish to glance at the history of prohibition among our neighbours in the great republic to the south. A great struggle on