

There was a long discussion on the details of the report.

Rev. Dr. Dewart moved in amendment to the report a recommendation for the use of unfermented wine in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper in all the churches.

The amendment was carried.

The report was then adopted as a whole.

Ald. Moore then brought up the resolution of which he had given notice. The resolution set out that recognizing the importance of excluding the temperance question from the domain of party strife, and the desirability of obtaining an official record of public sentiment on the subject, the Conference should memorialize the Governor-in-Council to provide at the next general election for the taking of the votes of the electors on the question of prohibition. He made the proposal because at the general election they had all the machinery at hand for taking the vote, and it would work automatically. Then, when they had the will of the people expressed, no Government would ignore it. He believed a majority would vote in favor of it.

Rev. S. J. Hunter seconded the motion which was carried.

Ald. Moore then moved that the Conference memorialize the General Conference to enact a law ordering the use of unfermented wine in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.—Carried.

The Conference rose.—*"Christian Guardian's" Report of proceedings of the Toronto Conference of the Methodist Church.*

The most important question of reform now before the public is that which relates to the prevention of intemperance, and the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors to be used as beverages.

The Methodist Episcopal Church has always been foremost among the agencies that have carried forward this reform, and we propose that she shall maintain the high position she has heretofore occupied. We call the attention of our people to the importance of adhering strictly to our rules concerning the use of intoxicating liquors; reminding them that our Discipline declares that "total abstinence from all intoxicants is the true ground of personal temperance," and urge them to use their utmost influence to banish the social glass from society.

We remind pastors and official members of local societies of the duty incumbent upon them to faithfully enforce our rules forbidding the manufacture, sale, and use of intoxicants.

While we seek to impress upon our people and the public the importance of total abstinence, we do not forget that it is *the liquor traffic itself* that is the chief source of the wide-spread intemperance that prevails, and we regard that traffic as an enemy to every true interest of the human race. It destroys health, reason, character and life, and wars against the home, the Church, society and the State. It is the most gigantic evil of the age in which we live, and its overthrow should be sought by all good citizens, without regard to denomination, party or nationality.

We rejoice in the progress of public sentiment concerning this evil within recent years, and that a strong conviction is taking possession of the best and most thoughtful people of the land that this traffic ought to be exterminated.

The deliverance made by the General Conference of 1880 upon this subject, and incorporated into the Discipline, is clear and positive, viz.: That "Complete legal prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating drinks is the duty of civil government."

The Bishops, in their quadrennial address to this body, make the following definite and timely statement, viz.: "In the great struggle for Prohibition which has occurred in some of the Western States, the position of our people has been one of unyielding devotion to the principles of Constitutional Prohibition. While we may have lost a few members by the firm attitude of the Church, we have no doubt that our high position will be maintained in the future, and that the Church will continue to oppose all forms of intemperance, until legal sanction of the evil shall be removed from the statute books of all our States." These declarations constitute the platform on which we stand as a denomination and upon which we will battle until Constitutional Prohibition is secured in every State and Territory in the Union, and finally embodied in the Constitution of the United States.

We are unalterably opposed to the enactment of laws that propose by license, taxing or otherwise to regulate the drink traffic, because they provide for its continuance and afford no protection against its ravages. We hold that the proper attitude of Christians toward this traffic is one of uncompromising opposition, and while we do not presume to dictate to our people as to their political affili-

ations, we do express the opinion that they should not permit themselves to be controlled by party organizations that are managed in the interest of the liquor traffic. We advise the members of our Church to aid in the enforcement of such laws as do not legalize or indorse the manufacture and sale of intoxicants to be used as beverages; and to this end we favor the organization of Law and Order Leagues wherever practicable.

We thankfully recognize and approve the great work carried on in all parts of the country by the National Temperance Society and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union; we recommend their publications, commend them to the pecuniary aid of our people, and earnestly exhort our members to actively co-operate with these organizations.—*Report adopted by the General Conference of the M. E. Church of the United States.*

Scott Act News.

HURON — A correspondent at Gorrie says that the chief topic of the day there is the Scott Act. The temperance people are sanguine, but are resolved to work for a grand majority. The correspondent says: "Those who are addicted to the evil habit will be given a chance to remove the temptation farther from them, and thus lessen its influence over them; while those who do not indulge in intoxicants may render valuable assistance to their more unfortunate fellow-beings. The result of the coming contest will depend largely upon the position taken by the ministers and the press. If the former use their influence aright with their members and adherents the Act will likely pass, and if the press assist the temperance people will gain an easy victory." Between eight and ninety per cent. of the voters in Goderich township have declared for the Act. An enthusiastic Scott Act meeting held in Clinton in connection with the Guelph Methodist Conference was addressed by ministers. The whole audience voted in favor of the Scott Act. The liquor sellers of this county, not daring to come forward as liquor-sellers, have organized a "True Temperance Association" to fight the Scott Act. Howick township is organized for the work. Judging by returns already in, more than half the voters of the county are signing the Scott Act petitions, the great danger to be avoided here as elsewhere is over-confidence. Don't work only for a majority, but for an overwhelming majority.—*War Notes.*

The recent debate on the Scott Act held in the Orange Hall here was the first open discussion in the county of Huron, between men chosen by the opposing sides. The hall was packed to overflowing, and as the evening was fine a large number listened to the debate. The Scott Act was advocated by the Rev. M. Campbell, and Mr. Thomas McGillicuddy, of Goderich, and Messrs. Moyer and Bell, of Exeter, were brought out by the licensed victuallers. Mr. McGillicuddy led in a stirring speech of forty minutes, and from the first the meeting proved to be in favor of the Act. Mr. Moyer followed in a speech of similar length, and was courteously received. Rev. Mr. Campbell made a ringing address, and was followed by Mr. Bell in a bright, but well connected speech. Mr. Campbell closed by a powerful summing up, and at the close a vote was taken. Fully four-fifths of the audience rose to their feet on the call for them in favor of the Scott Act amid tremendous cheering. The gathering was one of the largest ever held in the village, and although the speaking did not end until after midnight not a single person left the hall till the close. Meetings are now being arranged for all over the county, the next will be held in Hullett on Thursday next.—*Globe.*

CARLETON.—Mr. Jas. Macpherson of the Interior Department, secretary of the central committee in connection with the Scott Act campaign in Carleton county, reports that organization has been successfully effected in every township in the county and that active committees are at work obtaining signatures to petitions. It is estimated that a sufficient number, one third of the total vote, have already signed to claim an election. The complete returns from all the townships will be made within a week, and a day will be appointed to present the petitions to the secretary of the state. Mr. Storr has just returned from a visit to different townships in the county. He reports that the organization is about as strong as could be desired by the most ardent supporters of the Act.—*Globe.*

MIDDLESEX.—A very interesting and successful temperance mass meeting was recently held here in the Mount Brydges Methodist Church. An excellent audience assembled early, expecting to hear