

THE EXECUTIVE REPORT

REV. S. A. SCINTHAL then read to the meeting extracts from the Annual Report of the Executive, which is a document of great interest, giving as it does the history of work since last General Meeting in October, 1886, detailing the proceedings of the Great Convention held in Exeter Hall London, in February, giving full particulars of the many petitions taken during the year in Scotland on the Temperance question, summarizing the results of Scott Act agitation in Canada, showing the financial work of the Alliance for the year and its present hopeful position, giving details of the National Drink Bill for 1888, furnishing a compendium of the legislation proposed at last session of Parliament with the history of each measure in the House, and the record of the work done by the Alliance in connection with the bye-elections held during the year. It is worthy of note that a great deal of success attended these electoral efforts. There were nineteen seats vacated during the year, one of which was filled by acclamation; ten of the other eighteen elections were carried by gentlemen pledged to local option. The report contains as an appendix a history of "The Canada Temperance Act" and a summary of its most important provisions.

A LIVELY DEBATE.

After the adoption of the report the officers of the Alliance for the coming year were elected. A little breeze sprang up at this stage of the meeting over a proposal to pledge the newly elected executive to the policy which had been enunciated at the February convention in the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this Convention no political question is comparable in importance with the suppression of the liquor traffic by a Direct Local Popular Veto. This Convention, therefore, requests the Executive of the Alliance to take all practical steps to organize a prohibitory party in every constituency for the purpose of returning candidates to Parliament who will demand from any Government, whatever its party character, the power of suppressing the traffic in intoxicating drink." The debate which followed this proposal brought out clearly the strong feeling in favor of prohibition that animates our British co-workers. It was asserted very emphatically that there were in the Alliance men who do not believe in local option, but yet would be in favor of the more advanced policy of total prohibition whereas the resolution referred to dealt only with electoral action for the purpose of returning to Parliament members pledged to local option. The proposal made was finally withdrawn, and by a unanimous vote the officers hereafter named were given charge of Alliance affairs till the next annual meeting.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were then adopted:

1. That the Executive Council be recommended to continue the formation of Local Electoral Veto Societies in each constituency, giving special attention to those places where the representatives in Parliament are not yet pledged to support the Direct Popular Veto.

2. That this Council resolves to learn that the members of the House of Commons favorable to Temperance Legislation, formed during the last session a large Committee to watch and promote Temperance measures, and the Council earnestly requests that Committee to make such arrangements as to render it possible for the Government and Parliament to ignore the most pressing question of domestic legislation, but to carry a measure which, by the enactment of a Direct Popular Veto would afford power of protection to the whole kingdom from the evils of the liquor traffic.

3. That this Council in view of the uniform and striking results of numerous Local Option test ballots recently taken in a number of large towns and cities, respectfully requests those members of Parliament who are pledged to their constituents to promote temperance Legislation on the lines of Local Option, to continue for the purpose of compelling the Government to bring forward an Imperial enactment prohibiting the liquor traffic, or a measure giving the people of each locality power to prohibit the liquor traffic by a direct popular vote.

Among the speakers in favor of the different proposals might be mentioned such distinguished workers as Wm Saunders (London), Frederick Smith (Manchester), Rev. J. Idriany Jones, Joseph Malina (Birmingham), Rev. R. James Clark, Alderman Clegg (Sheffield), J. B. Collins (Liverpool), T. Whittaker (Scarborough), Guy Haylor (Hull), Dr. F. R. Lees (Leeds), Alderman Norton (Pool), Councillor Derrington (Birmingham), J. H. Raper (London), Dr. Nicholls (Dublin), Benjamin Whitworth, Rev. Prebendary Grier (Rugely), and many others.

A GREAT MASS MEETING.

An immense mass meeting was held in the evening in the Free Trade Hall, that vast auditorium being crowded to its utmost capacity. The chair was taken by Sir Ughtred J. Kay Shuttleworth, M.P., and was supported on the platform by Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P., Sir B. Walter Foster, M.P., R. A. Allison, M.P., T. E. Ellis, M.P., Peter McLagan, M.P., Angus Sutherland, M.P., Samuel Pope, Q.C., Wilfred Lawson, Junr., J. P., Charles Thompson, J. P., F. J. Crossley, J. P. (Manchester), Ald. Farish, J. P. (Chester), Thos. Whittaker, J. P. (Scarborough), Ald. Tatham (Leeds), Alderman W. J. Clegg (Sheffield), Councillor A. McDougall (Manchester), Rev. J. Clark (Salford), Mr. E. Pearson (Wilmalaw), Mr. J. M. Masters, Councillor S. C. Clegg (Sheffield), Bailie J. Selark (Glasgow), P. Dick (Glasgow), J. McKenzie C.E. (Belfast), I. A. Brown (Belfast), W. Wilkinson (Belfast), Dr. F. R. Lees (Leeds), W. H. Newett (Manchester), James H. Raper (London), William Saunders (London), John Kempster (London), Joseph Malina (Birmingham), Rev. Dr. Burns (London), Rev. Chas. Garrett (Liverpool), Rev. J. Idriany Jones (Birkenhead), Dr. Mechem (Manchester), George Ling (London), George Tomlinson (Newcastle-on-Tyne), Benj. Whitworth J.P., George Monroy (Bishop Auckland), Rev. S. A. Scintal (Manchester), Fred H. Smith (Manchester), Wm. J. Crossley (Manchester), Charles Watson (Halifax), Joseph Leicester (London), James Tomkinson, Esq., J. P. (Cheshire), Thomas H. Barker and James Whyte, Secretaries.

The speakers were the chairman Rev. S. A. Scintal, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Sir Walter Foster, M.P., Mr. R. A. Allison, M.P., S. Pope, Q.C., Mr. T. E. Ellis, M.P., Mr. P. McLagan, M.P., Hon. Central Dillon, Alderman Tatham, Mr. J. H. Raper, Dr. F. R. Lees, Mr. Angus Sutherland, M.P., Mr. Benjamin Whitworth, and Mr. J. Tomkinson. The following resolutions were adopted:

That this meeting gratefully recognizing the great advances made in every department of the Temperance Reformation during the past fifty years, especially during the latter portion of that period hereby expresses its full assurance of the ultimate accomplishment of the beneficent aims of the movement under the blessing of Almighty God upon the persistent efforts of its true friends and generous supporters.

That this meeting denounces the spoliations of His Majesty's Ministers who, while advocating the cause of temperance and the reformation of the liquor traffic, have put forward no remedial measures themselves, and have refused to give facilities to those private members who were prepared to do so, and who have labored for their constituents to propose a measure of Local Option including the Direct Popular Veto.

That this meeting expresses its earnest protest against the system of the liquor traffic in the United Kingdom, and its avowal to the passing of the liquor traffic under the Direct Veto of the People, with the power to their agents, to be refused to vote for any Parliamentary Candidate who will not support that object. This meeting further trusts that the Direct Popular Veto under which all legislation throughout the United Kingdom will be referred to the people, by means of having drink shops for sale upon them, made strictly subservient to the law of the land.

SIR WILFRID'S SPEECH.

We have much pleasure in reproducing for the benefit of our readers the report of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's speech as given in the Alliance News.

Mr. Chairman, they have taken to calling me names to-night (Laughter) It is not at all new to me, but I am going to call you a name. I say, sir, that you and I are both of us getting on now to be two Old Parliamentary Hands. And I may tell this audience that it is not the first time that I have been at an Alliance meeting under the presidency of my friend who is in the chair (Applause) He made a good speech on the last occasion when I was with him, but he has made an infinitely better one on this occasion. (Applause) And he has had losses in the cause, for the last meeting which he and I attended was one where he came to grief. As we left the meeting an enthusiastic supporter came to the carriage we were in, and the door not shutting very well, he gave it a violent bang, shivering the plate glass all to pieces, sending a piece bang across the carriage right on to the wrist of my honorable friend, who bled like a pig all the way home (Loud laughter) So that he can say more than I can say I have worked for the cause, but he has bled for the cause. (Loud laughter and applause) But we value our chairman to night for the name which he bears (Hear, hear) He bears a name honored throughout Lancashire and the North of England (applause) on account of the good work which one who bore the name who went before him did in the great cause of education (Cheers) And I say that my honorable friend was never engaged in a more true or a more noble educational work than he is engaged in to night. What is he doing? He is going to teach you, and to help to teach the country at large, the great truth that what is morally wrong can never be politically right (Applause) And right nobly did he articulate that doctrine in the admirable speech which you have just heard from him (Hear, hear) No, we say it is not politically right that there should be a great system of legalized temptation in this country, and therefore it is that this is a political meeting, not a party meeting, but a political meeting in which we demand certain rights. We demand the right of protection from the liquor traffic. And understand, ladies and gentlemen, that in doing that, in advocating our political policy, we antagonize no interests that are working for Temperance. We come into collision with no societies and we set ourselves against no institutions. We welcome them all, we delight to see them preaching and teaching temperance amongst the people. There is room for us all. There are four lines of doggerel I am rather fond of doggerel, but I did not write them. If I had written them they would have been better (Laughter) which sum up the temperance movement pretty well—

Moral suasion for the man who drinks.  
Mental suasion for the man who thinks.  
Legal suasion for the drunk maker.  
Iron suasion for the statute breaker.

(Laughter and applause.) Now you see how it is. The moral and mental suasion can be done by voluntary associations, but when we come to the important part of the business of shutting the men up in prison who make men drink, we cannot do it. We have to go to the House of Commons to get that law. And we must get that law. They have got it in some places. Canon Willberforce has just come back from America, and I am sorry he cannot be here to-night. He would have told us the difference that there is between a democratic and an aristocratic government (Cheers and laughter.) In England, which is an aristocratic country, when a man sells drink we put him into the House of Peers (laughter), but in America, when a man sells drink they put him into the House of Correction. (Renewed laughter) Now, I say, we cannot put anybody in prison without the law, therefore it is that we are the National Prohibition Party, and I should also say the National Prohibition Party. (Cheers) And I must emphasize what I have often emphasized at meetings like this, because it has to be said over and over again—that we do not go in for any particular alteration of the licensing system. We are not clever enough for that. (Laughter) We leave that to the clever fellows who arrange the licensing system. We do not want any fresh licensees. The magistrates can do all that well enough. They are a body of very fine men—in their own opinion. (Laughter) We do not want any different people to be licensed than what are

licensed now. There is a great deal of care taken by the licensing authorities as to the character of the people who have to be licensed. Now just fancy, supposing there was a bunch of magistrates, and Lord Alibury was to come up and ask for a license, what would the bunch say? "No, you cannot have one, retire to the House of Lords" (Loud laughter) We don't want fresh houses licensed. Whenever you hear a man say, "Oh, there's a deal of drunkenness caused by those low public houses," you may know he does not thoroughly understand the question. It is only the low chaps who go to the low public houses. How did they become drunkards? By going to the high public houses (Applause) We don't want to alter anything of the sort. Then we are not very particular about what hours are arranged for the selling of drink. The fewer the better, we think, of course. The other day, in the House of Lords, there was some discussion in connection with a Scotch bill for the shutting up of public-houses in Scotch towns, at ten in the evening, and the question was asked by Lord Brunwell, how can it be wrong to sell at eleven and not at ten? Of course there was no answer to that. Nobody could answer it. It is not right at one hour and wrong at another (Hear, hear) The thing has an evil tendency in itself, whether you sell drink at twelve or one o'clock in the morning or twelve o'clock at night (Applause) We don't go in for getting adulterations dealt with. A great many people say, "Oh, it is all that adulteration." How can it be the adulteration, when Sir William tells us that alcohol is one of the most destructive agents known to the profession? You cannot have anything more destructive than the most destructive agent, I should think (Hear, hear and laughter) Now, you will say that all this is very well, but something ought to be done. You want some alteration of the licensing system. But I say to those who wish an alteration of the licensing system, that it would be almost as great a job as it would be for us to get Prohibition. It is a most wonderful system. The licensing system is fearfully and wonderfully made (laughter) and, as I told you, we won't bother with it. All we say is, "We leave the machinery, but we will turn the steam off" (Laughter and applause) We won't let it get into motion (Hear, hear, and laughter) You know in the iron districts where they manufacture iron, you hear now and then that so many furnaces are blown out, no more manufacturing is going on. Well, we want to blow out the manufacture of drink (Applause) We will let the furnaces stand, we won't interfere with anybody's property, but we say, "We shall not allow your property to manufacture any more drunkards, paupers, and lunatics (Loud applause) As the chairman pointed out, we wish this to be put down by the people themselves (Applause) I don't believe in any legislation being permanent or greatly efficient for good that does not spring from the people themselves. (Loud applause) And I say, to take a vote such as this, "Will you have drink shops amongst you or will you not?" is the most constitutional mode of procedure. I am one of the most constitutional men in the House of Commons (Laughter) Nobody knows what that means, you know (renewed laughter) but I mean by constitutional, on this occasion, in accordance with all our views with regard to freedom, and all our English habits. (Hear, hear) Let the people on their own behalf, among their own families, vote for the protection of those families. (Hear, hear) Now, you have heard that my excellent friend, Mr. Allison, has promised to follow the example of Mr. McLagan, who is here to-night, and who brought in a Veto Bill for Scotland, and of Mr. Wm Johnston, of Belfast, who brought in a Veto Bill for Ulster, and has promised that, if we wish him to do so, he will bring in a Veto Bill for all those parts of the United Kingdom which are not covered by the bills of others—Scotch, Irish, or Welsh. And I am sure that you are as grateful to him as I am for what he has so generously promised to undertake. (Applause) If you had been in the Council to-day, you would have heard a gentleman get up and say he wanted to know what the bill was to be called, and another got up and said, "You cannot christen a child before it is born. (Laughter) There was great anxiety to have a name for the bill, and I think I have got a name for it (Hear, hear) Let us call it "The Home-Steal Law of England" (applause) the law for protecting the hearths and homes of the people of this country (Renewed applause) I remember once there was a candidate going about, and he came to a voter who asked him if he would vote for giving the people the power to vote on the liquor traffic. And the candidate, who knew nothing about it, answered candidly—said, "Why, what reason have you for wishing it?" "Sir," he said, "I have got nine reasons. "What are they?" said the candidate. "I have got nine children," the voter said. (Loud laughter and applause.) Let my friend, Mr. Allison, when he comes forward with his bill, think of that answer. It will encourage him in the honorable work which he has undertaken. (Applause) You will say, what progress have you made in the House of Commons? We have not made much progress in the House. The House advances very slowly (laughter) and they have got a grand excuse this year. In fact, they have it every year, so far as I know. (Laughter) They have got Ireland, Ireland, Ireland, Ireland, Ireland in the morning, Ireland in the evening, Ireland in the middle of the day, Ireland at night. (Loud laughter) And so it goes on. (Renewed laughter) You know Ireland is a very curious country. It is full of poor men, and of ostinate men—(laughter)—and it is full of men who are united together, and a country in that condition gives the most awful trouble to statesmen you can possibly imagine

(Laughter.) They don't like it at all. (Laughter.) They look upon it as an insult to have such a place, and I really think if it goes on much longer, with the sort of things we have had in that unhappy country, some statesmen will get up in the House of Commons to move a vote of censure upon Providence for having created such a place. (Loud laughter.) But even Ireland would benefit by our policy. (Cheers) I see a lot of rampant Home Rulers here to-night (Applause) I am going to say what they won't like (Laughter) I say that if you gave the people of Ireland the power of sweeping away the drink shops, and if they exercised that power, they would do more good to Ireland in one year, than Mr. Parnell and Mr. Gladstone and Lord Salisbury and Mr. Balfour and Dr. James would do in ten years. (Loud laughter and applause) Now, I have evidence on that point. What did John Dillon say in the House only a few weeks ago? He said, if there was one course greater than another to Irish towns, it was the multiplication of public houses. Well, if there is no course greater, it is as great as all this Lindford business which they talk about so much, and I am satisfied in saying its removal would do as much good in my opinion it would do far more good than any land bills or other bills (hear, hear) and I hope that when we get to work in the House of Commons, really, earnestly, and practically fighting this question, the Irish members will see this to be true, and give me that assistance which I think I ought to have from them in this matter. (Applause) But in spite of this Irish block, we had, you know, a number of bills in the House of Commons, almost all of them men, or less intended to cripple the drink traffic, and that is a wonderful sign of the times. It shows that the people are ready. Once get the Irish dam removed, and the waters will flow forth in abundance, sweeping away a great many things which many people do not want to see swept away. Why, who is desponding? Who thinks the Temperance movement and the Prohibition movement are not going on? I can tell you some one who is not desponding. Mr. John Bright. What does he say? A few days ago he said "I suppose all men mark "all men will admit that it would be a great blessing if the manufacture, sale and use of drinks which intoxicate could be abolished. That is a sweeping assertion. I don't believe it at all, because I know a great deal more about it than Mr. Bright, and I know there are many people who do not hold those opinions at all. Why, the House of Lords does not hold these opinions. The House of Lords does not think it would be a blessing if the manufacture, sale and use of drinks which intoxicate were abolished. Not they. They decided, in spite of the House of Commons, this year, that there should be an hour's more drinking in Scotland than hitherto (Shame) No, what is the use of calling "shame." They were acting according to their conscientious opinions (Laughter) It may be a shame to give them the power of acting on those opinions (Cheers) But the shame rests on you and me (hear, hear) and not with men who act according to what they believe to be right. Of course they were acting under the influence of a great association which they consider a very patriotic one, it is called "The Liberty and Property Association;" but its proper name is "The Liquor and Lucre League" (laughter) and it is composed of peers, publicans and pawnbrokers. (Applause) These are the people who influenced the House of Lords to give an hour's more drinking in Scotland. Well, but what does Mr. Bright mean by saying all men hold these opinions? There are 180,000 licensed sellers of drink in this country; I think none of them think it a bad thing to sell drink, or they would not do it, and all their sisters and brothers, and uncles and aunts, all agree with them, and say that drink is a very good thing. Well, magistrates do not think it is a bad thing. You see we have all these people to educate, Mr. Chairman, or else they would not license so many people. And a great many other people, some of whom you seem to have a poor opinion, those poor creatures, those halvers between two opinions—the lame, the halt, and the blind—(laughter) people who get upon temperance platforms and talk about drink being a good creature of God, although we do not all know that a tiger is a creature of God (Laughter) Then there are those people called non-abstaining members of society, people who have ankles and spasms (laughter) and depression (much laughter) and men who say they cannot digest great masses of food (roars of laughter) ecclesiastics who cannot digest large masses of food without having "the devil in solution" to help them. (Laughter and cheers) Oh! there are all sorts of people who think this drink is a good thing. I saw an advertisement the other day of a New York spirit dealer, and he was cracking up his different drinks and was publishing testimonials from people who had bought them; and there was one very superior species of gin which was advertised, and one man said in his testimonial "After taking six bottles, I feel a different man." (Great laughter.) Well, Mr. Chairman, all these people we have still to convert. But I will tell you who are already with us, and who already admit the truth of what John Bright says. Why, the majority of the workingmen of this country are with us heart and soul. (Cheers) The aristocracy of the democracy—if I may use the expression—are with us; the fathers with families of the workingmen are with us, and, more than that, the victims—the poor fellows who have not the strength of mind to resist the temptation, I believe that they are the very strongest supporters of the policy which you and I are advocating to-night. (Hear, hear.) Well then, surely this great army, strung in numbers and strong in the justice of its cause, has nothing to fear. John Stuart Mill said long ago: "One man with a belief is as

strong as 99 with only interests." Ours is a faith in a good cause, and, strong in that faith, the democracy will march to the overthrow of the priests of Mammon, and of Bacchus. (Cheers) This fight has gone on now for many a year, and many a good man has fallen, and yet the victory is not won. But what of that? You remember the great war in America, the war about slavery. Hundreds of thousands of men fell in the struggle, and they seemed no nearer the end. Then Abraham Lincoln put forth a proclamation and called for more and more men to go to fight the battle of those who had already fallen, and what was the answer which came, in the words of a song of that day?

We are coming, Father Abraham, three hundred thousand more.  
From Mississippi's winding stream and from New England's shore,  
You have called us, and we're coming, by the moral a-bloody tide.  
For freedom's cause today we down our brother's bones shall strew,  
Six hundred thousand loyal and true have gone before,  
We are coming, Father Abraham, three hundred thousand more.

(Applause) They came, they fought, they bled they died, but they won (Cheers) And my last word to you to-night is, be true to yourselves, be true to your cause, be true to your conscience, be true to your country; use that political power which is now yours for the overthrow of this gigantic system of national degradation, of demoralization, whose fall will gladden the heart of every man who is a friend of freedom, humanity, and justice. (Loud cheers)

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Will Not Be Silenced

A recent convention of the State Congregational Association of Wisconsin a remarkably strong temperance deliverance was made, strongly denouncing the liquor traffic and going on to say: "This gigantic evil can never be satisfactorily dealt with by any method of mere regulation or restriction. It overleaps all bounds and mocks at all restraints. In spite of a century of the license system the liquor traffic has grown three times more rapidly than the population. Notwithstanding license has often been used by the state with the intent of burdening the traffic, that it should be diminished and its evils alleviated, it has not stayed the tide of death. It has been understood by the dealers in liquor to extend to them the sanction and support of the state. This must not be allowed. It is the duty of the state to recognize this traffic as the most dangerous menace to the public order and the corrupter of the people to brand it as dangerous business and to move steadily forward to its complete abolition. This traffic is not a business to be sanctioned, neither is it a natural evil to be temporarily checked and confined, but it is a moral evil, a stupendous crime to be outlawed and extirpated. On the platform of prohibition, then, we stand. As a church, we can do no other. We cannot be frightened or silenced by any facts that may come concerning the relation of this principle to public sentiment, finance, politics, parties or government. If these endorse our principle, well we bid them God-speed, if they do not as those who believe God's truth is matching on, we must say our principle is just and righteous and will win, for no question is ever settled in this world till it is settled right."

The Challenge Accepted

The Central Illinois Methodist Conference recently held at Macomb adopted a report on temperance about the most outspoken that we have yet come across. It is an extensive document and we have only space for the following extract: "That there is no remedy for this man noth and satanic evil but absolute prohibition, State and national, the entire abolition of the detestable and murderous traffic. We do not consider license or tax, high low or medium, as temperance measures in any true sense of the word; and we do not propose to be deceived or deluded by them. We are fully convinced that they only tend to add responsibility to the traffic, and entrench it behind the cupidity of the taxpayer, thus strengthening its life and lengthening its days."

"That we regret the tendency among politicians and political conventions and political parties to trim, temporize and evade the main issue on this momentous question, instead of meeting it squarely."

"That we do not regret the liquor vendors have carried this burning question into politics. As the traffic has struck its heaviest blows at our political system, let it in return receive its death blow in the political arena. The fervid zeal of Methodist preachers in the cause of temperance has done much to prepare the public mind for the acceptance of this issue. We must not shrink from the logic of our own labor."

"We find ourselves legally bound by reason of our past record to accept the challenge thus made, and meet them at the ballot box. Let us not be frightened from the post of duty by the saloon cry: "It is a political question;" but let us trust in God and hunt the ass on unto the death in the pulpit and on the lecture platform."

The list of officers elect for 1887-8 are as follows:

President, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P.; Vice President, His Eminence Cardinal Archbishop Manning. The Most Hon. Marquis Townshend, The Right Hon. Lord Mount Temple, Rev. the Earl of Malmesbury, Wesley Vicesire; Right Rev. Bishop Abraham, Lincoln; Colonel Sir G. B. Pechell, Bart., Aldon, Hants, Sir John F. Lewis, Bart., C. C. D. Hollywood, Bristol; M. B. (Malta), Esq., D. L. J. P., Carrickfergus; Alderman Joseph Townes, Newcastle upon Tyne; John Hop, Esq., W. S., Edinburgh; John Cadbury, Esq., Birmingham, The Rev. Prebendary Venn, Hereford; Esq. and Vicar, Esq., J. P. M. A., Tezquar; Benjamin Whitworth, Esq., J. P., Manchester; Rev. William Arthur, M. A., London; Alderman George Tatham, Leeds; John Grubb, Rochdale; Esq., J. P., Blackburn; Esq., Esq., W. Newman, Westonsuper-Mare; P. H. Chas. Brock, Esq., Donagh; Ven. Sir Lovelace T. Stanger, Bart., Wake-on-Trent; Robert Whitworth, Esq.,