

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ALLIANCE.

It is highly probable that the meeting at Toronto on the 20th prox. will be the largest and most representative gathering of temperance men that Canada has ever seen. The programme of proceedings is not yet complete, but it is expected that every prominent question in connection with the present position of the temperance and prohibitory movement, will come up for consideration, and that definite deliverances will be made upon them. It is also anticipated that there will be decided upon a policy of further immediate aggressive action against the liquor traffic, in the interests of our country and our homes.

A number of prominent men of unusual ability and experience have already respectively accepted invitations to open discussion on such important matters as "The Scientific Aspect of the Temperance Question," "Lager Beer and Light Wines," "Compensation," "Scott Act Enforcement," "Further Legislation," etc., etc.

The principal railway lines have kindly signified their willingness to carry certified delegates to and from the Convention at reduced rates, and further arrangements are being made for the convenience and comfort of those attending. Let there be a general rally of our workers from every part of the country. Further information will be promptly and cheerfully furnished to any person applying to the Secretary, F. S. Spence, 8 King St. East, Toronto.

THE ALLIANCE, as an organization, is not in any sense in competition with any other organization. It is simply the Legislative Committee of the various temperance societies and workers. It is composed of members and delegates. Any temperance or church organization that contributes annually one dollar or upwards to the funds of the Alliance is considered a branch, and has the right to send to the Convention one delegate for every dollar so contributed. In addition to the delegates so constituted, any temperance worker approving of the objects of the Alliance, may become a member by paying annually one dollar or more. All members contributing one dollar and a half or more, are entitled to receive free THE CANADA CITIZEN, the organ of the Alliance. Delegates and other members may, upon application to the Secretary, obtain certificates entitling them to reduced rates of travel to attend the Alliance Conventions; they have all equal privileges of speaking and voting at the Convention. The Alliance funds are used solely for the furtherance of Scott Act and other prohibitory work. The money is carefully expended for this purpose, and the Alliance operations have been somewhat restricted by want of money, although much has been accomplished. Friends in sympathy with the prohibition movement are earnestly requested to contribute as liberally as their circumstances will permit.

THE TEN GALLON CLAUSE.

The parts of the Scott Act called by this name are sub-sections 5, 6, 7 and 8 of sec. 99. By many opponents of the Act this is compared with what was known as the "five gallon clause" of the late Dunkin Act, but there is little or no similarity between them. The Dunkin Act allowed any merchant to sell liquor in quantities of not less than five gallons, and it could be consumed where the Act was in force. As a preventative of drink-selling the Scott Act is much better. No persons except licensed manufacturers or licensed wholesale dealers are permitted to sell liquors. These can only sell in quantities of not less than ten gallons or in the case of ale and beer eight gallons. They are not permitted to sell indiscriminately

to every person for beverage purpose but only "to such persons as they have good reason to believe will forthwith carry the same beyond the limits of the county or city and of any adjoining county or city in which the second part of this Act is there in force and to be wholly removed and taken away." These provisions are practically prohibition as far as ordinary drink selling is connected wherever the Scott Act is in force. The error which many make is in supposing that liquor in quantities of ten gallons can be purchased for general consumption in places where the Scott Act has been carried.

This clause is intended to prevent any semblance of injustice to manufacturers and wholesale traders. The business of these men is not local but extends itself all over the Dominion, and therefore before a general prohibitory law comes into force, it would be unfair to allow a local vote to hamper a trade which is done in counties and cities where the Scott Act is not in operation. That would be giving the electors of Toronto—for example—power to prevent the sale of liquor in all places which receive their supply from Toronto, and this would be in a sense unjust to the manufacturers and wholesale dealers and the places outside of Toronto which they supply. For instance, suppose the Scott Act were carried in Toronto and it had the effect of entirely stopping the manufacture and sale. Assume that the City of Hamilton, which has rejected the Act, was supplied with liquor from Toronto, then under such circumstances Toronto could force a prohibitory measure on Hamilton against the will of the people of that city, unless they could get a supply of liquor elsewhere. We perceive, therefore, the reason for so framing the Act that no liquor can be sold for beverage purposes to be used in any place where the Act is in force, but the wholesale trade may continue with the places where the Act has been carried. The people of one city have no legal right to legislate for another, nor have people of a city the right to say how or in what commodities their merchants shall deal in other cities or places, and this is precisely what the Scott Act guards against.

When a general prohibitory law goes into operation it will be different, as the jurisdiction of the Dominion Parliament extends over the whole Dominion, and they have the power to pass such a measure. The Scott Act is all right as far as it goes. It is a step toward better things and the great victories it is gaining afford the clearest evidence that the people of Canada have had more than enough of the demon drink and are prepared for total prohibition.

CHEEK.

We do not remember ever meeting with a piece of cooler impertinence, than that of the circular referred to elsewhere, issued in connection with the liquor men's petition. This circular, dated at Ottawa, but printed in Hamilton, suggests and asks co-operation in working for certain "amendments" to the Scott Act. It is headed "Anti-Scott Act Association" and signed by the secretary of an organization whose name would indicate that it exists for the purpose of fighting the Scott Act. This society now asks Parliament to so amend the Act that they can oppose it more successfully. Parliament has given us power to stop the sale of liquor, because the sale of liquor does us harm. The liquor-men want that power limited because we exercise it, and so they can't sell. Imagine the liquor traffic amending the Scott Act. Imagine the burglar asking for a law against patent locks because he couldn't get into the houses with these locks on the doors. Imagine the wolf asking for a law to compel the shepherd to muzzle his dog. We have got the Scott Act to guard our homes, and Parliament dare not muzzle our dog until Parliament has strangled the wolf. But there is something comical about the "cheekiness" of the wolf's petition.