

The Dominion Alliance

Total Suppression of the Liquor Traffic

The Dominion Alliance is, in its plan and purpose, simply a union or federation of the different societies and agencies of Canada that are favorable to the suppression of the liquor traffic. It provides for a central council made up of delegates chosen from provincial branches of the Alliance and from different provincial temperance organizations and ecclesiastical bodies.

The Council, which is a Dominion body, was very active when prohibition agitation centred in the Dominion Parliament, but, since the courts have affirmed that Provincial Legislatures have prohibitory powers, the work of the Alliance has been mainly done by the Provincial Branches or equivalent organizations in the different Provinces, each of which makes its own constitution, frames its own plan of work and directs its own action, being simply expected to recognize the Council as the bond of union between the various provincial organizations favoring prohibition, and an agency to assist in securing desired Dominion legislation.

Stands for Prohibition.

The Alliance stands for total prohibition. In this advanced method a great majority of temperance workers believe. Toward it they work unceasingly. With these the Alliance unites many others who favor less radical methods. The majority rule and the prohibition object are cardinal features of the Alliance plan and aim.

Bringing together so many men and women of different views, the Alliance

meetings are often the scene of hot discussion. Even this is useful and good. Sometimes earnest temperance men who have not forgotten their partisan politics, manifest fear lest some movement may hurt their friends. Sometimes zealous partisans have manifested willingness to make the Alliance deliverances tell to the detriment of their political opponents. So far wise management and sound judgment have met these difficulties, and the majority has shown itself prudent, fearless and independent.

These facts have led disappointed people to criticize the Alliance, some denouncing it as unfairly friendly to one political party, while others as strongly argued that it has erred in the opposite direction. No one has, however, been able to point out an instance in which the conclusions finally reached can be shown to have in them a partisan complexion, although the Alliance criticism of leading men in both parties has often been severe, and the wrong-doing of both has been vigorously denounced.

Subjoined is the Constitution of the Dominion Alliance, and the list of officers elected at the convention held in Massey Hall, Toronto, on February 16th, 1912.

CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE DOMINION ALLIANCE.

Declaration of Principles.

I. That it is neither right nor politic for the state to afford legal protection and sanction to any traffic or system that tends to increase crime, to waste the national resources, to corrupt the