

that the people of this country are in favor of its being granted. In the meantime the Scott Act has been given us as a measure of partial relief from the terrible evils of intemperance, and an instrument by which we can test public sentiment on the principles it embodies. We have accepted it, admitting its imperfections, because with all its faults it is better than the license system that it displaces, and because it will enable us to show our legislators what is the real sentiment of our electorate on the question of prohibition.

Sometimes we meet with men who profess to be anxious to get prohibition, but who refuse to support the Scott Act. This position is not consistent. A vote for the Scott Act is practically an affirmative answer to the enquiry—"Are you in favor of prohibition?" A vote against the Scott Act is a negative answer, and a refusal to vote is a refusal to express an opinion. Without the promise of support implied in a large Scott Act vote, our legislators will not give us any better law. If we show that we have the mass of the people at our back—and an overwhelming Scott Act vote will do this,—they will give us anything we demand. The Scott Act is far from being all we want, but it is better than what we have, and we claim support for it both for what it is in itself and for what it will enable us to get. We have heard of few things so insanely inconsistent as the conduct of the shipwrecked man who determinedly refuses to take the boat that will carry him surely and safely to shore, because the boat is not the shore that he is anxious to reach.

ARTHABASKA.

Another has been added to the roll of glorious victories for the cause of right and progress. Arthabaska has the proud distinction of being the first county of Quebec to wheel into line, and she has done it with a vote which shows that her electors are thoroughly roused and intensely in earnest. The loyal old French province is true to the core to the sound principles upon which Canada's greatness is being built up. Liberty is the watchword of the advancing nations of the age. Enlightened public opinion is sweeping out of existence one by one, all forms of tyranny, and lingering relics of the by-gone barbarism in which the despotic selfishness of the few oppressed and enslaved the many, and enriched itself at the expense of the suffering masses. The world is waking up to a realization of the sublime truth of the great doctrine of the brotherhood of man, and is abolishing the old tyrannical institutions that were the agencies of unrighteous gain and cruel impoverishment. Progress is necessarily aggressive. It must fight every step of its way. Avarice and fraud will not yield an inch of their foothold till they are forced from it by the irresistible indignation that will inevitably assail every form of injustice, when liberal institutions and right treatments have educated the people to know their rights and feel their power. The men of Quebec have fought bravely for their rights in days gone by. They have learned to appreciate the rest truth embodied in the watchword of the Scott Act campaign: "Freedom for the right means suppression of the wrong." They see that the liquor traffic antagonizes and hinders every agency that is at work for the elevation of humanity, and they have joined with heart and voice in the earnest announcement:—The liquor traffic must be put down.

There is a conservatism in certain classes of society that ultimately becomes the very backbone of true progress. We would be very badly off without it in many of the political storms that we have to weather. It is the ballast that steadies the ship of state when the winds of reform are filling her sails. Its weight and worth make it slow to move, but when it moves no mortal power can withstand its momentum. Quebec is inherently conservative. In the earliest days of the Scott Act, two of her counties refused to adopt it. It was new, it was untried as to worth, and untested as

to constitutionality. To-day it stands unshaken and unchanged, vindicated in its successful operation, sustained by our highest judicial tribunal, and Quebec hesitates no longer. Arthabaska endorses it by a majority of more than six to one, and other counties are getting ready to vote. Arthabaska's majority for the Act is nearly double the aggregate of the majority that the two Quebec counties recorded against it some four years ago.

There have now been forty-one contests upon the Scott Act. In six of these, majorities have been polled against us, one we lost by a tie vote, and in thirty-four have there been majorities in our favor. Every agitation for repeal has been defeated and *no Scott Act county has ever gone back to license.* The growth of public opinion is well shown in the following facts. It is now nearly three years since the anti-Scott-Act party polled their last majority. We have not been beaten since the Privy Council sustained the Act.

For the four contests that have taken place during the present year, our majorities aggregate 4,477, while the aggregate majority of our opponents in the seven victories that they won so long ago was only 3,245. The total vote now stands

For the Act	50,590
Against the Act	27,179

Majority for the Act	23,411
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"We thank God, and take courage."

Scott Act News.

RENFREW.—A convention for this county met in the Temperance Hall of Renfrew village on the 18th inst, at 10 a.m. The attendance was remarkably large, and the feeling of the meeting very enthusiastic. The time was not very opportune, haying being in progress, and the farmers left their work and came in to discuss a question to the importance of which they are thoroughly alive.

The meeting was opened by prayer, led by the Rev. Mr. Ballantyne, of Pembroke, after which Rev. Dr. Campbell, of Renfrew, was appointed chairman. Mr. Campbell then gave an outline of the Act, and called upon the different representatives to state what was the feeling in reference to it in their respective localities. The reports that were given were all favorable, and after an address from Mr. F. S. Spence, Secretary of the Dominion Alliance, a strongly worded resolution was adopted pledging the meeting to work for the carrying of the Scott Act in this county. An organization was at once formed to be called the Renfrew County Branch of the Dominion Alliance, and the following officers were elected:—

President, D. Halliday, Horton, vice-presidents, R. Arth, senr. and J. W. O'Hara, Renfrew, Secretary, W. E. Small, of the Renfrew Mercury; Treasurer, George Eady, jr., Renfrew; and the following vice-presidents representing the different municipalities: Adamston—P. Dalgleish; Alice—John Rowen; Bromley—Charles Ross; Pettawaawa—Mr. Selkirk; Head—W. H. McIntyre; Pembroke—M. Gorman, senr.; Pembroke township—H. J. Church; Ross—Rev. M. D. M. Blakely; Stafford—Geo. Sparling; Westmeath—Jas. Finlay, ex-M.P.; Wilberforce—James Reeves, J.P.; Arnprior—E. W. Kenny, Bagot—John Wallace; Grattan—M. McFarlane; Horton South—R. A. Jamieson; Horton York—James Lindsay, Reeve; Renfrew—Jas. Stewart; Raglan—Theo. Wasmund; McNab—Rev. G. Bremner.

In the evening a mass meeting was held, addressed by Mr. Spence. Opposition was invited, but no one would champion the anti-temperance cause. It is confidently expected that Renfrew county will give the Scott Act an immense majority.

PERTH.—As announced last week, the temperance convention was held in the temperance hall on Tuesday last. A large number of the delegates were present, and the outlook, so far, for the passage of the Scott Act is good. Nearly three thousand out of the ten thousand voters in the county have signed the petition, and still two places to hear from. In the evening a mass meeting was held in the town hall, which was crowded to the doors. Mr. Spence, of Toronto, was the principal speaker, and advanced some very strong arguments in favor of the Scott Act. Frank Ross, formerly ostler in the Mansion House, went to the platform to oppose the speakers in favor of the Act, but Mr. John Payne, proprietor