

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

-OF-

THE DOMINION ALLIANCE

Held in Ottawa, February 5th and 6th, 1885.

The Council of the Dominion Alliance met, pursuant to the call of the Executive, in the City Hall, Ottawa, on Thursday, February 5th, 1885, at ten o'clock, a.m.

Senator Vidal, the President, called the meeting to order.

Prayer was offered by Rev. A. P. McDiarmid.

On motion of Rev. John Wood, Rev. A. P. McDiarmid was appointed Recording Secretary.

The President appointed a Committee on Business, consisting of Messrs. J. J. McLaren, J. R. Dougall, S. A. Fisher, M.P., F. S. Spence, and W. H. Allison, M.P.

The President then delivered a brief address, alluding specially to the great victories that had been gained in the cause of prohibition during the past year.

On motion of Mr. G. M. Rose, seconded by Mr. J. W. Manning, the minutes of the last annual meeting were taken as read.

The Secretary, Mr. F. S. Spence, then read his annual report, which on motion of Rev. J. Wood, seconded by Rev. Mr. Jamieson, was adopted.

The following is the

ANNUAL REPORT.

Ottawa, Feb. 5th, 1885.

Mr. President and fellow-members:

Your Secretary respectfully submits the following statement of work done since last annual meeting:

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

met immediately after the close of the Convention. It was ordered that an annual announcement should be at once issued calling upon our friends in the different parts of the Dominion to open a vigorous campaign for the adoption of the Scott Act in their respective localities. The committee also ordered the preparation and publication of a year book for 1884.

Hon. Messrs. Ferrier, Vidal, and Girard, and Mr. Foster were appointed a committee to prepare a form of prayer to be used at the annual meeting.

The Secretary immediately prepared and sent out, as instructed, 5,000 copies of the following:

ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT, FEBRUARY, 1884

At the annual meeting of the Dominion Council of the Alliance, held at Ottawa, on January 31st and February 1st, a resolution was adopted in favor of an immediate agitation for the adoption of the Scott Act in every county of the Dominion in which such action has not already been taken.

This course was decided upon for the purpose of (1) Securing in every part of the Dominion the thorough discussion of the temperance question that invariably proves a powerful means of developing and stimulating public sentiment in favor of sorely needed reform, (2) Securing a substantial expression of the strong feeling that undoubtedly exists against the whole liquor system—this would be practically a demand for total prohibition that Parliament would be obliged to recognize, (3) Securing immediately the extension, over as much territory as possible, of the operation of the Scott Act, which already in some places has produced incalculable good, greatly diminishing the evils of intemperance.

At the same meeting a deputation was appointed to wait upon the Dominion Government, and urge the desirability of providing for the simultaneous polling of the different counties that may petition for the submission of the Act.

In view of the above detailed action the Executive of the Alliance requests all friends of the temperance movement in every part of the Dominion to at once set to work unitedly, determinedly and vigorously for the circulation in their respective localities of petitions praying for the submission of the said Act. The time is opportune; the necessity for some check to the terrible ravages of drink is daily becoming manifest and imperative; and the loyal workers who have hitherto upheld the cause so nobly and unflinchingly are earnestly called upon to rally again in support of this movement. It has been decided upon, after mature deliberation, as the only hopeful course now open, and the most certain to secure real progress towards prohibition.

To succeed in this work it is specially desirable that there should be formed, at once, in every county and city, a strong central committee of active temperance workers, including representatives from the different local organizations, to plan and direct combined energetic action. It is also desirable that there should be formed in every locality a branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. This Society has proved an invaluable agency for the work in every part of the Dominion.

Further information, directions for procedure, forms of petitions for signature, etc., may be procured from the secretaries of the Provincial Branches of the Alliance, who are as follows:

- Ontario, F. S. Spence, 8 King Street East, Toronto.
- Quebec, Rev. D. V. Lucas, 182 Mountain St., Montreal.
- New Brunswick, C. H. Lugin, Fredericton.
- Nova Scotia, P. Monaghan, P. O. Box 379, Halifax.
- Prince Edward Island, Rev. Geo. W. Hodgson, Charlottetown.
- Manitoba, J. A. Tees, Winnipeg.
- British Columbia, J. B. Kennedy, New Westminster.

It is expected that during the present Session of Parliament there will be introduced in the House of Commons a resolution in favor of total prohibition, and it is requested that electors everywhere will urge upon their respective representatives their duty to give it a cordial support.

Signed on behalf of the Dominion Council.

A. VIDAL, President.
J. R. DOUGALL, Chairman of Executive.
F. S. SPENCE, Secretary.

N. B.—It is requested that newspapers will kindly give publicity to the above circular, and that all friends of the temperance cause will aid in giving it a wide circulation.

THE RESPONSE TO THIS CALL

was unprecedented in extent and vigor. Agitation was begun in a large number of counties and energetically pushed to a successful issue. Fuller details of this movement will be laid before you in the reports from the different provinces. The anti-temperance party endeavored to check the progress that was being made by bringing on in five Scott Act districts

AGITATION FOR REPEAL.

In every one of these cases the Act was sustained.

THE TOTAL VOTES

polled on the Scott Act during the year, the dates on which the pollings took place, and the aggregate result of the voting are shown in the following table:—

PLACE.	VOTES POLLED		MAJORITIES.		DATE OF ELECTION.
	For	Ag'nst	For	Ag'nst	
Prince County, P.E.I.	2939	1065	1874		Feb'y 7, 1884
Yarmouth, N.S.	1300	96	1204		March 7, "
Oxford, Ont.	4073	3298	775		March 20, "
Arthabaska, Que.	1487	235	1252		July 17, "
Westmoreland, N.B.	1774	1701	73		Aug. 14, "
Halton, Ont.	1947	1767	180		Sept. 9, "
Simcoe, Ont.	5712	4529	1183		Oct. 9, "
Stanstead, Que.	1300	975	325		" 9, "
Charlottetown, P.E.I.	755	715	40		" 16, "
Dundas, Stormont, and Glengarry, Ont.	4590	2884	1706		" 16, "
Peel, Ont.	1505	1990		194	" 23, "
Bruce, Ont.	4501	3189	1312		" 30, "
Huron, Ont.	6012	4357	1655		" 30, "
Dufferin, Ont.	1804	1109	795		" 30, "
Prince Edward, Ont.	1528	1653		125	" 30, "
York, N.B.	1184	601	523		" 30, "
Renfrew, Ont.	1748	1018	730		Nov. 7, "
Norfolk, Ont.	2781	1694	1087		" 11, "
Compton, Que.	1132	1620		488	" 29, "
Brant, Ont.	1690	1088	602		Dec. 11, "
Brantford (city).	646	812		166	" 11, "
Leeds and Grenville, Ont.	5058	4384	674		" 18, "
Kent, Ont.	4368	1975	2393		Jan. 15, 1885
Lanark, Ont.	1995	1581	414		" 15, "
Lennox and Addington, Ont.	2047	2011	36		" 15, "
Brome, Que.	1224	739	485		" 15, "
Guelph, Ont.	680	511	169		" 22, "
Carleton, Ont.	2440	1747	693		" 29, "
Total.....	68620	49413	20180	973	

Total number of contests..... 28
Carried in favor of Prohibition..... 24

In favor of license..... 4
Net majority for the Scott Act in the 28 contests..... 19,207

RESOLUTIONS IN FAVOR OF PROHIBITION

were brought forward in the House of Commons at its last session, in accordance with a resolution passed by the Alliance at its last meeting. On March 5th, Professor Foster moved

"That the object of good government is to promote the general welfare of the people by a careful encouragement and protection of whatever makes for the public good, and by an equally careful discouragement and suppression of whatever tends to the public disadvantage.

That the traffic in alcoholic liquors as beverages is productive of serious injury to the moral, social and industrial welfare of the people of Canada.

That despite all preceding legislation, the evils of intemperance remain so vast in magnitude, so wide in extent, and so destructive in effect, as to constitute a social peril and a national menace.

That this House is of the opinion, for the reasons hereinafter set forth, that the right and most effectual legislative remedy for those evils is to be found in the enactment and enforcement of a law prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes."

These resolutions were seconded by Mr. Fisher, and supported by other members.

On March 26th, Mr. White (Cardwell) moved the following amendment:—

"And this House is prepared, so soon as public opinion will sufficiently sustain stringent measures, to promote such legislation, so far as the same is within the competency of the Parliament of Canada."

This amendment was accepted.

Mr. Robertson (Shelburne) moved the addition of the following:—

"And that this House is of opinion that the public sentiment of the people of Canada calls for immediate legislation to that end."

The amendment was negatived on a division—Yeas, 55; Nays, 107.

The original resolutions with the first amendment were carried on a division—Yeas, 122; Nays, 40.

THE PUBLICATION OF THE ALLIANCE YEAR BOOK

was delayed until near the end of the year, it being found inconvenient for special reasons to have it issued earlier. The full report of the debate in the House of Commons was then added to other matter usually printed, and the whole forms a document of permanent interest and value.

THE LIQUOR PARTY ISSUED PETITIONS

in the former part of the present winter, and circulated them widely for signatures, praying the Dominion Parliament to so alter the Scott Act that its benefits could only be secured by counties and cities giving a three-fifths vote in its favor. It was also learned that movements were in progress with the object of attempting to have