

greater than formerly. Now the quantity of liquor sold at the three drug stores in Halton, according to official report, was 16½ barrels in 8 months, and this was considered so much in excess of the legitimate sales for the purpose allowed that the licenses were withdrawn. In Milton he found that the quantity sold in 1883 was 35½ barrels, and calculating the same proportion for the other towns there would be about 31 barrels sold in Halton, including Oakville, during the year under the Scott Act. But before the Act there were 42 licensed taverns in the county, at every one of which the sale of liquor was openly pushed. Now if these licensed houses made average sales of only six barrels a month there would be 72 barrels sold in Oakville alone or more than 40 barrels in excess of what is now sold all over the county. He would be told that this was not a fair way of stating the facts because some hotel keepers had sold liquor illicitly. He was aware of that and so were the hotel-keepers, for they had to pay smartly for it. [Laughter.] But if this illegal selling were taken into account does anyone for a moment believe that the sales would be equal to, or in any degree compare with the open sale in hotels all over the county. As to crime there was abundant evidence that it had greatly diminished under the Scott Act. The County Fair held in Milton was so conspicuous for the sobriety of the people that it made many converts in favor of the Act who had voted against it. He had been told repeatedly by people who knew whereof they spoke that many who voted against the Act would vote for it in future, and one person said it had saved him from \$100 to \$300 in treating alone, and offered another one a bet of \$1,000 that the Act would not be repealed. The gentleman dealt ably with the moral and criminal aspect of the question, showing from official statistics that there had been a large decrease in crime in the county since the Act came into operation.

MR. F. S. SPENCE rejoiced in the position in which he found himself to-night. In moral and intellectual progress, Canada is the banner country of the world, Ontario is the banner province of Canada, and Halton is the banner county of Ontario. He went on to show the superiority of prohibition over license, not only in soundness of principle but in success of operation. In a speech of about one hour, he showed the soundness of prohibition, the success of the Scott Act, the unsoundness of the sophistries that were offered against it, and urged the electors of Halton to stand by a victory they had so bravely won.

Messrs. Barclay, Taylor, Young and Warcup then spoke forcibly of the success of the working of the Act in the town of Oakville, and the surrounding country, specially showing the unsoundness of the statements so frequently made that business in Oakville had been injured by the operation of the Act. There was laid on the chairman's table, a manifesto, that had been signed during the day by over sixty of the best known and most important citizens of Oakville, some of them doing very extensive business, testifying that the working of the Act had not been injurious to legitimate trade, and affirming their determination to stand by it and resist any attempt at repeal.

The following resolution was moved by Mr. W. H. Young, and seconded by Mr. Dyer, and carried unanimously by a standing vote:—

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting the operation of the Scott Act in the county of Halton during the last two years has diminished the drinking of intoxicating liquors; has decreased crime, destroyed the open sale and treating system, and not injured business, and that we will to the utmost of our ability, sustain the Act if a repeal be taken.

MIDDLESEX.—We are very much pleased to learn that the friends of the good cause in this large and important county, are rallying to their work with strong hopes of success. We clip the following from a letter just received from Rev. W. Johnston, Ailsa Craig, President of the Middlesex Branch of the Dominion Alliance, for the suppression of the Liquor Traffic:—

The Executive Committee of the Middlesex Branch Alliance, incited by the generally improved state of public feeling, are prepared to proceed with the work of securing the balance of the signatures necessary to petition for the following. We have about 3000 names on the petitions already, which will be good after the allowance is made for change in voter's lists, &c., and we need 1000 more names to complete the 25 per cent. We purpose prosecuting the canvass vigorously in those municipalities not yet canvassed, and sending a petition to every former canvasser, with instructions to have a few additional names secured at once. Will you therefore send *at once* sufficient petitions and instructions to canvassers, and

forms of attestation for this purpose. We purpose calling a convention as soon as a sufficient number of names are secured.

The following items are taken from reports of the *Globe's* special correspondents:

SIMCOE.—When, a few weeks ago, representative temperance advocates in convention assembled, decided to enter upon a Scott Act campaign in the county of Simcoe, it did not occur to them that the county of Simcoe proper was of the extent and of the description of territory which it really is. They fancied that it comprised only those townships which it embraced municipally, and although even this constitutes an enormous size, and would render the work they had in hand an undertaking of formidable aspect, yet the Scott Act advocates had no hesitancy in falling to work with earnestness, vigor and hope. The preliminary steps had been definitely taken, the canvass in many quarters had been actively begun, and the whole movement was nicely under way, when the question arose as to the actual constitution of the county which, for judicial purposes, includes Muskoka and Parry Sound districts in part. In view of the unrecognized condition of a great part of this territory, it became a matter for most serious discussion whether it would be advisable to risk at the present time the submission of the Act, if it should prove that all this judicial district would have to be included in the county. To determine what course was to be taken, another convention was called for the 10th inst., at Barrie, the delegates to which attended in large numbers. Two sessions were held in the parochial school-house here, and the whole question was discussed from every possible standpoint. It transpired that legal opinions had been obtained from Mr. McCarthy, Q. C., and Mr. S. H. Blake, Q. C., the upshot of which was to settle that some 32 townships of Muskoka and Parry Sound, not connected with Simcoe for municipal purposes, would have to be taken in for the Scott Act vote. "Shall we go on, or shall we hesitate?" was the way the chairman put the question, and he added that he wanted both sides of the matter fully enquired into. The objections included the possibility that in the unorganized townships any number of bogus votes could be polled, and that it would be difficult for promoters of the Act to effect anything like satisfactory organization in such wide and sparsely populated sections. These objections were met by the statement that there could be a check on unlawful voting and punishment meted out to offenders. It was a moot question whether Indians could vote, Mr. Drury, M.P.P., giving it as his opinion that the recent election law amendment likely prevented them. Another delegate remarked that as to manufacturing votes in Muskoka and Parry Sound, the fear to be really entertained was the use of unlawful means to influence votes. Then came a consideration of the local influences for and against the Act in that district. Another view of the matter was the influence a surrender of the field would exert in other counties where the passage of the Act was about to be essayed. It was pointed out that the anti-prohibitionists would make much capital out of it, and would take no pains to present the real facts to the public. Said one enthusiastic delegate, "People are warm now, both sides are fairly at work; let us go on. We have the better cause anyway, and we ought to win." Put to a vote, every hand went up in the affirmative, and the result of the meeting was that the Scott Act campaign in the county of Simcoe will not be dropped. The total vote that can be polled is 17,500. The reports brought in from every quarter of the county (municipal) are highly favorable, and indicate that a large majority can be rolled up in favor of the Act, one calculating speaker having figured it as high as 3,000. Even the towns in the country are not deemed unlikely sources of a majority, Barrie excepted. Financial returns were handed in, showing that far more than the amount assessed on the several divisions could easily be collected. It was decided, among other things, to vigorously prosecute the work of pamphlet distribution, and to endeavor to supply speakers for opposition meetings. Mr. W. H. Howland, of Toronto, was one whose name was suggested in this connection. The utmost enthusiasm prevailed throughout the proceedings, which terminated with votes of thanks to the Ladies' Temperance Aid Association of Barrie for having entertained the delegates during their visit here.

BRANT AND BRANTFORD.—The agitation for the adoption of the Scott Act in Brantford and Brant County is assuming large proportions. A meeting of county delegates in connection with the cause was convened in the Young Men's Christian Association Hall, Brantford, on the 16th inst., when it was decided to appoint a