

It was decided to go at once to work with the petitions, and that canvassers be furnished with these petitions, and immediately start to work. Mr. Spence then addressed the convention. He explained what the Scott Act really is. He said the Act was a test of public opinion, and that if it was carried the showing would be unmistakably in favor of Prohibition. He contended also, that even if we got no further than the Scott Act, it is so far ahead of the present license system as to well repay all the labor undertaken. This superiority be plainly showed, going into the provisions of the Act. He maintained that the Act where fairly tried has been a success.

The general feeling of the meeting was in favor of going to work immediately. The representatives from the various municipalities expressed the greatest confidence in the result of the canvass, and the unanimous feeling was, that the Scott Act would carry in York.

It was decided to hold a mass meeting at Aurora on a date to be fixed by the Executive Committee. The meeting then adjourned to meet at the call of the Executive.

DURHAM AND NORTHUMBERLAND.—A mass meeting to discuss the Scott Act was held at Port Hope, on Tuesday night, in the large hall of the Y. M. C. A. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. H. Mundy, and a large number of ministers and other prominent gentlemen were in the audience. The proceedings were opened with devotional exercises, conducted by Rev. G. H. Copeland, after which the chairman explained the objects of the meeting and introduced the speakers.

Mr. A. Cuthbertson briefly stated his reasons for being a Scott Act advocate. He knew the evils of intemperance and recognized in the Scott Act a remedy for those evils. He pointed out the facts that the Act had been tried and proved successful, and that it had been declared constitutional by the British Privy Council. He urged those present to work for its adoption.

Mr. F. S. Spence, Secretary of the Dominion Alliance, addressed the meeting at some length. He pointed out the necessity for legal prohibition and moral suasion as the respective agencies that were required to cope with the forces of the liquor traffic and the evil customs of society. After referring to the terrible evils of intemperance and demonstrating that the licensed traffic was the cause of these evils, he proceeded to show the efficiency of the Scott Act as a remedy for them. He sketched the history of the Act and explained its most important provisions, showing its vast superiority to both the old Dunkin Act and the present licensing system, and went on to answer the objections most frequently urged against it. It was not an interference with the liberty of the subject to a greater extent than any other judicious law that gave freedom to that which is good by suppressing antagonising forces that are bad, and that would therefore interfere with the liberty that all men should have to do what is right. It would not be detrimental but beneficial to the corporate community, enhancing its material prosperity and bettering its financial condition. It was not now a tentative piece of legislation but a tried and successful measure heartily endorsed by those who had experienced its beneficial operations. It would do immediate good and would accelerate the attainment of ultimate prohibition. He pressed upon the electors the duty of giving it a cordial support. Mr. Wm. Smith, of Cobourg, Secretary of the County Scott Act Association, spoke strongly of the importance of thorough organization and energetic effort. He believed in out and out political temperance. We should vote for the Scott Act, see to its enforcement, and vote only for legislators who would support us in doing so. This was the only method by which we could ultimately make our movement a grand success. The public meeting was then closed and the temperance workers present, proceeded to organize for immediate canvass of the town for signatures to the Scott Act petition. A committee was formed with Mr. J. H. Mundy as chairman and Mr. T. Wickett, Secretary. Canvassers were appointed as follows:—

Ward No. 1.—S. Guest and T. Watson. Ward No. 2.—John Oke and Rev. T. R. Hull. Ward No. 3.—J. Tape and F. S. Smith. The same gentlemen along with the following were constituted an Executive Committee:—Revs. J. Baird, J. Learoyd, G. H. Copeland, A. Murdock, Dr. O'Meara, J. S. Baker, Mitchell, and Messrs. S. Lelean, E. Jenkins, Geo. Glass, R. S. Scott, J. C. Jewell, and Geo. Wilson.

Petitions were at once placed in the hands of canvassers, and Mr. Spence gave clear and full directions concerning their circulation and signature. It is expected that Port Hope will give a good account of herself when the voting day arrives.

PRESCOTT AND RUSSELL.—Pursuant to appointment (notice of which was given by circulars issued by a Provisional Committee at Vankleek Hill) a meeting of delegates, representatives and others from the different municipalities throughout the counties of Prescott and Russell was held in the Court House, L'Orignal, at 1 o'clock p. m., on Tuesday, the 27th May, 1884. At the hour appointed the meeting being called to order, it was moved by Mr. McCaug, and seconded by John Fraser, that Mr. Peter McLaurin of South Plantagenet take the chair.—Carried. Moved by John Fraser and seconded by Mr. W. Lamb, of Wendover, that Wm. McAdam, act as Secretary of this meeting.—Carried. Moved by Rev. McLairie, and seconded by Rev. Mr. Hughes, that this meeting approves of the actions of the friends at Vankleek Hill in convening this meeting, and the thanks of this meeting is hereby tendered to the said Provisional Committee for first moving in this matter. Mr. Peter McLaurin then read his commission as a delegate from the Riceville Temperance Society. Rev. Mr. Hughes stated that he represented the Temperance Society of the village of Cumberland. Mr. Wm. Lamb, of Wendover, spoke of the state of the cause in the section of the county he represented, and hoped that this the first step towards prohibition would be carried to a successful issue. John Middleton, of Point Fortune, spoke in favor of circulating petitions immediately, and getting the signatures of all parties favorable—he thought the people of the counties were ready for the Scott Act. Wm. H. Lefairie, Reeve of Alfred, spoke in sympathy with the movement, and hoped it would succeed. Mr. T. T. Higginson, of Hawkesbury, spoke, and favored the submission of the Scott Act to the people of the counties jointly. Mr. F. X. Bougie, of Alfred, spoke in favor, and thought if the temperance people exerted themselves, they would succeed in securing a majority of votes in favor of the Scott Act. Mr. J. Maxwell, County Attorney, thought the existing laws concerning the sale of intoxicating liquors were not enforced as they should be, and that he was aware of cases in the county where the law was openly violated by the keepers of taverns and hotels, selling liquors during the hours prohibited by the law; he thought the better way would be to grant less licenses and raise the price of such license and thereby create a better class of hotels, and educate the masses for total prohibition.

Rev. Wm. Ferguson thought there was a great amount of evil done by the so-called higher class of hotels. Rev. Wm. Hughes said that people were apt to call a tavern an hotel, but in his opinion there was a great difference between the two.

Mr. A. Hagar, M.P.P., spoke in favor of testing the feeling of the people in the counties, and thought that circulating petitions asking for the submission of the Scott Act would be a good way to do so, and in that way find out how willing the people were to have such a law put in force.

Mr. Wm. Rodden spoke in favor of the course, he thought the young should be taught the principles of temperance from early childhood, he was ready and willing to do his best in favor of the temperance cause.

Rev. Mr. Geddes thought the Scott Act should be submitted to the electors without delay.

The following motion was then moved by John Fraser, and seconded by Mr. F. X. Bougie, of Alfred:—"In view of the terrible evils resulting from the legalized traffic in intoxicating liquors, and believing the Canada Temperance Act of 1878 to be the best legislative measure within our reach to stand the tide of evil; be it therefore resolved that this meeting take immediate steps for the submission of the Scott Act to the electors of the united counties of Prescott and Russell."—Carried.

Moved by Mr. McCaug, and seconded by Alexander McInnes that Albert Hagar, M.P.P., be elected President or Chairman of the Central Committee, with headquarters at Plantagenet, and that said Committee be composed of the following gentlemen:—

Albert Hagar, M.P.P., President.
W. Chamberlain, Plantagenet.
Wm. Rodden, "
F. X. Bougie, Alfred, (St. Thomas.)
M. McCaug, Vankleek Hill.
J. Routhier, "
T. T. Higginson, Hawkesbury.
E. P. Johnstone, L'Orignal.
Dennis Hurley, East Hawkesbury, (Vankleek Hill.)

with power to add to their numbers.—Carried.

A vote of thanks was then tendered to the Chairman and Secretary, and the meeting adjourned. (Signed)

W. MACADAM,
Secretary.