

# Plan of Campaign.

OFFICE OF THE DOMINION ALLIANCE,  
52 CONFEDERATION LIFE BUILDING,  
TORONTO, July, 1899.

The Annual Meeting of the Council of the Dominion Alliance held in Toronto, on July 12th, was a gathering of unusual interest. Every Province of the Dominion was represented. The members of this Council had been appointed by Provincial and Dominion Temperance Organizations, and representative Church Courts. Delegates from twenty-five such bodies were in attendance.

The meeting was earnest and harmonious. A report was submitted, giving a history of the Plebiscite campaign of the past year, with a full statement and careful analyses of the vote, and setting out the action that had been taken following the vote by the Dominion Alliance Executive, the Dominion Government and Members of Parliament. The position of the Prohibition movement was carefully considered in all its details, and after a full discussion the following declarations were *unanimously adopted*.

1. That in view of the substantial majority in favor of prohibition, of all the votes polled throughout the Dominion in the recent Plebiscite, including an overwhelming majority in all the Provinces but one, and a large proportion of all the possible votes in those Provinces, this Council desires to express its strong dissatisfaction at the failure of the Government to take steps to give effect to the will of the people, as expressed at the polls.

2. That this Council re-affirms that nothing short of the total prohibition of the manufacture, importation, and sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes throughout the Dominion, can be accepted as a settlement of the liquor question, that such prohibition is the right and only effectual remedy for the evils of intemperance, and must be steadily pressed for until obtained.

3. That in view of the majority for prohibition in the whole Dominion, and the large vote and great majority recorded in favor of prohibition in six Provinces and the North-West Territories, the least measure of immediate legislation that could be looked upon as reasonable for the Government to offer, would be such as would secure the entire prohibition of the liquor traffic in and into these Provinces and Territories, notwithstanding any temporary delay in the application of such a law to the Province of Quebec on account of the adverse vote in that Province.

4. That such legislation ought to be enacted by the Dominion Parliament, which alone can prohibit the sending of intoxicating liquor into prohibition provinces from places in which prohibition is not in operation.

5. That failure to enact at least this measure of prohibition must be considered inexcusable disregard and defiance of the strong moral sentiment of the electorate, so emphatically expressed in the Plebiscite.

6. That prohibitionists ought to oppose any Government, any party or any candidate that will refuse to recognize and respond to the demand of the people, to at least the extent of such legislation.

7. That the friends of prohibition in every constituency of the Dominion are earnestly urged to at once take such steps as they deem best adapted to secure the defeat of any political candidate who will not favor such legislation, and to secure the nomination and election of candidates who can be relied upon to carry out the policy above stated.

The members of the Alliance Council were fully alive to the responsibility they assumed in their strong censure of the Dominion Government, in their insisting upon immediate prohibition legislation and in their contention that such legislation ought to be accepted by prohibitionists, even if at first the Province of Quebec did not come fully under its operation.

They believed that the character and extent of the evils resulting from the liquor traffic, the soundness of the principle of prohibition, and the votes polled and majorities recorded, fully justified every statement made in their declarations.

In this connection some of the information contained in the report of the Executive Committee will be of interest and value. The exact figures of the votes polled and counted for and against prohibition in the Plebiscite, are as follows:—

	For Prohibition	Against	Majority For	Maj. Against.
Ontario	154,498	115,284	39,214	.....
Quebec	28,436	122,760	.....	94,324
Nova Scotia	34,678	5,370	29,308	....
New Brunswick	26,919	9,575	17,344	.....
Prince Edward Island	9,461	1,146	8,315	.....
Manitoba	12,419	2,978	9,441	.....
British Columbia	5,731	4,756	975	.....
North West Territories	6,238	2,824	3,414	.....
Total	278,380	264,693	108,011	94,324

It will be seen that the net majority in favor of prohibition throughout the Dominion is 13,687. The majority against prohibition in the Province of Quebec was very large, but not large enough to counterbalance the great prohibition majority of the rest of the Dominion. In all the other Provinces the vote polled for prohibition was remarkably large, and the majority for prohibition was simply overwhelming. An examination of the vote polled outside the Province of Quebec gives the following striking results:

Total number of votes polled	391,877
Votes polled for prohibition	249,944
Votes polled against prohibition	141,933
Majority for prohibition	108,011
Percentage polled of names on list	44
Percentage of list voting for prohibition	28
Percentage of list voting against prohibition	16
Percentage for prohibition, of votes polled	64
Percentage against prohibition, of votes polled	36
Number of members of Parliament	148
Number whose constituencies voted for prohibition	121
Number whose constituencies voted against prohibition	27
Average majority for prohibition	1,034
Average majority against prohibition	633

For many years thousands of the best men and women in Canada have been striving earnestly and unselfishly to stem the terrible torrent of misery and sin that flows from the traffic in strong drink. They believe that in a Christian community, law should be on their side in the struggle. The people have endorsed this principle, and legislators have no right to thwart the people's will and force protesting communities to submit to the cruel liquor curse.

For thirty years we have been appealing to Parliament for prohibitory legislation. Parliament has declared that prohibition is right, but from time to time has put us off on various pretexts. We relied upon the present Government and Parliament to deal seriously with this important question. We accepted in good faith the challenge to show whether or not the electors of Canada favored the proposed reform. Notwithstanding all that the wealth and influence of the liquor traffic could do, in spite of misrepresentation and fraud, in the face of strong opposition from those whose aid we had a right to expect, we have demonstrated that of all the voting electorate—those whose voice alone has a right to determine legislation—we have a large majority, and in all the Dominion except Quebec, a majority of immense and unusual magnitude.

We must repudiate the absurd argument that because many electors cannot or will not vote, those who vote are to be practically disfranchised. The utmost that can be claimed for those who stayed away from the polls is that they were content to abide by the verdict of the majority of those who voted.

It is too much to expect that all who honestly and earnestly desire to promote the great prohibition reform, will agree upon every detail of policy and method. It is respectfully submitted, however, that the resolutions adopted by the representative Convention held in Toronto, are sound and reasonable, and that the principles they embody must commend themselves to all who are willing to make party preferences subordinate to prohibition principle and to adopt any practical measures towards the suppression of the liquor evil. It is confidently hoped that they will prove to be a basis upon which the prohibitionists of the Dominion can unite for definite electoral action.

On behalf of the Executive Committee,

F. S. SPENCE,  
Secretary.

J. R. DOUGALL,  
President.

**The friends of Prohibition in every locality are earnestly urged to take immediate steps to secure such organization as is necessary to effectively carry out the plan of action recommended in Resolution 7.**