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AND TEMPERANCE HERALD

FREEDOM FOR THE RIGHT MEANS SUPPRESSION OF THE WRONG.

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THE PETITIONS.

Numerous inquiries are being made as to who should be permitted to sign the petitions against the nullification of the Scott Act. In reply we would say. Let all sign who are described in the petition — "residents of Canada." Electors have other methods by which they can make their influence felt by our legislators but there is a large proportion of our population that can only reach Parliament by petition. We want to have the views of this class presented to our legislators, as well as the view of voters. Let all sign, male and female, and let us show Parliament what the sentiment of *the people* really is.

THE DOMINION COUNCIL OF THE ALLIANCE.

The Annual Session of this body, as already announced, will be held at Ottawa on February the 4th and 6th. A programme of business is being prepared, and it is expected that the session will be one of unusual interest. The Dominion W.C.T.U. meets on the same days, Parliament will have opened, the annual meetings of nearly all the Provincial Branch Alliances will have been held, very important matters are to be discussed, and a large attendance of representatives is anticipated. It is hoped that no Provincial Branch will fail to have appointed delegates who will be certain to attend. Certificates for reduced railway fares may be secured by those entitled to receive them, and any additional desired information obtained by application to the Secretary, F. S. Spence, 8 King Street East, Toronto.

THE DISTILLING BUSINESS.

It has been stated that large distilleries, like that of Gooderham and Worts, in this city, confer upon the community a three-fold benefit; that in the first place they afford a market for a large amount of grain, and so benefit the farmers directly; in the second place they supply a large amount of refuse, which is used for fattening cattle, that are exported, and from the sale of which the country is largely benefitted; and in the third place they employ a great many workmen and a great deal of material produced by workmen, and so, do a great deal for the laboring class.

An anti-Scott orator some time ago stated that Gooderham and Worts' distillery annually used up the produce of 21,500 acres of land, and on the waste products yearly were fed about 2,500 head of cattle and from 5,000 to 6,000 pigs. Then he pleaded with his audiences not to vote in the direction of abolishing the whiskey business, and so injuring the farmer, and robbing the country of the revenue it derives from the exportation of beef and pork. Let us carefully examine these assertions, and understand the real effect of the distillery business upon the interests stated to be injuriously affected.

In the first place it must be borne in mind that the grain used in making whiskey is *corn*, which is not a staple article of Canadian farm produce. The supplies for our distilleries are drawn from the Western States, and none of the 21,500 acres of land can be found in Canada at all. The distilleries may confer some small benefit upon American corn-growers, but we would press upon the notice of our electorate, the patriotism and ingenuousness of the men who would curse our country with the whiskey traffic, for the sake of finding a market for American corn, and actually endeavor to mislead Canadian farmers into believing that this corn is grown on our side of the line.

The stockfeeding question is, however, one of serious importance to Canadian agriculturists. From what has been stated it will at once be seen that our distillers feed their great quantity of stock upon American farm produce. They do this profitably because they have the whiskey profits out of the same material. We have a fair share of the trade of supplying the English market with meat, but the benefit of even this share is taken away from our Canadian feed-producers, and American corn becomes Canadian beef. If these distilleries were closed, the influx of corn would cease at once, but the beef market would still remain. Then the Canadian farmer would take the place of the American corn-grower everything of native produce that can be turned into beef would be enhanced in value, the money that now goes to the Western States would remain at home, and our own people would have for their produce the profitable market out of which they are now cheated by this miserable distilling business, that curses all, and benefits none but the few capitalists who run it.

As to the employment of labor, every one, who knows what the whiskey-making is, knows that hardly any other business employs so few men and so little material proportionately to the capital invested in it. Let these places be closed, and the money now invested in them will at once be diverted into other channels. It cannot be invested in any other industry in which it will not employ more men and more material than it now employs, and so confer a direct profit upon the working classes of our community.

Apart then from moral considerations altogether, distilling is a curse to our country. It prevents a state of affairs that would bring money to Canada and disseminate it among our agricultural population here, and it absorbs money from our own people and sends it abroad. It is an immoral social plague that impoverishes the many and enriches the few, that diminishes the general wealth and augments the general burdens, it increases our taxation, destroys our markets, diminishes our earning power, and leads to the squandering of what we earn. Like the army of a raiding invader, it spreads ruin and woe, and foreigners and mercenaries share the