

HOW TO SECURE THE ADOPTION OF THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ACT.

BY PROF. G. E. FOSTER, M.P.

1.—Let a brief, neat, circular be prepared, calling a convention of temperance people to meet at a certain place and on a fixed date. This circular should be signed by the President and Secretary of the Alliance, if any be in existence in the county, and by a committee of known and trusted temperance men. This committee can be arranged for by any one intrusted.

All temperance bodies, churches and benevolent societies should be invited in this circular to send two or more delegates. Besides them, a general invitation should be extended to all friends of the movement. Send these circulars far and wide through the county.

2.—When the convention meets let it appoint its officers—President, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President for each parish or township, village and ward of the city, an Executive of about five persons living near each other, its committees of which each Vice-President is an ex-officio convener, and its Canvassers for the purpose of getting signatures to the petitions.

Provision should be made for raising funds for the work. A good plan is to assess each township or ward, and make the Vice-President of such responsible for the collection of the amount.

Appoint a Lecture and Literature Committee, which had better be the Executive, and give them instructions to be liberal in the use of pertinent literature and good speakers.

3.—The Canvassers should be supplied with proper petitions, revised voters' list and instructions as to whom and how to canvass and witness the signatures. They should be urged to take small districts, and do the work thoroughly and quickly. Not more than a fortnight should be used in canvassing names to the petitions. So soon as the Canvasser has completed his work he should make his affirmation in proper form before the proper officers, and then forward his petitions to the Secretary.

It would be well to hold some meetings in advance of the Canvassers, so as to inform the people and make the work easier.

4.—Keep up a gentle agitation while the petitions are going through the forms prescribed, and do this in a great measure by literature distribution and personal conversation, having occasional meetings at prominent points.

The Executive should, in the meantime, perfect their arrangements for holding as perfect a series of public mass meetings at all possible points in the county, and have its speakers ready for the campaign.

5.—So soon as the petition has been affirmed by the Governor-General in Council, let every body go to work. Keep the platform busy, the literature agoing, the personal canvass persistent and constant, and allow not one moment's slacking of effort until the close of the poll.

On polling day let all the temperance people give up their time in seeing that every available voter, favorable to the adoption of the Act, deposits his vote. If you are successful, congratulate your neighbors and go quietly home, thankful for victory. If you are beaten, determine there and then that in the first opportunity you will try again.

Above all things, the work should be done heartily and promptly. The surest way to kill all prospects of success is to drag the canvass and contest over a year or so, now up and down, alive for a little, then dead for a longer time.

So far as possible, several adjoining counties should enter upon the contest together. Mutual aid and sympathy assist very much to a favorable result, and distract and divide the forces of the opposition.

THE SCOTT ACT IN HALTON.

BY REV. D. L. BRETHOUR.

The Canada Temperance Act was passed in the County of Halton on the 19th day of April, 1881, and came into force on the 1st day of May, 1882. The majority for it was not very large, being only 81, but it was sufficiently large to indicate the decided opposition of the people, and to declare their purpose to tolerate no longer the licensed liquor traffic in their midst. By this majority, small as it was, the voters of the county asserted that drunkard-making by law would no longer be allowed. The liquor-sellers had ample time to dispose of their "stock," and face into line with the new order of things had they been so disposed, but unfortunately they

were not well advised by their friends, and it soon became but too evident that they intended to disobey the law and set at defiance the temperance people. To the great credit of some of the ex-hotel keepers they accepted the situation and went out of the trade, or turned their hotels into temperance houses. But, to the disgrace of many others, their law-defying spirit and purpose were soon manifest. The records of the police court show how well and truly the compact they had made between themselves was kept. Unfortunately those law breakers received both direct and indirect encouragement from some of respectable influence and character in the county, which made them all the more determined in their course of defiance. They received also, if not direct, at least indirect, encouragement from others who should have stood by the law, that by appeals from the Police Magistrate's decision to the superior courts some important clauses in the Act would be broken down. This strengthened their hands for a season. For a time the temperance people were greatly discouraged, but prayer to God was constantly made, and encouragement came. Information of the violation of the Act was received and many were convicted. Public opinion which seemed to waver for a short time soon became so decided that the outlawed liquor trade hid its head in dark rooms and secret dens. Many who gave the law-breakers, if not outspoken, at least silent, sympathy, began to speak out in favor of the enforcement of the law. Several appeals from the Police Magistrate's decision were dismissed and his judgment sustained by the higher courts, and the hands of temperance workers were strengthened. In the practical enforcement of the Act it has shown itself to be a better law than many thought. No law ever placed upon the Statute Books of this country has so powerfully arrested, controlled and demoralized the liquor business as this Scott law has. It has a grip in it this trade feels to its very centre of power. The men who deal in "the bottled host of death" hate it, and have set all their ingenuity of power to defeat it, but the temperance people are yet more vigorously rallying to the enforcement of the law. There is now no poetry in violating the Act. It secures no applause, approval or sympathy from any man of decent reputation. Only the lowest and most debauched of men think there is anything of which to boast in such transgressions. It is not considered even moderately clever to break the law and sell liquor contrary to its provisions. On the contrary, it is a very risky and serious matter. The shadows of the prison loom up before many of them and throw themselves threateningly across their path, and with silent gesture warn them of approaching danger. The respectability of liquor-selling in Halton is forever destroyed. There is no Act of Parliament now behind which to take refuge and justify themselves in their work, but the statutes which have been so long with them now at last thunder their anathemas of penalty against the business.

The results of nearly 23 months of the operation of the Act are satisfactory. Crime has been reduced to a minimum. The reduction of committals to the gaol for 1883 as against 1882, is 40 per cent. The reduction of crime, as shown by the quarterly schedules of convictions for the last 16 months of license as compared with the 16 months of the Scott Act ending Dec. 11th, 1883, was 70 per cent at least. There have been 4 sittings of the Assizes in the county since May 1st, 1882, and there has been no case of crime before the judges. In this crime calculation we except all prosecutions for violation of the Scott Act, or cases arising out of such violations. Several of the county constables testify that their business has been destroyed, some of them making not one dollar in 20 months of Scott Act rule, where under license they made \$70 a year. Some of them have not served a summons or warrant, or arrested a man in all this time, while they very frequently did it before. They cheerfully testify to the good order, peace and sobriety of the various places where they reside, as compared with licensed whisky times. The sheriff and jailer say their business is nearly ruined also. The costs or criminal justice in this county is a mere bagatelle. The sheriff says "There is no crime." The jailer says the same thing. There has been but one committal, I believe, to the jail in six months for "drunk and disorderly." It seems fitting that the Inspector of Prisons for this province should write an official letter to the sheriff of the county asking for an explanation as to the cause of the great decrease of crime in Halton.

BUSINESS.

It has been claimed that business has been greatly injured in the county by the Scott Act. That its enforcement has driven trade to Peel, Welling-