

suggested an amendment to the Act providing that whenever the Act should be adopted by the electors of a County or District in which licenses were not granted, that it should go into effect immediately on the issuing of the Governor-General's proclamation. In a telegram to a member of the Government I made the same and other suggestions. As you are aware, the law was amended by Parliament during its last session, and to the effect that when adopted in Counties or Districts where no licenses are running, it shall go into operation in thirty days after the date of the Governor-General's proclamation.

Owing to a diversity of opinion as to the validity of the "License Act, 1883," and appeals against legal action had thereon in numerous places, the Government decided to amend the law, in order that officials could act leniently with persons who might take out licenses under its provisions, until a decision on its constitutionality could be rendered by the Supreme Court of Canada. This amendment was agreed to by Parliament. The matter has been under consideration of the Court for some time past, but no decision has yet been reached.

The only Counties and Districts in this Province which come under the provisions of the "License Act, 1883," are the City of Halifax; the Counties of Halifax, Guysborough, Richmond, Victoria, Antigonish, and Lunenburg. All the other counties are now governed by the Scott Act.

At a Convention held in this city on the 21st inst., it was decided to have the Scott Act submitted to the electors of Halifax City and County. For submitting it to the county (outside the city), the vote was unanimous; on the vote to have the Act submitted to the electors of the city, there were but two dissentients. The Convention was composed of a respectable number of intelligent delegates, able and active workers in the temperance movement. The discussion occupied the whole time of the Convention, and the resolutions passed after a careful deliberation. It is conceded that there will be a large majority in the county for the adoption of the Act. Some friends of those engaged in the liquor traffic are of opinion that there will be a majority vote in its favor in the city. Respecting the latter temperance men have their own opinion.

Since my last report to the Dominion Alliance, the electors of the County of Cumberland have voted on the Act, and adopted it by a majority of 1,298. The County of Yarmouth has also adopted it by a majority of 1,204. The Scott Act is now in operation in twelve of the eighteen counties of this Province, on a majority vote of nearly 12,000.

Petitions in favor of having the Act submitted to the electors have been circulating in Lunenburg County for some time past, and a similar movement has been commenced in Guysborough County.

Temperance is advancing in Nova Scotia. The Roman Catholic and other denominational organizations are doing a good work, with fair results. The Order of Good Templars has made some progress during the last few months. The Sons of Temperance, with commendable liberality in sustaining their Agency Department, by which they are enabled to keep two agents in the field, and with their official organ and other efficient machinery, have done a grand work during the past two years. It is estimated that there are 45,000 to 50,000 pledged abstainers in Nova Scotia, including many children enrolled in Bands of Hope and other juvenile Temperance organizations.

In a majority of the counties there are County Associations, of which only four are affiliated with the Provincial Branch. We look forward to doing a good work in Nova Scotia during the ensuing year.

PATRICK MONAGHAN, Secretary.

Halifax, N. S., January, 1885.

The Treasurer's report was read, and referred to the Finance Committee.