

MANITOBA.

The Scott Act is in force in the Counties of Marquette and Lisgar. From Marquette a test case is before the Dominion Supreme Court, and from Lisgar another case is before the Queen's Bench of the Province, and owing to uncertainty as to the result, the Act is not well enforced at the present time. In the newly-added territory of the Province, the Northwest Act was supposed to be in force, and responsible persons testify that it is practically a dead letter, in so far as it was intended to prohibit the liquor traffic. Direct obstacles are put in the way of its enforcement in this respect by the Local Government and Courts. The Executive of the Provincial branch hold regular monthly meetings in the City of Winnipeg, and have important work in hand in prosecuting the appeals against the Scott Act in Marquette and Lisgar.

TEMPERANCE TEACHING IN SCHOOLS.

This matter is attracting greatly increased attention in all the Provinces. The Legislatures of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have both provided for temperance teaching in the public schools.

In Quebec, the Argenteuil County Alliance memorialized the Provincial Teachers' Association in favor of the use of temperance text books in schools. Two philanthropic gentlemen in Montreal, Messrs. Henry Morton and W. J. Patterson, have, at an expense of \$500, placed a copy of Dr. Richardson's Temperance Lesson Book in the hands of every Protestant public school teacher in the Province, and also in every private school in Montreal.

In Ontario, the Women's Christian Temperance Union submitted to thirteen Teachers' Institutes a memorial in favor of scientific instruction on temperance in schools. From the replies received by the Union from several of these Institutes, it appears that in many parts of the Province temperance instruction is already given in schools. In Essex the Inspector made it one of the subjects the pupils have to pass for promotion.

THE WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

This organization is extending in all the Provinces of the Dominion, and promises to become second to no other in the work of delivering the country from the liquor traffic. The Ontario Provincial Union met in October, and reported returns from twenty-five local unions, with a membership of over seven hundred. The Union has done excellent service in promoting temperance teaching in schools, circulating literature, making use of the press, and promoting the use of unfermented wine by the churches. In Quebec there are from fifteen to twenty local unions, which have been organized into a Provincial Union. In Montreal the local union numbers four hundred Christian women. Provincial Unions have also been organized in New Brunswick and British Columbia.

THE VOICE OF THE CHURCHES.

The United Methodist Church, at its first general conference, held in Belleville, adopted a report recommending the introduction of temperance text books into schools, urging the Methodist people throughout the Dominion to adopt the Scott Act, and entreating the official boards to use for sacramental purposes only the pure juice of the grape. It also recommended the Methodist people to vote only for candidates pledged to prohibition, and closed with these words:

"We strongly recommend to all to vote as they pray; then they can pray as they vote. It is a contradiction that should at once and forever end, that a Christian man will pray in one way that God will remove the liquor traffic from our midst, and the next hour vote to perpetuate it."

The Ninth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church adopted resolutions earnestly recommending to office bearers and members of the Church, the practice of total abstinence; approving the principle of the Canada Temperance Act, 1878, as an important means of limiting the liquor traffic and educating the people for entire prohibition.

The Provincial Synod of the Church of England, at its meeting in Montreal, in August last, in reply to a memorial from the Church of England Temperance Society of the Diocese of Toronto, passed a resolution recommending the formation of parochial and diocesan societies throughout the ecclesiastical province, on the basis of the Church of England Temperance Societies of the mother land.

At the request of the Toronto Society above mentioned, the Bishop of that diocese has set apart Sunday, March 2nd, as Temperance Sunday within the Diocese.

The Ottawa Association of the Baptist Church, at its meeting in June, reaffirmed their interest as a Christian body in the cause of temperance, and in the suppression of the liquor traffic. The Canada Baptist Missionary Convention East, heartily recommended total abstinence to all members and adherents, and urged their cordial support to all legitimate organizations for the suppression of intemperance.

The Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec, at its meeting in June, urged all the churches to throw their strongest influence in favor of prohibition, recommended the use of temperance text books in schools, and that all the churches use only the unfermented juice of the grape in the observance of the Lord's Supper.

On the whole the retrospect of the year is one of almost unprecedented encouragement. We have no great legislative nor electoral victories to chronicle, but we are able to signalize something far more important—a deep and rapidly growing conviction among the most influential classes of society, that the use of alcoholic liquors as a beverage in any degree, is a physiological error and consequently morally wrong; and that the licensed sale of those liquors by the Government is a national crime against our own citizens and a national sin against God.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

S. A. ABBOTT,

Corresponding Secretary, pro tem.

The Council then adjourned to meet at 2 p.m.

THURSDAY, 2 P. M.

The Business Committee presented a docket of business for the afternoon. The minutes were read and approved. Item No. 4 was taken up first, and on motion the Council went into Committee of the Whole on revision of the Constitution, Rev. W. Scott in the chair. Several articles were amended, in accordance with suggestions of the late Rev. T. Gales, after which the Committee rose, reported progress, and asked that the remainder of the Constitution be referred to a Special Committee of seven, which the Chairman appointed as follows: Messrs. Dougall, Lucas, McLaren, McGill, J. K. Stewart, Abbott and Rev. W. Scott.

In the absence of Senator Vidal, Mr. Dougall was then called to the chair.

The Committee on the State of the Work reported. Several clauses were adopted or amended, when the clause referring to the Province of Quebec was referred back to the Committee for completion.

Prof. Foster addressed the Council on the "Extension of the Work." The subject was afterwards discussed by Rev. D. V. Lucas, Mr. May, Rev. W. Scott, Rev. D. L. Brethour and others. Prof. Foster moved, and it was

Resolved—That the Executive of this Dominion Alliance, in conjunction with the Provincial Alliance, be requested to prepare and hold, during the present year, a grand demonstration in two cities each in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario, in Charlottetown, P. E. I., Winnipeg, Man., and Victoria, B. C.

On motion of Prof. Foster, seconded by Mr. Dougall, it was also

Resolved—That the Executive of this Alliance be authorized to employ for the year 1884, or as much of it as possible, an energetic and able agent, whose duty it shall be, under the direction of the Executive, to perform such work of organization and advocacy as may be deemed best. That the salary be fixed by the Executive, and that a Finance Committee be appointed to collect for that purpose a minimum sum of \$1,000. That the employment of the agent be contingent upon the success of the Committee in the raising of the money.

EVENING MEETING.

A public meeting was held in the Dominion Methodist Church. Hon. Senator Vidal occupied the chair, and the meeting was addressed by Mr. McLaren, Q. C., Montreal; Rev. D. L. Brethour, of Milton, Ont.; Senator Girard, of Manitoba; Prof. Foster, M. P. and Mr. F. S. Spence.

FRIDAY, 10.30 A. M.

Senator Vidal took the chair, calling attention to the presence in the house of Mrs. Chisholm, President of the Ontario Women's Christian Temperance Union. On motion of Rev. J. Wood, seconded by Mr. Geo. May, Mrs. Chisholm was invited to a seat on the platform, and elected a corresponding member of the Council.

The minutes of Thursday afternoon's session were read and approved. Mr. May presented the Treasurer's Report, which, on motion, was referred to the Finance Committee for audit.

The Committee on the State of the Work presented their completed report.

1. That the growth in every part of the Dominion of strong public sentiment in favour of Temperance and Prohibition is very encouraging.