

resolution unanimously:—"That this meeting heartily endorse the submission of the Scott Act in the county of Brant, and pledge themselves to give their strongest support to that object." Temperance literature was freely discussed among the audience. An invitation was given to any opponent of the Scott Act to come to the platform, where they were assured of equal length of hearing and fair play, but this offer was not accepted.

**BRUCE.**—A very enthusiastic meeting was held in the church, at Riversdale, on the 20th ult., in the interest of the Scott Act. The chair was occupied by Mr. John Lockhart, who, in his usual humorous style directed the meeting very successfully. The first speaker was Mr. Steele. He showed the cost of the liquor traffic to the nation, and the misery entailed by it on individuals, families, and society in general. Mr. King, of Enniskillen, followed, and with telling effect explained the provisions of the Act, showed its superiority over the Dunkin Act, and related the working of the Act in the counties in which it had been introduced. Mr. John Arnott, in an exceedingly demonstrative manner, denounced the liquor traffic, proving that he and other laboring men, against their will, did more to support the hotels than those who drank. The money which should go to pay honest debts went to buy whiskey. As a general rule it was not their own money drunkards spent. At this stage there was an invitation given to any present to show cause why the Scott Act should not be submitted, which invitation was accepted by James Marshall, hotel-keeper, who spoke very well considering the want of sympathy for his cause in the meeting. At the close there was a vote taken whether or not the Scott Act should be submitted in this county. Against the submission of it stood up two hotel-keepers, two strangers from Walkerton, and two others, making six. In favor of submitting it nearly all the rest of the church full rose to their feet.

**WELLINGTON.**—A large and enthusiastic meeting of the temperance workers of Wellington county and the city of Guelph was convened under the auspices of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance in the Presbyterian Church, Fergus, on the 27th ult., to take into consideration the desirability of submitting the Canada Temperance Act in the county and city. Upwards of one hundred delegates from the various municipalities were in attendance. Many of the temperance workers claim that both the county and city will adopt the Canada Temperance Act by a good majority. The Salvation Army will become an important factor in the contest in this county. The Army at Guelph were represented at the convention, by Messrs. Clark, Ruddy, and Swaysen. One of these gentlemen stated in the convention that he had been one of the most active opponents of the Dunkin Act in the last contest, but he would now vote and work for the adoption of this Act in the city of Guelph. Considerable feeling was manifested in the convention at the action of certain hotel keepers in the village, who had refused to entertain anyone attending the meeting. The opponents of the Act claim that it will be defeated by a very large majority.

The Rev. Mr. Griffin, of Guelph, was elected chairman, and the Rev. Mr. Blake was appointed secretary. The chairman, after briefly stating the objects of the meeting, introduced the Rev. John Smith, of Toronto, Vice-President of the Dominion Alliance. Mr. Smith, in a short but able address, sketched the history of the Canada Temperance Act, giving its leading provision and the success which had attended its enforcement in the counties and cities where adopted. The reports of the delegates as to the state of temperance sentiment and prospects of adopting the Act in the various municipalities were of the most encouraging character; all agreed that in recommending that the agitation should be commenced at once. The delegates from Guelph reported that city as ripe for agitation, and expressed the opinion that the Scott Act would be carried in Guelph by a good majority. The following resolution from the Congregational Church, of that city, was read: "Whereas intemperance is the greatest curse of our age, and is sapping the foundation of our institutions as well as destroying the bodies and souls of men, and whereas the traffic is destructive of the best interests of this country, and of the entire Dominion, be it therefore resolved that it is the opinion of this Church that the time has arrived for the agitation and adoption of the Scott Act in the county of Wellington, as well as in the city of Guelph. Resolved further, that the delegates appointed to the Fergus Conference be and are hereby instructed to convey to that Conference the best wishes of this Church for the success of the movement contemplated." The following resolution

was then unanimously adopted. "Resolved that in the opinion of this Convention the time has arrived when it is desirable to agitate for the adoption of the Canada Temperance Act in the county of Wellington and city of Guelph.

The following officers were then elected:—Rev. Mr. Mullen, Fergus, President; Mr. Eastell, Secretary; G. S. Arms, Treasurer. The following persons were appointed Vice-Presidents in the several municipalities:—Arthur village, Rev. Mr. Thorne; Arthur township, W. Coeshman; Aramosa, L. Pankinson; Erin, Rev. Mr. Fowler, W. Garafraza, Dr. Minnie; W. Luther, Mr. Frear; Minto, Duncan McLean; Maryborough, J. Robertson; Peel, Thomas Garbutt; Puslinch, Hugh Reid; Guelph township, T. S. Anderson; Harriston, Rev. Mr. Campbell; Nichol, Mr. Rennie; Palmerston, Rev. Mr. Auld; Clifford, Rev. Mr. Stevens; Mt. Forest, Rev. Dr. Aylesworth, Elora, Mr. Spencer; Fergus, Mr. Clyne; Drayton, John Fisher; Pilkington, George Wright; City of Guelph, Rev. Mr. Griffin. After the transaction of some preliminary business, the Convention adjourned.

#### MASS MEETING.

The mass meeting held in the Presbyterian Church in the evening was largely attended. The principal speaker was the Rev. John Smith, of Toronto, who in an able and eloquent address urged the electors of Wellington County to adopt the Scott Act. In the course of his address he said there were three ways to treat this evil:—1st Let it alone and allow free trade in liquor. This, no one dare to advocate. 2nd. To license it. He (the speaker) was opposed to the license system, which he termed a diabolical system, first, because it counteracted the benevolent designs of society, and second, because it was contrary to the principles of preventive legislation, and lastly, because no license law ever had been or could be enforced. He continued that there was but one remedy, and that was to prohibit it. He was favorable to compensation, but wanted to see both sides compensated. Mr. Smith was listened to with marked attention.

A large Convention of delegates from different parts of the county of Wellington was held at Fergus, on the 26th ult., when it was decided to organize and submit the Scott Act to the people at an early date.

**SIMCOE.**—The Scott Act agitation is assuming some rather lively aspects in the northern part of the county of Simcoe. Several meetings have been held this week, Mr. William Burgess, of Toronto, being the principal speaker announced. Intimations of the meetings were sent to the representatives of the Anti-Scott Act party, but no one from that side attended. The meeting was held at Jarratt's Corners, and, considering the weather, the attendance gave evidence of a strong feeling in favor of the Act. The Rev. J. H. Harris, (Episcopal), who is the Vice President of the Association for the township, presided, and in addition to Mr. Burgess' speech the Rev. Mr. Fairbairn addressed the meeting. On Tuesday night a meeting was held at Warminster. Here, however, the field was contested by the Anties. Mr. C. Moore, of the Central hotel, of this town, drove over with Mr. McCosh, a well-known lawyer. After Mr. Burgess' address, in which he gave a complete statement of the nature and operation of the Act, Mr. McCosh arose and spoke for an hour and a quarter, contending that the Act was a speculation; that in Halton, where it was on trial, it was a failure, and that prohibition, like wooden nutmegs, was a Yankee invention. He also argued that the hotel-keepers paid a large portion of the revenue which the farmers would have to pay if they had prohibition. During his reply Mr. Burgess was interrupted by shrieks and groans from a group of youths outside, among whom Mr. Moore and Mr. McCosh stationed themselves. He showed that the Act in Halton had as yet only had two years trial, while license had hundreds of years trial, and had always failed. He quoted from the Ontario Prison's report showing that while crime in Halton increased 10 per cent., the year before the Act came into operation, it decreased 40 per cent., the first year after it came into operation. If prohibition was "a Yankee invention," and it proved to be a remedy for the evil, it should not be rejected. But he quoted Saltire, in Yorkshire, the district of Sefton Park, in Liverpool, the town of Bessbrook, in Ireland, and County Tyrone, in Ireland, in all of which prohibition had proved an undoubted and incalculable blessing. He ridiculed the idea that the liquor sellers paid the revenue, for every cent paid to the public exchequer through them came from the people, with enormous and ruinous interest.