

is Strength." Our friends in the Old Land are not asleep in this matter. A movement, initiated last year by Alderman Clegg, of Sheffield, chairman of the "British Temperance League," that all the temperance organizations of Great Britain and Ireland should form a "Temperance Federation," was brought to a successful issue on the 6th of February of this year by the delegates present at a meeting in Exeter Hall, when it was resolved to form the "National Temperance Federation," on the following basis:—

"The basis of co-operation for the federated societies is, that they should work together in view of legislation and other action on the points upon which they are agreed, and bring their influence to bear on Parliament and with Her Majesty's Government, and through the country generally, as a united body, such common action to extend of course, only so far as there is common agreement, and to be made subservient to the carrying of measures of positive advance, as well as to the careful guarding against any proposal of a retrograde nature." Mr. W. L. Caine, M.P., was elected president, and vice-presidents and other officers were appointed." (From the "Foundation of Death" by Axel Gustafson.) Apologizing for the length of this letter, and hoping that 'more will come out of it.'

I remain yours,

JAMES THOMSON,

Secretary T. T. E. U.

### THE SCOTT ACT IN CITIES.

To the Editor of THE CANADA CITIZEN,

A word or two on the lessons of the Brantford city Scott Act vote. Our friends there failed to carry the Act, and Brantford by a majority of the electors decide to have at least three years more of license. We have already heard from our I-told-you-so friends, who say we can never carry the cities, and we have been advised to make haste slowly in bringing on a vote in other cities.

It is certainly of great importance that we should adopt a general policy which will insure the largest aggregate number of victories for the Act over the whole country. Hence it is wisdom to submit the Act first in the most advanced temperance constituencies in order to impart confidence and give encouragement to those in the rear. But I submit that a great deal of the *ad us gratis* which is given on the matter is needless and tends rather to suggest the old idea that temperance people are a lot of sentimental impracticables. I suppose the time was when the liquor party could afford to ridicule us as a lot of fanatics who were *not* as "wise as serpents," but *were* as "harmless as doves." But I think they are now ready to bear testimony to the fact that we possess a little more of the wisdom of serpents and a little less of the harmlessness of doves. To drop figure; events prove that the temperance people are conducting their campaign in a manner which is resulting in a proportion of victories which would make the greatest of political generals proud. We have carried counties first. Some of the smallest cities, impatient to enjoy the privilege of voting against the license system, are now coming into line. Brantford, the first of them, did not succeed in carrying the Act, but Guelph, Belleville, Kingston, and St. Thomas may prove that even in cities a fair average of victories may be obtained, and so give strength and encouragement to the counties in which these cities are respectively located.

But our too careful friends need not be afraid. The cities are moving slowly, and especially the large ones, in order to give the counties an opportunity to vote first.

On the other hand, I submit that if some of the counties move so slowly that a vote on the Act is practically postponed indefinitely it will become the duty of the friends of the cause in the cities to avoid following their example.

Two very important points should be borne in mind in this connection.

1. That Parliament has given us a law by which every elector can clear himself of the responsibility of the license system. I am one of the many who are impatient to exercise the franchise against the liquor traffic and thus clear our skirts of the blood of men who are slain by drink.

2. That even where we fail to carry the Act we do not lose anything. At the worst we are *in statu quo*, we simply remain as we were, but with this great advantage that the license system exists no longer by the tacit consent of all the electors, but against the recorded protest of a large minority. By the way, what about the

tyranny of a majority in forcing the liquor traffic upon an unwilling minority?

Brantford's lesson to Toronto is surely not one of despair. Brantford has not carried the Act, but it has a solid phalanx of electors who have voted *no license*, and who now feel it to be their duty to educate the city up to the point of a prohibitory vote three years hence. Let Toronto go forward. There is no need to fear too much haste. All the 32 counties in Ontario now organizing will probably have voted before we can possibly be ready in this city, and the fact that we are coming on behind with a strong determined well organized band of workers will be encouragement to the friends in the counties. Every blow we strike here will vibrate through the whole province. Every great meeting held here will be like the sound of the bugle of war to all the counties and even if we do not succeed we shall not fail. We are the attacking party. We have all to gain—nothing to lose, by a spirited, well devised, energetic policy.

Yours,

WM. BURGESS.

### The Campaign Everywhere.

Mr. Jas. McMillan, organizer for the County of Grey, addressed a very fair audience in the Town Hall, Flesherton, last week, on the Scott Act and the new campaign which has been inaugurated under such favorable circumstances. It was the most practical, logical, and common sense address we have heard during the year. At the close a large and influential Central Committee was appointed, with Mr. J. W. Armstrong as chairman. A hearty and unanimous vote of thanks—moved by Mr. J. Gordon and seconded by Dr. Christoe—was then tendered the speaker Mr. McMillan, who briefly and fittingly replied, after which the audience dispersed.—*Flesherton Advertiser.*

KENT.—The date for voting in this county has been fixed by proclamation for January 15th, and the Returning Officer has been appointed.

The Kent Temperance Association met on Tuesday last for the election of officers, and also to make arrangements for pushing the campaign more vigorously. Hopes are entertained that this county will declare for the Scott Act by a large majority.

The Chatham *Weekly Banner* in urging the various township associations to renewed vigor in perfecting these organizations says: "They may take it for granted that every Anti vote that self-interest, personal consideration, whiskey or money can influence will be polled against the cause of temperance. No effort will be spared to defeat the Act and its friends should be prepared for every emergency. In other counties crimes have been committed in the endeavor to thwart the will of the popular majority in favor of the Act and it must not be presumed that Kent whiskey is any less potent than the article dispensed in Huron or Dufferin. Let every true friend of temperance buckle on his armour and make the success of the Act a personal matter and victory will be assured.

TORONTO.—A meeting of St. Mark's Ward Temperance Electoral Association was held on Friday evening last in the Wesley Church School Room, Dundas street. Rev. Mr. Mutch occupied the chair. After devotional exercises and some singing by the choir of the church, the chairman opened the proceedings with a brief address.

Mr. Wm. Munns was the first speaker called upon. He dealt principally with the question of the Scott Act and gave a history of the temperance movements in this country. He said that after the union of the provinces in 1867, agitation was commenced for the enactment of a general prohibitory law. The agitation bore fruit in a later year when a petition was presented to the Canadian Government representing upwards of 500,000 citizens of the country, asking for a general prohibitory law. In 1874, Parliament authorized the appointment of two commissioners to make a thorough investigation into the working of the prohibitory law in States where it has been adopted. One was in favor of prohibition and the other opposed to it. These officials were so convinced of the efficient working of the law in these States, that the anti-prohibitionist on his return expressed himself in favor of a prohibitory measure. In 1878, the Canadian Temperance Act was introduced by the Mac-