

pauper, and all because there was no publican. The elements of crime, poverty, and pauperism, he argued, were always absent in proportion as the last of these four P's was absent. He gave a lengthy and eloquent argument against the cry, "You can't make people sober by Act of Parliament." Rev. D. L. Brethour gave an eloquent speech on the success of the Scott Act in Halton. In reply to the statement that business had suffered he remarked that a few men had gone elsewhere to trade, in rage against the Act, but others had come to Halton, and on the whole trade was better. He asserted that the sale of liquor had without doubt been decreased by nine-tenths, and everywhere in the county people were growing in favor with the Act. Part of the choir from the Uxbridge Methodist Church led by Mr. Weeks, rendered some very fine pieces in excellent style. The following resolution was passed unanimously:—

"That we express our great pleasure in the earnest, serious, and practical addresses upon the subject of the Scott Act delivered by Mr. Burgess, of Toronto, and Rev. D. L. Brethour, of Milton; that we are in entire sympathy with the speedy introduction of the Scott Act in this county; that we, yeomen and citizens of this important riding, pledge ourselves to give our strongest efforts in the introduction of this prohibitory law."

After the meeting several hundreds of persons partook of tea. The day will be remembered as a red-letter day by Sunderland temperance people. — *Globe*.

ONTARIO.—The campaign in this county is fairly inaugurated, and prospects of success are very encouraging. A Branch of the Dominion Alliance has been formed for the South riding with the following officers:—President, J. C. Smith, Oshawa; Secretary, J. S. Robertson, Whitby; Treasurer, W. Nichols, Brooklin. These, together with J. S. Clarke, Oshawa and Wm. Forrester, Pickering, constitute the Executive Committee. Petitions are being circulated and prospects are good. An Executive has also been formed for the entire county with Mr. McMurry, Manager of the Ontario Bank of Port Perry, as President, and N. F. Paterson, Q.C., of the same place as Secretary.

The Anti party is also vigorously at work. They held a very large meeting at Whitby, on Tuesday evening, of which the *Globe* gives the following report:—

The Mayor, Dr. Bogart, presided, and those present included a very large number of Scott Act supporters, amongst them being Messrs. F. S. Spence, of Toronto, Secretary of the Dominion Alliance; N. F. Paterson, Q. C., of Port Perry, Secretary of the Scott Act Executive for the county; W. J. McMurry, President of the County Executive; J. C. Smith, Deputy-Reeve of Oshawa, President South Ontario Executive; J. S. Robertson, Secretary South Ontario Executive; Andrew Innes, of Oshawa, Chairman of the Ontario License Board. Discussion on the principles of the Scott Act was invited.

Mr. BELL, of Dundas, spoke strongly against legislation that tended towards prohibition, and contended that the Scott Act had failed wherever tried, especially in Halton County, where it had actually induced an increase of crime and where an infinite amount of illicit liquor selling had been carried on since the Act had been in force. "In his opposition to the Scott Act," said the speaker, "he stood on the same platform with Archbishop Lynch, Bishop Walsh, and Rev. D. J. Macdonnell."

Mr. N. F. PATERSON, Q. C., replied. He said Mr. Bell had done nothing but abuse the Act and dwell upon its shortcomings. He had carefully refrained from speaking on the principles of the Act as to the illicit liquor traffic. If it prevailed in Halton to the extent alleged by Mr. Bell, it proved nothing but that an extraordinary state of moral depravity prevailed in that county. (Applause.) As well abandon laws against smugglers because they are frequently infringed, as denounce the Scott Act because its provisions are not always carried out. There were many who hesitated in giving their support to the Scott Act in Ontario county because it was alleged the Dunkin Act had been tried there and had failed, but as a matter of fact, owing to a legal flaw, the Dunkin Act had never for one hour been enforced in Ontario County. This was but the beginning of the Scott Act contest in the county. This meeting had been called by the opponents of the Scott Act, other meetings would follow, called by the friends of the Act, and the struggle that evening commenced, would be carried vigorously on till it resulted in success. (Applause.)

Mr KING DODDS contended that the Scott Act was an infringement upon the rights and liberties of the subject. It had been put into operation in Halton County only by a fluke, and he

had good ground for saying that within three or four months a petition for the repeal of the law would be lodged and would be successful. He condemned prohibition because it did not prohibit, and temperance hotels, because they were not hotels; there was not on the Continent a more drunken city than Portland, the capital of the prohibitory State of Maine. Let them compare it with Hamilton, a city of about equal population under a well regulated license system, and it would be seen how greatly the advantage lay with the Canadian and non-prohibition city.

MR. F. S. SPENCE urged that the sale of liquors was the cause of intemperance and liquor sellers were, therefore, morally, and logically responsible for the resulting evils. Therefore it was the duty of all who would do away with drunkenness to band together and put down the liquor traffic.

He argued that the Scott Act was a failure, and would be a failure, and that its enforcement could never be successfully carried out; and again he argued that the Scott Act would be a success, and the country would consequently suffer a tremendous financial failure. As to Maine and prohibition, he challenged Mr. Dodds to produce statistics for drunkenness in that State. He did not dare do it. He had compared Portland with Hamilton; but the former was a seaport, and they knew what that meant. Mr. Bell had endeavored to make them believe that the people of Halton were disgusted with the Scott Act, but from personal experience he knew this was not the case. He had alluded to a large number of commitments in the county last year. He, (the speaker), accounted for this by the fact that Milton possessed an exceedingly comfortable gaol, and that as last winter was very severe many tramps and similar persons had hence taken winter quarters in the county gaol. Neither Mr. Dodds nor Mr. Bell had referred to the working of the Scott Act in the Maritime Provinces. The esteem and popularity which the recent investigation by the *Globe* proved to be there entertained for it by clergy, judges, magistrates, and others of a like class were a sufficient proof of the success of the Act, and hence the anti-Scott Act speakers of the evening had refrained from referring to it. Mr. Dodds had sneered at the Act because of its permissive clauses. Who had inserted them? Not the advocates of the measure, but its opponents, who had fought so hard for this point that at last they gained it. Hence in this as in many other respects the opponents of the Scott Act endeavored by specious and illogical arguments to gain an unfair advantage over its friends.

According to arrangement Mr. Dodds was allowed a second speech, in which he replied to Mr. Spence, this concluding the proceedings. The meeting was a very large one, and the feeling appeared to be about equally divided.

ST. THOMAS AND ELGIN.—Another meeting was held in the Hutchinson House, St. Thomas, a few nights ago, to which reporters were invited, by the Licensed Victuallers. The object was to decide what course of action to pursue in view of the submittal of the Scott Act in the city and county. We are told there was a large representation of the trade present as well as other prominent citizens who offered their services and means to defeat the act. The reasons assigned for their action being that the city would be materially injured if the act were passed in St. Thomas and not in London, that it would not be enforced but would have the effect of placing the liquor traffic in worse hands than at present. It was decided to increase the subscription for defeating the Act to \$4,000 and not to take part in the contest in the county, but to devote all their energies and money to the city and start a canvas against it at once. Now, we are pleased to see this evidence of earnestness and activity on the part of the Licensed Victuallers. It bespeaks thorough organization and a hotly contested fight for the continuation of their business so far as selling intoxicants is concerned. They are no longer pooh-poohing the efforts of "silly temperance fanatics," but are settling down to business and looking things, however alarming, in the face, and getting to work vigorously to defend their interests. We want an earnest, active, short and vigorous battle over this liquor business and have it settled once and for ever. This agitation has commenced and is sweeping over the country. It cannot be suppressed until it has spent its strength through the ballot box. If the activity on the part of one party does not beget similar zeal on the other, then it is better, far better, things should remain as they were. The temperance men of St. Thomas started the agitation in this county and they must do their full share of the work. If they are not prepared to enter vigorously into the campaign they have inaugurated, and carry the act in St. Thomas, if it is within the possibilities to do so, it is better to abandon it at once. They must lead the van and inspire the county with confidence.