

"4. Whereas a controversy has been going on in the public press of this county as to the success of the Canada Temperance Act in this county, we give it as our unqualified judgment derived from personal observation, that it has largely decreased the sale of strong drinks; a judgment that is confirmed by the sobriety of the people in all the public gatherings in the county. We are further convinced that drunkenness has vastly decreased in the county, and that the 'treating system' has been almost entirely suppressed."

The counties of Carleton, Middlesex, Elgin and Oxford and the city of St. Thomas are preparing to petition for the submission of the Act, and several counties in eastern Ontario are ripe for the work. Now that the constitutionality of the law has been forever decided by the highest court in the Realm, the whole country should settle down to a general agitation for its adoption. I trust that at this convention some plan will be matured, by which it may be submitted to a large number of counties at the same time.

TEMPERANCE SUNDAY.

In compliance with a resolution passed at the last annual meeting of this Alliance, your Executive named the 17th day of December as Temperance Sunday. A circular was addressed to three thousand five hundred ministers of the Gospel in this Province, setting forth the principles and aims of the Alliance, and asking their co-operation not only in their ministerial and pastoral work, but by bringing the temperance question as a special subject directly before their people. One of the most encouraging features of the temperance cause is that the Church is awakening to the subject. When the Church is thoroughly awake we may look for success. She stands in the front rank in every great moral and religious reform, and the day is not far distant when she will take her position in this great work. Your Secretary would recommend that a special appeal be made, by deputation or otherwise, to Synods, Assemblies, Conferences and Unions of the various churches in this Province, to co-operate with us by naming the Sunday fixed on by this Alliance as Temperance Sunday.

FINANCES AND FINANCIAL PLAN.

The great difficulty heretofore encountered by this Alliance in securing sufficient funds to carry on efficient work in this Province has not yet been removed. From the reports of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer, you will learn that the financial plan agreed to at the Hamilton meeting has almost entirely failed and that very little money has been raised during the year. Many of the pledges and subscriptions given over one year ago still remain unpaid. The special appeal made for the collections of Temperance Sunday, although not generally responded to, was nevertheless a success. Your Secretary would recommend that this year an appeal be made for the collection of that day. The whole subject of finances deserves the serious and careful consideration of this meeting.

CONSTITUTION.

Your Secretary would recommend that the constitution be so amended as to allow each Provincial grand Temperance body to elect, at its annual meeting, one of its number to represent it on the Executive Board of this Alliance.

LITERATURE.

I regret to inform you that all our literature was destroyed by fire in Hunter and Rose's buildings in this city a few months ago. The wide-spread distribution of Alliance literature—such as that prepared and published by Professor Foster—giving information as to the nature and results of Prohibition, and especially as to the Canada Temperance Act, must ever remain one of the most important factors in moulding of temperance sentiment in this country. Your Secretary is convinced that if satisfactory arrangements can be made with any Publishing house to print and keep in stock the class of literature and forms needed in our work, it