

## PERSONAL

# PROHIBITION FOR ONTARIO.

Office of the Dominion Alliance, Ontario Branch,

52 CONFEDERATION LIFE BUILDING

TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1901.

DEAR FRIEND:—

We greet you with hearts full of gratitude and hope. The declaration of the Privy Council that provinces have power to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquor, opens to us a door of promise in this province which has already twice declared by large majorities in favor of the suppression of the liquor traffic.

This **decision** comes to us just as the time approaches for a **session** of our provincial legislature which session will be closely followed by a general provincial **election**. This speedy and serious sequence of events calls for prompt, prudent and energetic action.

With confidence we appeal to you for personal, practical help in this emergency, which brings to every friend of our cause the privilege and responsibility of co-operation on two important lines of effort. (1) The securing of wisely framed and thorough-going legislation effectively embodying the strongly expressed desire of the people. (2) The election of such representatives as can be relied upon to fearlessly support the enactment and enforcement of such legislation.

Our first duty is organization, to secure these ends. This organization must be (1) local in every neighborhood, (2) general for every electoral district. The Alliance Executive will speedily prepare and send out carefully planned suggestions for methods of work. Meantime our friends should not lose a moment in securing the definite organization that is absolutely necessary to success. The following plans are earnestly urged.

1. Every Church Congregation, every Young People's Society, and every Temperance Society ought immediately to appoint a special Temperance or Prohibition Committee, to co-operate in this important work.

The names and addresses of the chairman and secretary of every such committee should be sent at once to the secretary of the Dominion Alliance, so that he can send them directly further suggestions and advice.

2. There ought to be a conference of workers in every constituency to consider the position and circumstances of their district, and the best plan of securing the objects in view. To it should come every citizen whose desire to overthrow the cruel liquor curse is stronger than his party preference. Only such can safely advise at this crisis.

Every friend of our cause who receives this circular is requested to at once consult the other workers in his district, plan for an early convention, and do all that can be done to make it a success. The people of Ontario earnestly desire the overthrow of the evil which burdens our splendid province with so much sorrow, loss, disgrace and sin. Our opportunity has come.

Any desired advice, form of Convention Call, suggestions for form of organization, or other information or help, will be promptly furnished by the Secretary of the Alliance Executive, with whom all workers are cordially invited to correspond.

On behalf of the Executive Committee.

F. S. SPENCE,

Secretary.

W. A. MACKAY, D.D.

President.

## PROHIBITION PROMISED.

A few of our prohibition friends are talking unwisely in suggesting the possibilities of the Government's falling to introduce into the Legislature a prohibitory law. Some are going so far as to suggest alternatives and spend time and effort in combating their own suggestions.

The Ontario Government is committed to the policy of prohibition. To a deputation that waited upon him on Feb. 6th, 1894, after the Provincial Plebiscite and while certain questions relating to Provincial jurisdiction were before the courts, Hon. Sir Oliver Mowat, then Premier of Ontario, made the following statement:—

"If the decision of the Privy Council should be that the Province has the jurisdiction to pass a prohibitory liquor law as respects the sale of intoxicating liquor, I will introduce such a bill in the following session, if I am then at the head of the Government.

"If the decision of the Privy Council is that the Province has jurisdiction to pass only a partial prohibitory liquor law, I will introduce such a prohibitory bill as the decision will warrant, unless the partial prohibitory power is so limited as to be ineffective from a temperance standpoint."

Since that time the gentlemen who have followed Sir Oliver Mowat in the high position of leader of the Government, have declared their adherence to the position taken by him. It has been claimed that the power of a Province to prohibit the liquor traffic was not clearly set out in the

answers given by the courts to the questions which were under consideration when Sir Oliver Mowat gave his pledge. The power of the Legislature is now, however, definitely settled by the Privy Council decision regarding the Manitoba law.

In February, 1900, Hon. G. W. Ross, the present Premier, definitely stated to a deputation from the Dominion Alliance that the Government had not receded from Sir Oliver Mowat's position and was always prepared to go to the full limit of its ascertained power in prohibitory legislation. There is no reason for imagining that this promise will not be kept.

It is well also to bear in mind that the promise of prohibitory legislation was made in view of a strong demonstration of public opinion in favor of such legislation. That opinion still exists. The people of Ontario are overwhelmingly in favor of prohibition. What the people demand must be done. This fact was very forcibly stated in a speech made by Hon. Geo. W. Ross in 1893, a part of which is re-printed in another column.

## THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

The Religious Intelligencer of Fredericton, N.B., discusses the decision sustaining the Manitoba Prohibitory Law, and argues in favor of the calling of representative conventions in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to secure the enactment

of prohibitory legislation for these Provinces. The Intelligencer's view is expressed in the following paragraph:—

"The temperance cause has had some severe struggles in late years, and the patience and courage of many good friends of prohibition have been sorely tried. The decision in the Manitoba case makes an opportunity for a renewal, with fresh vigor, of the struggle for the delegatization of the traffic. Prince Edward Island has a prohibitory law. It ought to be possible to get prohibitory enactments by all the other Provincial Legislatures except Quebec's. It is worth trying. It is the duty of good citizens to take advantage of such an opportunity as is now at their hand, and to do their utmost to get the fullest measure of legislation against the deadly drink traffic."

## THE PLEBISCITES.

At the Ontario municipal elections for 1894 a vote was taken upon the question of prohibition. The question submitted was in the following form:—

"Are you in favor of the immediate prohibition by law of the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage?"

The parties entitled to vote upon this question were all persons qualified to vote at the election of members of the Provincial Legislature with the addition of such municipal

voters as were not entitled to vote for members of the legislature. The list therefore included a large number of women. The answers given to the question were as follows:—

	Men.	Women.	Total
Yes .....	180,087	12,402	192,489
No .....	108,494	2,226	110,720
Majority ...	71,593	10,176	81,769

There were 11,598 spoiled ballots which were not included in this count. The total number of voters on the lists used was as follows, men 515,869, women 48,843, total 564,712.

The Dominion Plebiscite was taken on September 28th, 1898. It resulted in a majority throughout the Dominion in favor of prohibition, amounting to 13,687. Prohibition majorities were secured in all the Territories and Provinces, excepting Quebec, which gave a majority of 94,824 against prohibition. The vote in Quebec was remarkable in its overwhelming character and in its difference from the vote of the rest of the Dominion. Outside Quebec the majority in favor of prohibition was 108,011. The question submitted to the electors was in the following form:—

"Are you in favor of an Act prohibiting the importation, manufacture or sale of spirits, wine, ale, beer, cider and all other alcoholic liquors for use as beverages?"

In the Province of Ontario the result of the voting was as follows:  
For prohibition ..... 154,498  
Against prohibition ..... 115,284

Prohibition majority ..... 39,214

The following particulars are of interest. Returns of voting were made by Dominion constituencies. There are in Ontario 89 such constituencies, returning to Parliament 92 members. Of the 89 constituencies 71 voted for prohibition by majorities aggregating 55,082. The constituencies therefore stand 71 for prohibition and 18 against. The average prohibition majority for a constituency was 776.

The total number of electors on the voters' list was 576,784. In the Dominion Plebiscite there was polled a less percentage of the total vote than in the Provincial Plebiscite. The difference was mainly in the temperance vote, and is partly accounted for by the fact that no advantage resulted to the temperance cause from the great victory won in the first plebiscite, and many temperance workers felt impatient and discouraged at having to vote again and lacked confidence that even a victory would help their cause.

It is well known that the liquor party did its utmost in the second plebiscite as well as the first, and yet the liquor vote in the second plebiscite was less than twenty per cent. of the voters' list, while in the first plebiscite it was over twenty-one per cent.

## MAJOR BOND.

Prohibitionists in every part of Canada will be deeply grieved over the sad news of the sudden and shocking death of Major E. L. Bond, vice-president of the Dominion Alliance and president of the Citizens' League of Montreal.

Major Bond was one of our most earnest and effective workers, having the confidence of all who knew him. He will be sadly missed by the temperance workers of the Province of Quebec, where he was a bulwark of the prohibition cause.