

The Rev. D. V. Lucas, Secretary of the Quebec Provincial Branch, read the report on the work in his Province as follows :—

REPORT OF THE QUEBEC BRANCH.

In the Province of Quebec the work has not advanced quite so rapidly as in some of the other Provinces. This has not arisen, however, from the lack of a sentiment favorable to prohibition of the traffic in spirituous liquors, but from other causes. In a Province where two different languages are so widely spoken, and where religious and even political distinctions are so marked, harmonious and united action in any given direction is not so easily and so quickly secured as where these peculiarities do not exist. We are glad to know, however, that the truly philanthropic work in which we are engaged so fully commends itself, when thoroughly understood, to the hearts of all Christian people, that all these obstacles are being overcome, and the good cause is daily rising higher and higher above all ecclesiastical and political distinctions. Since the campaign of the summer of 1884 began, the Scott Act has been submitted to four Counties, and carried in three. It is a source of pleasure and encouragement to us to report that in this Province, where so many of our fellow-citizens are of the Catholic faith and speak the French language, that the County of Arthabaska—where the electorate is almost entirely composed of French-speaking Catholics—was the first to adopt the Prohibitory law by a majority of 1,252. During the past year His Grace Archbishop Taschereau, and some of the bishops also, have carefully studied the nature and the aim of the Canada Temperance Act, and the result is that His Grace, as also Bishop Lafleche, of Three Rivers, and Bishop Racine, of Sherbrooke, have declared themselves the warm friends of the Act, and have promised their hearty co-operation. We anticipate, therefore, during the present year a much more rapid advancement of prohibition sentiment and work than heretofore. We are more hopeful in this respect since His Grace has kindly given his consent to allow his *imprimatur* to accompany each copy of an edition of twenty thousand of the Scott Act in the French language. We confidently expect to see large and beneficial results from this action. Our best thanks are due Dr. Marsden, President Q. V. A., for the valuable assistance given our Secretary in this matter. We have, during the year, held in several parts of the Province four picnics, at which addresses have been delivered by many prominent gentlemen, both clerical and lay,—among the latter several members of our Federal and Provincial Parliaments. The numbers attending these gatherings have been large; in some instances as high as 2,500 persons have been present, all of whom, apparently, were deeply interested in the subject almost exclusively dwelt upon—the entire prohibition of the liquor traffic. A few meetings have also been held in several parts of the city of Montreal. By means of our Temperance Literature Depository, kept by Mrs. Gales, several hundreds of volumes of valuable literature have been distributed. We sincerely urge upon our friends throughout the Province to avail themselves of the opportunity which the Depository offers them to secure very useful and reliable literature on the Temperance question at very cheap rates. Mrs. Gales's address is 105 Mansfield Street, Montreal. Our Secretary has, during the year, travelled largely over the Province, attending conventions, assisting in and directing campaigns, and stirring up by lectures and personal visitation an active interest everywhere in our very important and laudable movement. We have been greatly assisted and encouraged by the persevering energy displayed by our sisters of the W. C. T. U. We had, during the year, a visit from two distinguished members of the United Kingdom Alliance, Mr. Barker and Mr. W. Hoyle, who gave us an account of the present state of Temperance work and legislation in the old land, and assured us of the very deep interest taken by the Temperance people of England in our work on this side of the Atlantic, and especially in Canada. They said that our legislation in the direction of Prohibition was a source of strength and encouragement to them and their co-laborers, and a law totally prohibiting the traffic in this country would be a great leverage towards helping them to secure the same desideratum in the United Kingdom.

D. V. LUCAS, Secretary.