

Letters of apology for absence were read from the president of the Brandon W. C. T. U., Rev. J. M. Douglas, Brandon, Hon. Senator Girard and others.

The president gave an interesting address on the history of the work of the Alliance from its organization to the present time, and pointed out some of its wants, particularly that of more general and thorough organization.

Reports were submitted by the secretary, referring among other things to the visit of Mrs. Youmans and the establishment of the Women's Christian Temperance Union which had been the result. It was also stated that the finances of the Alliance would be in a healthy condition if all subscriptions were paid.

A business committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. J. A. Tees, Wilson, Irwin and Rev. T. McGuire.

Brief reports of an interesting character were presented by a number of delegates respecting temperance work in their several localities. The speakers generally were of the opinion that the people would give a majority vote in favor of the Scott Act. Among the speakers under the last head were Rev. Mr. Bell, of Crystal City, who referred to the progress of the Royal Templars in Southern Manitoba; Rev. Mr. Hunter, of Dominion City; Mr. Johnson, of Stonewall; Rev. Messrs. Gibson, Crichton, of Portage la Prairie; J. R. Bonny, of Nelson; J. B. Silcox, of Winnipeg; Mr. Monk who gave an encouraging account of the work of the Winnipeg W. C. T. U., such as visiting the jail and hospitals; Mr. A. P. Cameron, who spoke of the need of temperance work in the city and Province; Rev. Mr. Betts, of Birtle, who represented a public meeting held to support a delegate; Mr. A. G. Washinton, who as president represented the Blue Ribbon Club of Portage la Prairie, and others.

Mr. Biggs addressed the convention at length upon the Scott Act in Lisgar and Marquette where, although the Scott Act was carried by large majorities, yet convictions under it have been quashed on legal technicalities. The speaker gave valuable information and legal advice.

The following committees were then appointed, after which the Convention adjourned until 2 p. m. :—

Finance Committee—Rev. J. B. Silcox, T. A. Burrows, W. D. Russell.

Nomination Committee—Rev. E. A. Stafford, Rev. J. E. Hunter, N. D. Barker.

Resolution Committee—Rev. J. W. Bell, Rev. J. Gibson, Mr. B. Bliss, W. W. Buchanan.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The President, having resumed the chair at 2 p. m., Mr. Parsons, of Emerson, spoke of the progress of the Good Templars in that town during the past year. There were now 125 members with an average attendance of 38. They had a comfortable hall and were in a good position financially. He was sure that the Scott Act would be passed without trouble in the city of Manchester.

Rev. J. W. Bell presented, on behalf of the Committee on Resolutions, the following, which he moved, seconded by Rev. J. H. Ruttan :

That this Convention recommend the executive of the Dominion Alliance in Manitoba to have prepared for circulation in Lisgar and Marquette petitions to the Dominion Government setting forth the difficulties which are met in the enforcement of the Scott Act in these counties, and praying that the Dominion Government pass a special act legalizing the act in these counties, and removing all technical objections to its enforcement; and that steps be taken to have these petitions circulated throughout the counties, and that they then be laid before the Government for its action in the matter.

After some remarks by Rev. Mr. Betts, Mr. Buchanan and others, the motion was carried.

Rev. Mr. Rutledge introduced the subject of Provincial Legislation. One of the first questions to decide was what the powers of the Provincial Legislature were, and what it ought to do; then this should be asked in such a way that it could meet with no denial. He looked upon the object of licensing as not merely to raise money, but to limit as far as possible the evils of the traffic. He argued that the grocery business and the liquor business should be separated. He was in favor of prohibiting the traffic rather than limiting it. As to public sentiment not being prepared for prohibition, he held that public sentiment was never prepared in advance for any reform.

Mr. W. W. Buchanan suggested that, as it had been decided that

prohibitive legislation rested with the Dominion Government the Convention in dealing with Provincial Legislation, should not discuss prohibition.

The President took the opposite position that there had been no decision given that the Provincial Legislature had no power to pass a prohibitory law. He considered it preferable however, to work under the McCarthy Act rather than to seek a provincial act.

Rev. Mr. Betts considered the provincial license law as sufficiently effective if properly enforced, particularly in view of the submission of the Scott Act.

After further discussion, in which others participated, Mr. Buchanan moved the following resolution (seconded by Rev. J. B. Silcox), which was unanimously carried without discussion : Resolved that this Convention recommend the Manitoba Alliance to exercise their influence with the Provincial Government and Legislature with a view of increasing the restrictions placed upon the traffic by provincial legislation, and that in the present unsettled state of license laws it is very desirable that the executive of the Alliance should be active in watching every change, that temperance interests may be guarded.

Rev. E. S. W. Pentreath introduced the topic of Temperance Literature. He urged the introduction of elementary text books containing this teaching into the public schools, and also advocated the use of more temperance literature in Sunday Schools, and a more general use of the public papers, by devoting, say a column, once a week in giving telling facts of the progress of temperance all over the world.

Rev. Mr. Bell then introduced, from the Committee on Resolutions, a resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Bliss, and carried in the following form, the last two clauses being added on the suggestion of Mr. Bliss and Rev. Mr. Silcox :

That this Convention recommends all temperance societies to apply for and use a column or more in the public papers, in which shall be furnished facts of interest and utility in the temperance work; and further, that the executive of the Alliance press on the Local Government the desirability of authorizing and placing in our public school text-books on the subject of alcohol. That all Sunday schools be earnestly recommended to place temperance books and periodicals in their libraries; and that steps be taken to distribute regularly temperance literature on the railway trains, and especially immigrant trains.

Rev. C. B. Pitblado next introduced the topic, "The request of the Dominion Alliance to submit the Scott Act simultaneously to the whole Province." He believed in the first place that by submitting the question to the people they rolled the responsibility of the traffic upon the right shoulders, so that not the Government or the rum-sellers, but those who voted for it, or abstained from voting against it, would be primarily to blame. Secondly, that an immense gain would result from the submission of the Act in the education of the people in temperance principles, and thirdly, that the legal adoption of the Scott Act in every county would raise the question above the uncertainties of legal technicalities, the constitutionality of the act having already been decided. He closed his address by moving the following resolution, which was seconded by Rev. Mr. Betts :—That, inasmuch as we believe that to submit the Scott Act to the people for adoption, in the constitutional way, would be an efficient means of showing the ratepayers their responsibility in regard to the liquor traffic and inasmuch as we believe the discussion connected with the work of submitting the question to the electors of a country would tend to educate the people in the principles of temperance reform, and inasmuch as we believe that the adoption of the Scott Act by the people in a legal way would place the whole question of the liquor traffic on a thoroughly constitutional basis in that country; therefore, this Convention recommends that measure be devised and means employed to submit the Scott Act simultaneously to the electors throughout this Province, as soon as it can be reasonably accomplished.

After a discussion in which Rev. Messrs. Daniels, Betts, Gibson, Hames, Stafford and McGuire took part, the resolution was unanimously carried.

Mr. W. W. Buchanan opened a discussion on improvement of Alliance organization. The central organization was in operation, but what they specially needed was the establishment of local organizations throughout the Province. He pointed out the advantages that would ensue from the employment of an organizing agent, and proposed the holding of public meetings at various centres, for the securing of additional member and augmentation of the funds. Several of the delegates, including Rev. Mr. Betts, Mr. C. M. Cope-