

The Rev. S. D. Chown rendered the following report of the Committee on the State of the Work, which was received and adopted:—

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE STATE OF THE WORK.

Your committee is gratified to be able to present a very hopeful report to the Alliance this year.

In the Province of Ontario during the year 1885, twenty-two contests took place, in seven of which the Scott Act was successful.

The net majority polled in favor of prohibition was 16,031. On the first of May next the Scott Act will be in operation in three-fourths of the settled portion of the Province.

Owing to the uncertainty in reference to jurisdiction and legislation with respect to the traffic in intoxicating liquors, the Act has not been so well enforced in some localities as we would desire. The friends of the Act, however, have been inspired with fresh determination, and much better results are anticipated now that the question of jurisdiction has been finally settled and the Provincial Government has promised officers to aid in its enforcement.

In the Province of Quebec the Canada Temperance Act of 1878 has been carried in three counties, with an aggregate majority of 2,133, and lost in two, with a total majority of 90. The majorities against the measure have been so small that its friends confidently expect to carry it with large majorities in the near future. It is felt, in order that the whole Dominion may as far as possible be simultaneously prepared for prohibition, that special attention should be paid to the Province of Quebec by the circulation of a greater variety and abundance of temperance literature in the French language and the employment of advocates qualified to address the French-speaking citizens of that Province in their accustomed tongue.

Your committee is happy to believe that when similar means are used for the development of public sentiment in Quebec as have been used in Ontario, like results will follow.

During the year just closed a Branch of this Alliance has been re-organized in the Province of British Columbia, with a determination to secure the election of members of the Provincial Parliament pledged to secure if possible more stringent license regulations. Steps are also being taken to secure the application of the provisions of the Scott Act to that Province.

Sufficient data have not been placed in the hands of the committee to make a report from the Maritime Provinces and Manitoba.

In order to ensure success in enforcing the Scott Act, it is recommended that our friends be advised to form strong vigilance committees in every municipality who shall forward complaints and evidence to a private prosecutor employed by the County Association, whose duty it shall be to see that the evidence is such as to afford reasonable certainty of securing conviction; further, that, when possible, solicitors strongly in sympathy with the Act be employed to prosecute offenders against it; also, that efforts be made to secure the appointment of police magistrates, either with or without salary.

We recommend further that public meetings be held as often as possible for the purposes of further educating public sentiment in the direction of complete prohibition, of arousing and sustaining enthusiasm, and securing funds to defray the expense of enforcement.

Your committee further strongly recommends the formation of Temperance Electoral Unions, as absolutely necessary to retain the restrictive legislation already possessed, and to secure the enactment and enforcement of provisions still more stringent.

S. D. Chown, Chairman.

The Committee on Resolutions reported.

The following resolutions were adopted by the Council:—

1. That this Council of the Dominion Alliance on reviewing the past year has every reason for gratitude because of the successes which have marked the operations of our friends in securing the adoption of the Canada Temperance Act. At the same time the Council urges continued and increased exertions, not only to enforce the Act where it has been adopted, but to ensure success in those counties where it is yet to be submitted.