

# THE DOMINION ALLIANCE

For the Total Suppression of the Liquor Traffic.

HON. A. VIDAL,  
PRESIDENT.

J. J. MACLAREN,  
CHAIRMAN OF EXECUTIVE.

J. H. CARSON,  
RECORDING SEC'Y.

F. S. SPENCE,  
CORRESPONDING SEC'Y.

W. H. ORR,  
TREASURER

All Communications should be addressed to the Corresponding Secretary

## Ontario Branch :

W. H. HOWLAND, PRESIDENT.  
R. J. FLEMING, TREASURER.

Office:—86 King Street East, Toronto.

January 14th, 1893.

DEAR SIR:—

Enclosed please find a form of petition to be presented to the Local Legislature, asking for the taking of a vote of the electors of Ontario on the question of total prohibition.

At a meeting of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance in September last, after a thorough discussion it was decided that this was the wisest course to pursue in the interests of the temperance cause. To ascertain the views of a still larger number of our friends, circulars were sent to representative temperance workers and clergymen all over the province, asking their opinion as to the wisdom of the proposal. 1148 replies expressing opinions were received, and of these 1042 believed that it was the best course to adopt. Our Executive Committee therefore decided to appeal without delay to the Assembly for legislation providing for the taking of a vote.

Among the reasons that have led prohibitionists to decide upon this course of action are the following :

1. That the recent decision of the Court of Appeal in this Province makes it clear that our Provincial Legislatures have more extensive powers in relation to the liquor traffic than was formerly supposed, and it is very desirable that they should be fully informed as to the condition of public opinion in relation to a question that they will doubtless be called upon to deal with. The Legislatures would be practically compelled to recognize an expression of public sentiment and take such action as would bring the law into harmony with the people's wishes.

2. That if such a vote were taken it would secure an expression of opinion free from entanglement with political considerations and prejudices, which at present prevent direct expression of public sentiment on the temperance question.

3. That the vote would show exactly where the strength of temperance sentiment in our Province lies. We would learn from it in what localities work is most needed, where local option by-laws should be submitted, and generally we would obtain an intelligent and valuable view of the condition of temperance sentiment in our Province at large, and also in each locality.

5. That the taking of such a vote would bring the temperance question home to the electors, would secure a great deal of discussion out of which we feel certain there would come education and progress that would be very beneficial to our cause in the community.

As you are aware, a similar vote taken not long ago in the Province of Manitoba resulted in a majority of more than two to one in favor of prohibition. Our friends in that province are jubilant over the result. Their hands have been strengthened. They are inspired with new confidence and determination. They have a position of power such as they never before occupied. It is confidently believed that a similar result would follow a vote in this province and that it would clear the way for speedy and effective legislation.

It is proposed that the Legislature should be petitioned by Church and other representative organizations, for the taking of such a vote. Will you kindly bring the matter before some meeting of your congregation or Church representatives and if the petition is adopted have it signed by the proper Officers, or by the Chairman and Secretary of the meeting approving it. You will then please return it in the enclosed envelope and it will be duly laid before the Legislature through the proper person, when that Body Convenes in this City next month.

Your Municipal and County Councils have also been asked to petition the Legislature for the taking of this vote. It is earnestly requested that you will make special efforts to have these Councils do so. Deputations might wait upon the Councils, and Councillors might be personally seen and urged to support it.

Hoping to hear from you very soon and again requesting your earnest co-operation in this very important matter we remain,

On behalf of the Executive Committee,

F. S. SPENCE,  
*Secretary.*

Yours Sincerely,

J. J. MACLAREN,  
*Chairman.*

# Petition for a Plebiscite.

*To The Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario.*

Your petitioners respectfully call the attention of your honorable body to the following facts:

1. That notwithstanding the restrictive legislation at present in operation, intemperance with its attendant evils still exists in our province to an alarming extent, is a constant source of misery, pauperism and crime, and a persistent hindrance and menace to the moral and material well-being of our people.

2. That your petitioners believe that the only right and effective legislative method of dealing with this evil, is by the speedy enactment and thorough enforcement of total prohibition.

3. That not only do your petitioners believe that such legislation would be right in principle and very beneficial in operation, but that it is also desired and would be approved by a large majority of the electors of this province,

4. Your petitioners further believe that it is very desirable that there should be an opportunity given for a clear expression of this strong public opinion, uninfluenced by partisan or other considerations, so that the legislative body dealing with the question may be fully aware of the attitude of the electors towards it.

5. Your petitioners therefore pray your honorable body to make provision for the immediate taking of a direct vote of the electors of Ontario, in such form as will show what number of such electors would approve of a law prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors into and in the said province, and what proportion of the electors would be opposed to such legislation.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

On behalf of the .....

of .....