

From this table it will be seen that:—

Immediately upon the passage of the Crooks Act there was a very great fall in the production of spirits and malt liquors.

The amount of spirits produced has actually fallen, notwithstanding the large increase in population, till the amount was less in 1880 and 1881 than in 1876.

The production of malt liquors fell away nearly one-third on the passage of the Crooks Act.

The production of malt liquors continued to fall away till 1879, since which time it has increased. But why has it increased?

This increase in the production of malt liquors will, of course, be charged to the Crooks Act; whereas in truth *it is clearly chargeable to the Dominion Government*, which in 1879 reduced the excise tax on malt from two cents a pound to one cent, and thus DID ITS BEST TO NEUTRALIZE THE EFFECTS OF THE TEMPERANCE LEGISLATION OF THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT.

To Conclude.

It rests with the people of Ontario to affirm whether they will preserve themselves the local control of so eminently a local right as the regulation of the liquor traffic, and whether they will uphold the Crooks Act with the improvements suggested from time to time by experience, or, on the other hand, whether they will permit the license law to be seized upon by the Ottawa authorities, and after the emasculation of its principles and excision of its wholesome if stringent provisions, entrusted to the administration of a Departmental head who may happen to represent the City of Montreal or some constituency in British Columbia, and over whom the electors of this Province have neither influence nor control; and whether the door now closed shall be thrown wide open so as to admit of the unlimited issue of licenses and as near a return to free trade in intoxicating liquors as the most violent opponent to law, order, sobriety and the wholesome provisions of the Crooks Act could desire.