

Government, and would actually give the control again to the municipalities. I am sure you can all very well remember that before the present law came into force matters were in a very bad state, and are now very greatly improved. I have myself known places where hundreds purchased liquor illegally, Sundays and nightly, and the authorities seemed powerless to stop them. I have known half a dozen policemen stand outside, knowing what was going on, and not interfere, night after night. The fact is, influence can be brought to bear on members of municipalities which can very seldom be used with the class of License Commissioners appointed by Government. The liquor sold was bad. Men frequently staggered through the streets drunk—a thing not so often seen now. In six years the drinking places have decreased from about 6,000 to about 4,000, and committals for drunkenness have decreased nearly one-fourth. I think that a man would be committed now for far less than then, so that it is likely they are decreased one-half. Moreover, you all must remember the evil state of affairs when the Councils issued licenses—the lobbying, the favoritism, and much other disagreeable matter our Councils are now freed from. The law is cheap—the average of enforcing it has not been \$50 a year for each municipality—a great saving on the old way; it pays the municipalities better. They got this year \$270,000, when, by the old way, they would have got but \$100,000. There is no political favoritism in giving out licenses; this year 2,700 Conservatives got licenses to 1,100 Reformers. No Conservative who obeys the law fears to lose his license. Let us notice one striking fact. Since the Act has been in force about fifteen thousand licenses have been issued or renewed to Conservatives, and among all these in all that time there have been but half a dozen complaints, and those were found to be unwarranted. It is a very good proof of its working in the right direction that the Methodist Conference voted for its continuance.

I consider this Act and its results alone should secure Mr. Mowat the support of every one who wishes to see the sale of liquor properly conducted. I am no Prohibitionist, but I like to see the sale of liquor conducted respectably and legally. It is so now; those who desire to retrace the step should not get your votes.

A cry has been raised that this Act is unjust centralization—that power has been unfairly taken from the municipalities, to their weakening and injury. Why, not a single municipality has petitioned to have the power back again. They do not want it. When they had it, it worked a double evil to every one of them—an inferior class of tavern-keepers—