

## 1894—THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION IN REFERENCE TO PROHIBITION.

At the Parliament Buildings, Toronto, on Tuesday, February 6th, 1894, a large temperance deputation, representing the Provincial convention then in session, waited on the Provincial Government "to respectfully request them to declare in favor of total prohibition of the liquor traffic to the full extent of the power vested in the legislature." Every member of the Government in the city was present.

Sir Oliver Mowat concluded his reply with the following positive assurance:—"If the decision of the Privy Council should be that the Province has jurisdiction to pass a prohibitory liquor law as to sale, I will introduce such a bill in the following session if I am then at the head of the Government. If the decision of the Privy Council is that the Province has jurisdiction to pass only a partial prohibitory liquor law, I will introduce such a prohibitory liquor law as the decision shall warrant, unless the partial prohibitory power is so limited as to be ineffective from a temperance standpoint."

Rev. W. Kettlewell, chairman of the deputation, a leader of the advanced Prohibitionists, and Grand Councillor of the Royal Templars of Temperance of Ontario, in response, said:—"I am sure I need not say your answer is everything to be desired."

Rev. Dr. Potts, a spokesman for the convention:—"Eminently satisfactory."

### THE GRADUAL REDUCTION OF LICENSES.

The following table gives the number of each kind of license issued for several years between 1874 and 1893 inclusive, and also shows the gradual reduction in their number since the Crooks' Act came into force in 1876:—

Year	Tavern.	Shop.	Wholesale.	Vessel.	Total.
1874-5	4,798	1,307	52	33	<b>6,185</b>
1875-6	4,459	1,257	78	24	5,818
1879-80	3,199	757	72	22	4,020
1884-5	3,253	675	28	14	3,970
1885-6	2,574	525	24	9	3,132
1886-7	Scott Act period.	1,567	367	12	1,974
1887-8		1,496	325	13	1,862
1888-9		2,066	336	17	2,445
1889-90	3,073	445	27	15	3,560
1890-1	3,071	428	24		3,523
1891-2	2,990	403	21		3,414
1892-3	2,966	378	25		<b>3,369</b>

It will be noticed that there has been a practical and gradual falling off in the number so that now there are in force the smallest number in the history of the Province at any time when local prohibition has been in force in as few municipalities. It can, therefore, be fairly claimed that the Crooks' Act, and the amendment thereto, has had the effect of reducing the number of licenses in the Province almost one-half. The reduction in the number of licenses may be carried definitely, under the Crooks' Act, by municipal action, as well as by the action of the Boards of License Commissioners.

### A Striking Comparison.

5,818 liquor licenses issued by municipal councils in 1875, prior to the passage of the Crooks' Act in 1876, as against 3,369 issued in 1893 under the License Law, a reduction of 2,449, or 71 per cent. 1 to each 278 of population in 1875, 1 to each 633 of population of 1893.

### A Comparison with American States and Canadian Cities.

In order to furnish a comparison between Ontario and different States of the American Union as to the number of liquor dealers in the latter, it is necessary to take the figures furnished by the United States Commissioner of Inland Revenue of the number