

The Figures for 1887.

FALLING OFF IN DRUNKENNESS.

The Province of Ontario Gives a Startling Object Lesson on the Effectiveness of the Scott Act in Lessening Intemperance - Drunkenness Reduced to Less than One-third of its former Dimensions - We thank God and take courage.

We published about a month ago a full statement of the commitments for drunkenness in Ontario during the past year, showing what the Scott Act had done in the diminishing of intemperance. These figures constitute one of the most powerful arguments for prohibition that has ever been offered, and for the convenience of many friends who desire to have them at their disposal, we republish them, merely removing some errors that had crept into the former statement.

In his report on the working of the Tavern and Shop Licenses Acts, recently laid before the House, Hon. A. S. Hardy, Provincial Secretary, gives a table showing the number of prisoners committed to the county gaols of Ontario for drunkenness during the past twelve years. From these figures we gather some interesting information in reference to the relative progress of places under Scott Act and License respectively. There are now in the Province of Ontario forty-one judicial counties. One of these, the county of Halton, has had the Scott Act in operation since May 1, 1881. In eight of the others, viz., Bruce, Dufferin, Huron, Norfolk, Oxford, Renfrew, Simcoe, and Stormont etc., the Scott Act went into operation on May 1st, 1883, and in eleven, viz., Elgin, Kent, Lambton, Lanark, Leeds, etc., Lennox etc., Northumberland etc., Ontario, Prescott etc., Peterboro, and Wellington, it went into operation on May 1, 1886. There are also seven judicial counties, viz., Brant (including Brantford), Carleton (including Ottawa), Frontenac (including Kingston), Lincoln (including St. Catharines), Middlesex (including London), Muskoka, and Victoria etc., which are partly under Scott Act and partly under license, the Scott Act having gone into operation in part of all of them on May 1, 1886. All the other counties, fifteen in number, are still under license.

The government returns are made out for the year ending September 30. It will be seen that in order to fairly compare different localities, we ought to take them for the same years, and those years should be full years of license and full years of Scott Act. We have only one full year of Scott Act for all the places in which it is in operation, namely, the year ending September 30, 1887, and the last year in which all those places (Halton excepted) were under license, was the year ending Sept. 30, 1881. Halton, for the reasons named, must lie out of this calculation. Its figures have often been given. We may summarize them by saying that for the six years preceding the coming into operation of the Scott Act, Halton county aggregated 51 commitments for drunkenness, and during the six years since the Scott Act came into operation, she has aggregated 14 such commitments. We will divide all the remaining judicial districts into three groups, namely (1) Counties entirely under license in 1884 and still under license in 1887. (2) Counties entirely under license in 1884 and entirely under Scott Act in 1887. (3) Counties under license in 1884 and partly under Scott Act in 1887. These tables will contain the figures for the whole province of Ontario.

COMMITMENTS FOR DRUNKENNESS IN EIGHTEEN COUNTIES CHANGED ENTIRELY FROM LICENSE TO SCOTT ACT

Table with 3 columns: County, 1884, 1887. Rows include Bruce, Dufferin, Elgin, Huron, Kent, Lambton, Lanark, Leeds and Grenville, Lennox and Addington, Norfolk, Northumberland & Durham, Ontario, Oxford, Peterboro, Renfrew, Simcoe, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, Wellington, Total.

COMMITMENTS FOR DRUNKENNESS IN FIFTEEN COUNTIES UNDER LICENSE IN BOTH 1884 AND 1887.

Table with 3 columns: County, 1884, 1887. Rows include Algoma, Essex, Grey, Haldimand, Hastings, Nipissing, Peel, Perth, Prescott and Russell, P. E. County, Thunder Bay, Waterloo, Welland, Wentworth, York, Total.

COMMITMENTS FOR DRUNKENNESS IN SEVEN COUNTIES PARTLY CHANGED FROM LICENSE TO SCOTT ACT.

Table with 3 columns: County, 1884, 1887. Rows include Brant, Carleton, Frontenac, Lincoln, Middlesex, Muskoka and Parry Sd, Victoria and Haliburton, Total.

These figures need no comment. They speak eloquently of the general fact, that where the Scott Act comes into operation crime is diminished and morality promoted. In reference to the few cases where the principle does not seem to be fully borne out, our friends have already learned facts regarding enforcement that are more than sufficient to explain the situation. It is to be regretted that alongside the startling and general decrease of drunkenness in Scott Act counties there is really a general increase in places where license still prevails. The figures in Algoma and Thunder Bay may be explained by the fluctuations which have characterized its lumbering population.

HIGH LICENSE.

Over and over again is dinned into our ears the theory, that high license would prove itself effective as a restraining power over the Liquor Traffic and its attendant evils. Over and over again we have shown that the actual results of High License have been proved to be as follows:

- 1. High license immediately lessens the number of saloons. 2. It makes the remaining saloons more attractive, dangerous and evil-producing. 3. The remaining, seductive saloons rapidly develop drinking habits in the community. 4. An increased demand leads to an increased number of those more dangerous places. 5. High license means ultimately, more saloons, more drink selling, more drunkenness, and more crime. 6. The high license, high revenue producing liquor traffic has a stronger grip on the community and becomes a serious impediment to the prohibition movement.

Statistics make this unquestionable. Probably Chicago may be fairly taken as a fair specimen of the High License system, and in reference to Chicago the following facts have been published by Mr. Samuel Packard, a legal gentleman of high standing and a careful observer.

CHICAGO'S high license law was enacted June 15, 1883, and went into effect July 1, 1883. The \$22 a year license ran out June 16, 1883. From May 1, 1881, until May 1, 1886, a period of five years, a beer license for \$160 was issued. Since May 1, 1886, all licenses issued have been at the uniform rate of \$500 per year.

Table with 5 columns: Year, Amt of Year License, No of saloons, Beer and Distillers, Total. Rows for 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887.

For the last period of the fiscal year ending May 1, 1887. For the second period of the fiscal year ending December 1, 1887. These tables for first period ending August 1, 1887, were 3,773.

This makes the showing for high license still worse than before, based, up on these official figures, which I obtained myself, from the police headquarters. Increase of population from 1882 to 1887, 35 per cent. increase in number of arrests for drunkenness and disorder during the same period, 63 per cent. increase in total of arrests 41 per cent.

Could anything be more convincing? In Chicago from 1884 to 1887 arrests for drunkenness went up from 23,080 to 37,632. In the same space of time and for the very same years, commitments to jail for drunkenness in 18 counties of our own Province of Ontario under the Scott Act, went down from 890 to 186. What has high license to offer as an alternative to the Scott Act? Simply a change from good to bad, from diminishing crime to increasing crime from sobriety to drunkenness.

Let it be borne in mind, however, that we have not in Ontario to-day, even High License as an alternative to the Scott Act. Any county that abandons the Canada Temperance Act, must go back to the old license system.

We would like our readers to bear in mind that our population is steadily increasing, and the 186 drunks in 1887 were out of a population even larger than that which gave us 892 in 1884. Every true friend of what is right and good should

VOTE AGAINST REPEAL.

Your Ballot is a Sacred Trust, Use it in the Master's Service

The Canada Temperance Act.

RESULTS OF THE VOTING SO FAR:

Large table with columns: PLACE, VOTES POLLED MAJORITY, DATE OF ELECTION. Rows list various Canadian locations and their voting results for the Temperance Act.

N.B. - In the preceding table a place that has voted more than once has the different votes indicated by the figures (1), (2), (3) after the name of place. Figures printed in italics are for first or second votes in places in which a later vote has been taken than that so printed. Names in heavy faced type are of cities, others of counties.

SUMMARY

Nova Scotia has eighteen counties and one city, of which thirteen counties have adopted the Act. New Brunswick has fourteen counties and two cities, of which ten counties and two cities have adopted the Act. Manitoba has five counties and one city, of which two counties have adopted the Act. Prince Edward Island has three counties and one city, all of which have adopted the Act. Ontario has thirty-eight counties and union of counties and eleven cities, of which twenty-five counties and two cities have adopted the Act; one of these has repealed it. Quebec has fifty-six counties and four cities, five counties of which have adopted the Act. British Columbia has five parliamentary constituencies, none of which have adopted the Act. In all, up to the present time, 81 cities and counties have voted upon the Scott Act, and 63 have adopted it. Nine counties and cities voted twice and 5 three times, making an aggregate of 95 contests, out of which we have been victorious in 73. The aggregate votes cast in all the contests, have been: For the Scott Act 186645, Against 116256. Net Scott Act majority 50389. If we omit all voting but the last, in those places which have voted more than once we get the following as the latest vote: For the Scott Act 147132, Against 104385. Net Scott Act majority 40747. It is more than eight years since the Scott Act was first voted upon and adopted in different localities, and ONLY ONE COUNTY HAS YET REPEALED IT, although many votings have taken place on the question of repeal.

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