

or to destroy our Canadian ale and wine trade, and promote the sale of the vilest liquors that can be used to ruin the health of mankind, has only to read this return of the counties in which the Act has been adopted and repealed in order to willingly give his support to this Bill. In the County of Brant, it was carried by a vote of 2,000 against 1,800; but repealed by a vote of 958, only 141 voting against it. What was the reason of that? How is it that this Act to promote temperance and do so much good, that was going to increase sobriety and make all men temperate, promote the happiness of many homes and abolish drunkenness, was, only a short time after its enactment, so unpopular that only 141 persons in that county voted to retain it? Because they found in that county, as I and most other public men in Canada have noticed, under similar circumstances, that a worse condition of affairs as to drunkenness succeeded the adoption of the Act. I do not mean there was a tremendous change for the worse, but that drunkenness increased to a much greater extent than before the passage of the Act. Well, in the County of Grey it was tried and repealed also. It is a large county of 13,000 votes, only 4,000 of whom voted for the law. In that great county much trouble and expense was incurred and much turmoil excited, much business was destroyed and property rendered worthless when steps were taken to repeal the law. Well, 1,388 voted for its repeal and only 161 for its retention. I do not know, then, how any man of common sense, common judgment and common honesty would desire to perpetuate a law attended with such results. I have not the return of the town of Peterborough when the law was enacted, but I have the return for the time at which it was repealed. There seems to have been a consensus of opinion that the law should be repealed, because the vote on the occasion was very small, only 177 being cast on both sides—172 for and only five against the repeal. And yet some hon. gentlemen say we ought to try the Act further, and submit it in all counties where it has not been presented. It seems to me that if it is to be submitted—but I think the common sense of the community has condemned it as useless—surely the position I take by this Bill is the correct one—that before such an obnoxious law is passed on the people, at least the public sentiment in its favor should be marked by a majority of the electors voting for it. I have said that its results include the ruin of the respectable hotels and the development of the illicit drinking of the worst liquors and the increase of intemperance on all sides. But very largely has been increasing in this country every year, the use of our wholesome ales, beers, and Canadian wines. Directly you pass this Act, and do away with the legitimate hotels, you do away with those wines and ales, because they are too bulky to be used in that illicit manner, and at once you force upon the people the larger consumption of liquors compounded of the vilest materials, from which a profit is illicitly made. This Act encourages evasions and defiance of the law, and an increase of perjury; and it is rather remarkable that wherever you attempt to enforce a law not in accord with the public sentiment, and which does not gain their respect, the breaking of that law does not seem to be attended with the disgrace connected with the infraction of more proper enactments. All men in the House acquainted with the business of the country, all the lawyers and magistrates will bear me out in my assertion that an enormous amount of perjury has been developed in the attempt to enforce this prohibitory law. But the unfortunate result of the breaking of the law and the encouragement of perjury in one particular, is, that a man having once broken the law in one respect becomes more careless about breaking it in others, and a man who sees perjury committed or a case sworn through, as is too frequently the case in these prosecutions, is led to think that he could promote his own ends and accomplish other objects by means of perjury and evasion of the law.

Mr. BOULTREE,

Another result is, that after a municipality has been put to the expense of having this Act submitted, after the loss of revenues which it sustains from its operation in every place where such legislation has been tried, the result has been to intensify the evil of intemperance. The amendment which I propose only says that if you are determined to carry the Act which has somehow or other got on the Statute-book, you must at least be able to show that public opinion is unmistakably in its favor. It may be said that the present test in that particular is a fair one, but experience goes to show that people do not care much for the interests of others in matters of this kind. The hotel keepers, brewers, and other people of that class who have their property and means of living taken away from them, are numerically a small class, and while those who are in favor of the Act are active in their campaigns; while they throw every obstruction in the way of those who would feel disposed to record their opinion against the Act; while the temperance lecturers and other gentlemen who put themselves on a high pedestal of morality, which will perhaps cover other matters, are found at every polling place pouring contumely and reproach upon those who do not think as they do, I say that under these circumstances it is difficult to secure a fair record of public opinion. I have seen ministers of the gospel and others, who should have known better, standing at the polls and defying people to vote against the Act, and throwing out the penalty of holding them up to public opprobrium. Men do not like to expose themselves to that sort of contumely; they do not like to be styled "Children of the Devil fighting in the army of Satan," when they venture to record their opinion of what is right, and the result is that a fair record of the opinions of those opposed to such legislation is difficult to obtain. We have not had this sort of legislation attempted in this country for a very long time. It is a thing of recent date. We have been pursuing the cause of temperance according to the old-fashioned way—by trying to manufacture public opinion—by the better class of our men exemplifying temperance, and their efforts have been wonderfully successful, for there is no more sober or temperate class of people anywhere than those of Canada. But we have had an example of the effects of prohibitory legislation in some of the neighboring States, and especially in the State of Maine, where it has been in force for twenty-seven or thirty years, and which has given a name to this prohibitory liquor law. If we may judge by the abnormal condition of affairs which it has produced in that State, we must say that its results have been most disastrous. The evidence of their own people is that during the twenty-seven years of the operation of the prohibitory law in that State, the people have sensibly deteriorated; crime has increased; drunkenness has increased, divorce has increased to a most alarming degree, a degree almost amounting to the destruction of the domestic ties—and these evils are so marked that they have elicited observations from their public men and have been commented upon by the Judges of the State. The New England intellect at present, keen though it be, is not an intellect which is working to the advantage of the world; though keen and subtle it is a gnarled twisted intellect, it is in those States that "isms" have their growth, that disbeliefs are prevalent, that the foundations of religion are sapped and broken, that the domestic ties are not respected, that murder and all the more violent crimes is on the increase. If we are to take them as the results of a prohibition law then, God forbid that we should imitate such legislation in this country. I do not speak without the book in making these remarks. I have in my hands a copy of the *Hamilton Spectator* of February 11th, in which is a report by Judge Goddard, of Portland. He says that within twenty or thirty years murder has increased 600 per cent. in that State; man-