

2nd. That it has done much to arrest and permanently stay the therefore constantly increasing tide of drunkenness, which had increased between 1869 and 1875 no less than 87 per cent.

3rd. That it has, in conjunction with better times and fewer licenses, caused an actual decrease in the number of committals for drunkenness; turning an increase of 87 per cent. between 1869 and 1875 into a decrease of 21 per cent. between 1879 and 1881; or, taking into account the increased population, into a decrease of 30½ per cent. during this latter period.

A TORY COMPLIMENT TO THE LEADING PRINCIPLE OF THE CROOKS ACT.

One of the greatest tributes that could be paid to the Act was that of the Tory Convention, in that, while professing a desire to place the issue of licenses in the hands of the Municipal Councils, they were compelled by force of public opinion to leave untouched the clause of the Act limiting the number of licenses.

Depend upon it, the two must stand or fall together. If the issue goes back into the hands of the Clerks of Councils, it will doubtless go accompanied by free trade in licenses, and the country would again be overrun with houses carried on for the purpose of liquor-selling alone—grogeries, pure and simple. The interests of every class are opposed to this.

Reverting to the old system would be a reactionary movement, and a severe blow to the cause of temperance. Temperance people of all classes and of all shades of political opinion denounce the proposition.

Municipal Councils, compelled to go back to the public annually for election, would object to being placed under compulsion to refuse many applicants, while granting licenses to others. Under the old system they were not called upon to discriminate. Indeed, the Clerk did the whole business, and the Council was not consulted at all. No one was refused a license who could pay the fee, and the work of granting the license was not that of the Council, but that of the Clerk.*

The respectable hotel-keeper would not go back to the old system under which the unlicensed grogery competed against him at every corner. He knows he is better off under the present system, and he is not prepared to destroy the respectability of his business for the sake of putting Mr. Meredith in office.

A TORY TRIBUTE TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ACT.

The *Mail* newspaper, in its issue of the 5th September, 1882, contains an interview with a city ex-unlicensed liquor-seller, and we give the following quotation from the article as an unwilling tribute by that organ to some of the work accomplished by the Crooks Act:

"PAST AND GONE.—'THE OLD HOME AIN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE!'—AN UNLICENSED WHISKEY-SELLER'S LAMENT."

"Breaking up unlicensed houses was a source of great loss not only to the keepers of these places, but also to a number of so-called 'sports,' who regularly went down to the Police Court, in case of a raid on the houses by the police, and swore that they were the *bona fide* owners, thereby, for a consideration, getting themselves imprisoned, while the

* In England licenses are granted not by the Municipal Councils but by Justices of the Peace.

In New York and most of the other States of the Union, they are not issued by the Municipal Councils, but by commissioners chosen for that purpose.

In Quebec the Act of 1878 provides that licenses shall be issued by the License Inspectors (who are appointed by the Government), except in the city of Montreal. The same Act provides that in Montreal all tavern licenses shall be issued by a board of three or more commissioners appointed by the Government.