

was ordered and was held on January 23rd, 1905. The Liberal party was badly beaten, its defeat being to some extent aided by the indignation of the temperance electors who resented the course followed by the Government in relation to the promises made and the great temperance vote polled in the referendum.

An appeal was made to the new Premier, Hon. J. P. Whitney, and his Government, for the legislation which the Liberals had failed to promote, but without any encouraging response. Local Option work was then taken up in earnest. Even with the victories won in the early part of 1905, at the end of that year, fifteen years after the Local Option legislation had been revived by the Legislature, Local Option by-laws were in force in only forty-seven municipalities, and more than half of these had been carried in 1904 and 1905. A great number of municipal councils were forthwith petitioned to pass by-laws and submit them for ratification at the municipal elections in 1906.

The movement became general. Although a great number of councils refused to allow the electors to vote upon the question, the prohibitionists succeeded in bringing on contests in seventy municipalities in the early part of 1906. Sixty-one of the seventy voted on the first Monday in January, and the remainder shortly after. The prohibitory by-laws were carried in fifty-nine out of the seventy contests.

The liquor traffic became thoroughly alarmed, for it was evident that public opinion, directed along this effective line, was likely to soon drive the liquor traffic almost entirely out of the Province.

The new Legislature, controlled by

the Conservative party, had made a very slight amendment to the Liquor Law at its first session early in 1905. It now proceeded at the session of 1906 to make a number of important changes. Some of these were beneficial. The Local Option sections were improved by making the submission of by-laws obligatory upon councils when petitioned for by twenty-five per cent. of the electors, by fixing the day of municipal elections as the date for voting on Local Option by-laws, and by requiring municipal councils to pass by-laws for which the people had voted.

These amendments were helpful. They had been vainly asked for many times by temperance workers. The Legislature, however, proceeded to further alter the law by providing that in the future a Local Option by-law would not be considered as ratified by the electors, unless there was polled in its favor, sixty per cent. of all the votes cast upon the question. This action has proved a great protection to the liquor traffic.

The Alliance protested strongly by a large deputation. The representatives of the liquor traffic also went before the Government in strong force and declared their approval of the proposal. The Government claimed that it would be fair to both parties because by-laws thus adopted by a three fifths vote would need a three-fifths vote to repeal them. Temperance workers argued that the measure was unjust, giving the liquor traffic an immediate advantage, and was not needed to retain Local Option by-laws, the success of which ensured their permanence. The law also unfairly allowed the reinstatement of liquor-selling by a mere majority in more than a hundred places in which Local