

same as the United States; and they had a Federal Government being carried out in an efficient way. They had seven provinces, each having its own Legislature and laws, including licensing laws. They were greatly affected by our legislation in England; every step we took forward affected Canada. Speeches made in our Parliament which were comparatively useless here were often useful there. The *vis inertiae* of the old country did not affect them. In 1876 the Ontario Legislature abolished the system of licensing by Town Councils. The system had corrupted the Town Councils to such an extent that they were glad to get away from it. Did they take the licensing over to licensing boards? No, they conferred the duty upon Crown-appointed commissioners, with no other duty than that of licensing. There were three for each district. What powers had they? Simply the power to discriminate the right men to sell the liquor. Any discretion as to number? No. Who fixed the number? The Provincial Parliament at Ontario. The maximum was four for the first thousand and one for every four hundred of the population, men, women, and children, above the first thousand. If there were eleven thousand, that would give twenty-nine liquor shops. He would show how Local Option came in. The Town Council were empowered to reduce that number, but not to increase it. It might reduce to any extent. (Applause.) Public opinion registered itself through the Town Council, its members being elected periodically. The Town Council also had the power to raise the price of the licences, thus in reducing numbers and increasing price making it "difficult to do wrong." (Laughter.) They could raise the price up to two hundred dollars. If they go above that, they must revert to the authority by whom they were empowered, and take a popular vote as to how much higher they could go. There was then the power of limiting by high prices, and also by diminishing the number, most effectively provided in the statute. They had a motive for increasing the price, for the money came to them. For what purpose? To execute the law, and nothing else. They had to appoint inspectors, who were paid out of the funds, to see that the law was executed. He had no hesitation in saying that Ontario supplied for the British nation the best example that could be given for restrictive