

the same returns it is shewn that in 24 of the counties intemperance is on the increase, while in 14 no increase has been observed.

From the evidence appended to this report, from the returns received by your Committee from all parts of the country,—from villages, towns and cities, as well as from the rural municipalities,—and from their own personal observation, your Committee are thoroughly convinced—

1. That indulgence in the use of intoxicating liquors is the cause of most of the suffering and sorrow, the poverty and crime, which afflict Upper Canada; and

2. That it is the duty of Parliament to mitigate, diminish, and, if possible, extirpate the cause of these evils.

Your Committee therefore recommend that an Act be passed authorizing and establishing the prohibitory system in all the municipalities in Upper Canada, wherein, in the month of July next, at a meeting of persons authorized to vote for school trustees, held for the express purpose of considering the matter, the majority of persons present at such meeting shall not vote against its taking effect within the limits of said municipality.

The whole, nevertheless, respectfully submitted.

JOHN SIMPSON,
Chairman.

Committee Room, 30th March, 1859.

JOHN BEATTY, Esquire, of Cobourg, was in attendance, and was examined as follows:

1. What do you consider the state of the public morals in reference to the use of intoxicating liquors?—My convictions are, that the prevalent use of intoxicating liquors has a most deplorable effect upon public morals, and is a principal cause of the very great majority of the crimes which so seriously affect all classes of the community. These convictions are based