

as bondsmen for license holders. It was provided that Local Option By-Laws shall not be repealed for three years.

*Act of 1897.*

In 1897 the legislation :—

Increased the population limit to three licenses for the first thousand of the population, and one license for each full 600 additional persons except in County towns.

Further restrictions were placed on the sale of liquor by druggists.

The hours for sale of liquor were fixed at from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. in townships, and from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. in cities, leaving power in the hands of License Commissioners to still further limit the hours.

An amendment was passed prohibiting the sale of liquor to any person under 21 years of age—the previous limit having been 18—and prohibiting license holders from permitting minors to loiter round their premises.

This amendment, all will admit, is of immense importance.

Saloon licenses were abolished.

License Commissioners were prohibited from granting licenses, within 300 feet of churches and schools, to premises not heretofore licensed.

And provision was made for the cancellation of licenses on the certificate of the magistrate showing that a license holder had knowingly broken the law by three violations of the provision forbidding sales during prohibited hours.

*The Crooks Act Endorsed.*

The friends of the temperance cause hailed with delight the withdrawal of the power from municipal corporations to issue liquor licenses, and the assumption of that authority by the Government. The following resolution adopted by the Methodist General Conference in 1882, voiced then, as it does now, the sentiment of the general public upon this question :—

“Although we cannot accept as righteous absolutely any license law, yet, if we must tolerate some one as the tentative regulator of an evil till we can have it removed, we must regard the Crooks Act as the best instrument for this suppression the Province of Ontario ever had. We would emphatically deprecate any legislation that would impair its efficacy, and we would respectfully recommend our people, where this law obtains, to use their voice and franchise to prevent the control of this license system reverting to the municipalities, where the industrious ward politician and the interested liquor dealer so largely manipulate the election.”—*Resolution of the Methodist General Conference, Sept., 1882.*

*Policy of the Opposition.*

The policy of the Opposition has been particularly variable on the temperance question. A glance at the following resolutions offered by them at different periods will reveal their vacillation on this subject and must confirm the opinion that the steady,

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