

Actual Experience

The Ontario Temperance Act is Emptying Ontario's Jails

Jail Commitments Before and After Passage of the Act.

ALL CRIMES	DRUNKENNESS
1915—20,337	1915—6,235
1918—13,242	1918—2,595

From Annual Reports of Inspectors of Prisons 1915 and 1918, and Schedule H. Report of the Board of License Commissioners for Ontario for the year 1918.

ONTARIO'S experience with prohibition under the Ontario Temperance Act since September 16, 1916, has been all the argument any fair-minded man or woman wants, to prove that the Act should neither be repealed nor weakened by Amendments.

Jail Commitments for crimes and offences of all kinds have decreased more than one-third since 1915.

Jail Commitments for drunkenness alone decreased from 6,235 in 1915, the year preceding the Act, to 2,595 in 1918.

Jail Commitments for drunkenness decreased despite the fact that the Act makes drunkenness in public places a "prima facie" offence, punishable by fine or imprisonment, whether accompanied by "disorderliness" or not. A drunken man on the street has become a rare sight.

The number of commitments for drunkenness in Ontario in 1918 was the lowest in seventeen years, although the population of the Province increased by over 500,000.

Some jails received no drunkards in 1918 at all. Others show well nigh unbelievable decreases, notably in the cities and larger towns.

Do you want to see the taste for alcoholic beverages revived, and the population of Ontario's prisons, jails and lock-ups restored?

If you are convinced that drunkenness is undesirable in this Province mark X in the "No" column after each question.

"No!"—Four Times—"No!"

Each and every one of the four questions on the ballot paper in this Referendum must be answered or your ballot is "spoiled." And unless you mark X after each question in the "No" column, the Ontario Temperance Act will be spoiled, and years of Temperance progress lost.

Ontario Referendum Committee

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