

By comparing these figures with the returns of 1880-81, the percentage will be as follows for the two years :

	1876-7.		1880-81.	
	Reformers.	Conservatives.	Reformers.	Conservatives.
1. Percentage of total number of applicants for license.....	30.45	69.55	23.83	70.17
2. Percentage of total number of licenses granted.....	30.44	69.55	28.95	71.05
3. Proportion of their respective applications granted to each class.....	75.10	75.08	87.05	90.80

The practical result, therefore, is that in 1876 one-twentieth of one per cent. more of the applications of Reformers was more favorably considered than were those of Conservatives, but this was changed in 1880-81 to a percentage of three per cent. and three quarters in favor of the applications of Conservatives.\*

#### TORY MISREPRESENTATIONS.

The Tory organs, with endless repetitions, recklessly and absurdly charge the increase of drunkenness, vagrancy and crime against the Mowat Government and the Crooks Act. Why not charge it against Sir John A. Macdonald and his Government? Sir John has been in power for the last four years. His Government alone deals with the laws relating to crimes, and almost exclusively with those relating to vagrancy. The Ontario Legislature cannot pass a single measure relating to crime or even criminal procedure.

If any Government, therefore, is to be held responsible for the increase of crime, it is the Government at Ottawa, and not that at Toronto. Strange, is it not, that the Conservative leader is thus wounded in the house of his friends, it having remained for his chief organ to point out his delinquency.

#### VAGRANCY.

It is patent to everybody that the increase in vagrancy from 1869 to 1877 was due very largely, if not wholly, to causes beyond the control of the Government either at Ottawa or Toronto.

The chief causes of vagrancy were, amongst others, the following :

1. "Hard times" in Canada and the United States.
2. Many thousands of men being out of employment, who at other times were earning a living by steady work, but being so out of work and destitute, went "on the tramp."

3. The influx of thousands of tramps from the United States, they being driven from that country by hard times and the severity of the laws against "tramps and vagrants," and by fear of the prison and workhouse.

Vagrancy is found by experience to be influenced greatly by the labor market, which in turn is largely controlled by good and bad times. Vagrancy has been on the decline since 1877. The Reports show the commitments to prison of vagrants in 1877, during bad times, to have been 3,888 (see *Report of Inspector of Prisons for 1879, page 63*), whereas they had decreased in 1881, during good times, to 1,587 (see *Report for 1881, page 133*). The Inspector of Prisons' Report for 1877 is up to the 30th of

\* The return for 1876 did not include the number of refusals.