

with hard labor, while it denies compensation for wrongs committed, that it tends to render doubtful the validity of mortgages and other securities for debt; and that it gives power to invade the sacred privacy and privileges of domestic life.

"That your petitioners are firmly impressed with the belief that the said law, in its operation, will not lessen the consumption of intoxicating liquors in any perceptible degree; that it will tend to increase smuggling and other offences against the laws of the land; that it attempts to enforce temperance by arbitrary enactments against which human nature rebels; that it is opposed to the wishes and feelings of a very large proportion of the inhabitants of New Brunswick; that it is calculated to engender bitterness and strife, and create hostile feelings between different classes of Her Majesty's subjects; and that the most striking features of the said law, is its power to deprive the provincial revenue of an exceeding large proportion of its annual amount, thus seriously affecting the finances and damaging the credit of the province.

"That your petitioners are decidedly of opinion that the advantages proposed to be attained by this law, would be more effectually gained by a well-considered and stringent license law, embracing judicious provisions for preventing the abuse of liquors, which would be in accordance with the feelings and command the hearty concurrence and support of all Her Majesty's loyal subjects in this province."

The prohibitory law thus petitioned against was resisted by all legal and illegal means, and as no adequate

machinery for its enforcement had been provided, it was a failure. It brought on a political crisis and led to a change of government and a general election. On an appeal to the people the Government which was in power when the law was passed was overwhelmingly defeated and so strong was the sentiment against it that only two members in a house of forty-one voted against the bill to repeal the Prohibitory Liquor Law. This was done at a special session of the Legislature held in July 1856. This premature attempt to bring about prohibition is thought by many to have been an injury to the cause of temperance.

The Canada Temperance Act, a measure of local prohibition was enacted by the Parliament of Canada in 1878 and most of the counties in New Brunswick have come under its operation. An attempt was made in 1882 to bring it into force in the city of St. John which resulted in its defeat by a tie. A second attempt was made in 1886 in the city of St. John when it was defeated by a majority of 77. The same year the Canada Temperance Act was brought into operation in St. John county and in the city of Portland. The majority in the first case being 43 and in the second 147. In 1890 the result of a vote taken in Portland was the defeat of the act by a majority of 434 and in 1892 it was defeated in St. John county by a majority of 159. It was found that in Portland and the thickly settled parts of the county the law was wholly inoperative. The Canada Temperance Act is now in force in the cities of Fredericton and Moncton and in the counties of