

# Statistical.

## THE PLEBESCITE.

OVER SIXTY-THREE PER CENT. OF THE ELECTORS AGAINST IT.

Prohibition condemned by an overwhelming majority of the People.

From several quarters we have received requests to republish our recent article on the Ontario Plebiscite on Prohibition. When that article was published we had not the complete official returns, but since our last issue the official figures have been printed in the *Ontario Gazette*; and though there is no great variation in the statistics we will now give those from the official source, in other respects following the lines of our former article:

At the last session of the Legislature Mr. Marter, of Muskoka, moved the second reading of a Bill to abolish retail liquor licenses. Mr. Davis, of North York, moved in amendment the three months' hold, and was immediately followed by Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education, who moved in amendment to the amendment that a Plebiscite vote of the electors of the Province duly qualified to vote at elections for the legislature, and in addition, of the women entitled to vote at municipal elections, be taken on the question of Prohibition. The order, and the question submitted to the people was as to whether the elector was or was not in favor of the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquor for beverage purposes. The question was first put to the people in the form of a referendum widely from the original bill as introduced by Mr. Marter, and was most carefully arranged in several respects. For instance, when submitting the abstract question of Prohibition, it avoided all issue as to enforcement, jurisdiction, upon whom the cost would fall, in what manner the deficit in the provincial and municipal revenues were to be met, and many other matters of grave concern, if a trial is ever to be made of Prohibition. The cost of taking the vote, however, was added upon the municipalities, thus taxing the people in an attempt to compel them to say what they did not want.

Then began one of the most quiet campaigns ever witnessed in Canada. If it were not for the serious interests that may be involved, the whole thing would have been a comedy of the highest order. The Prohibitionists saw their advantage and made the most of it. They organized a campaign of tremendous energy; swung the temperance lodges, a portion of the women and certain of the churches into line; made it an issue *à la* municipal elections; scattered literature broadcast; held meetings in every hall, school-house and cross-roads in the country; turned the pulpit for the time being into political rostrum; preached, prayed, threatened, scolded and cajoled, and never ceased until the last vote was polled. The campaign was marked by only one mistake, the bringing into the country of a couple of United States blatherites, who had not honor enough to support themselves in their own country, nor decency enough to show gentlemanly respect to the people of this when they came into it. We will deal with this pair of Thugs at another time.

While the Prohibitionists were so engaged the politicians were making frenzied efforts to get a holding clutch upon the temperance party. From both political headquarters instructions were sent out, the game of politics was played to the limit, and there was seen the absurdity

of men who would be the very first to break a prohibitory law voting for it, and of men who had voted against the Plebiscite in the House taking the stump in its behalf. Men became bedfellows who never before and never will be again. The Reform organ, which hailed the announcement of the Plebiscite with shouts of welcome, sent out correspondents in an endeavor to defeat; while the Conservative mouthpiece, which at first thundered against the measure as the embodiment of political depravity, suddenly became silent, and the word was never again used in its columns until it meekly published the returns. The smaller fry stood around the corners and waited. Amid all the pother, the Anti-Prohibitionists, who could not be pulled by the politicians, for there were many men who voted for the Plebiscite who will never on earth vote for Prohibition—these sat perfectly unconcerned. The campaign was perfectly and absolutely one-sided. There was not a meeting held, not a speech made, not even a scrutineer appointed at the polls on their behalf. The whole thing simply went by default. And what was the result?

The Prohibitionists point, amid thunderous applause, to a majority of over eighty thousand. "A majority of 81,869 for Prohibition," is their claim. "Up to Sir Oliver Mowat they marched and shouted, 'The people are with us,' and Sir Oliver made the best of the situation like a little man. Are the people with them? We opine that these good people are yelling before they have got out of the woods."

Following we give the votes polled, giving—separately—the female voters, who are not under our constitution able to vote on any legislative measure or for a member of the legislature. The figures are for "duly qualified" electors; women are not "duly qualified" in anything that pertains to Governmental matters:

Counties.	Yes.	No.
Brant	1,928	655
Burlington	1,008	1,408
Carleton	2,313	1,006
Chatham	1,008	1,408
Elgin	2,313	1,006
Frontenac	1,008	1,408
Grey	1,928	655
Haldimand	1,008	1,408
Halton	2,313	1,006
Hastings	1,008	1,408
Huron	1,928	655
Kent	1,008	1,408
Leeds and Grenville	1,008	1,408
Lennox and Addington	2,313	1,006
Lincoln	1,008	1,408
Middlesex	1,928	655
Norfolk	2,313	1,006
Northeastern and Durham	1,008	1,408
Ontario	1,008	1,408
Oxford	1,928	655
Perth	1,008	1,408
Prince Edward	1,928	655
Renfrew	1,008	1,408
Simcoe	1,928	655
Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	1,008	1,408
Victoria	1,928	655
Welland	1,008	1,408
Wellington	1,928	655
Westmorland	1,008	1,408
York	1,928	655
Haliburton (Provisional)	1,008	1,408

Muskoka.	Yes.	No.
Muskoka	1,367	618
Mantowish	208	194
Brantford	208	194
Brantford	208	194
Brantford	208	194
Brantford	208	194
Brantford	208	194
Brantford	208	194
Brantford	208	194
Brantford	208	194

Belleville.	Yes.	No.
Belleville	1,136	2,051
Brantford	1,136	2,051
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Separated Towns.	Yes.	No.
Aylmer	253	121
Chatham	253	121
Perth	253	121
Prescott	253	121
St. Mary's	253	121
Trenton	253	121
Pelee Island (Sep. Tp.)	46	0

RECAPITULATION.	Yes.	No.
Majority for Prohibition in Counties	82,906	2,185
Counties	2,185	3,908
Separated	656	0
Towns	71,680	0
The female vote was:	Yes.	No.
Counties	8,736	1,362
Counties	208	194
Cities	3,061	724
Separated Towns	208	194

Female majority	12,402	2,226
Total majority, male and female	95,308	2,185

Upon the face of the returns these figures look substantial enough, but they are far from telling the whole story. The entire male vote polled upon the Plebiscite was 288,581.

The total male vote on the lists was 496,989.

The entire vote fell 208,408 behind the vote on the lists.

The entire male vote polled both for and against was only 58 per cent. of the total male vote on the lists.

But even this is not a complete comparison. To ascertain the true sentiment in favor of Prohibition in Ontario we must place side by side the male vote in favor of the Plebiscite and the total male vote on the lists. These figures are as follows:

Counties.	Total Males on voting list.	Yes.	No.
Brant	1,028	1,028	1,028
Burlington	1,028	1,028	1,028
Carleton	1,028	1,028	1,028
Chatham	1,028	1,028	1,028
Elgin	1,028	1,028	1,028
Frontenac	1,028	1,028	1,028
Grey	1,028	1,028	1,028
Haldimand	1,028	1,028	1,028
Halton	1,028	1,028	1,028
Hastings	1,028	1,028	1,028
Huron	1,028	1,028	1,028
Kent	1,028	1,028	1,028
Leeds and Grenville	1,028	1,028	1,028
Lennox and Addington	1,028	1,028	1,028
Lincoln	1,028	1,028	1,028
Middlesex	1,028	1,028	1,028
Norfolk	1,028	1,028	1,028
Northeastern and Durham	1,028	1,028	1,028
Ontario	1,028	1,028	1,028
Oxford	1,028	1,028	1,028
Perth	1,028	1,028	1,028
Prince Edward	1,028	1,028	1,028
Renfrew	1,028	1,028	1,028
Simcoe	1,028	1,028	1,028
Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	1,028	1,028	1,028
Victoria	1,028	1,028	1,028
Welland	1,028	1,028	1,028
Wellington	1,028	1,028	1,028
Westmorland	1,028	1,028	1,028
York	1,028	1,028	1,028
Haliburton (Provisional)	1,028	1,028	1,028

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Recapitulation:	Yes.	No.
Total vote on list	496,989	180,187
Total vote "Yes"	316,802	180,187

Majority against Prohibition. 316,802. Now then: The qualified vote polled for Prohibition, 180,187 fell behind the qualified vote on the lists, 316,802. Can this by any manner of means be twisted into "a majority of the people?"

In the countries only 28 per cent. of the qualified vote was polled in favor of Prohibition. Where is the "majority of the people" there?

In the districts 28 per cent. of the qualified electors only voted for Prohibition. What about the "majority?"

In the cities 28 per cent. of the qualified electors were all that could be found to support Prohibition.

In the separated towns 30 per cent. only of the qualified voters declared in favor of the fact.

In the whole of the Province of Ontario only 30 per cent. of the duly qualified electors voted in favor of Prohibition. Does this show that the country is clamoring for Prohibition? It cannot be gainsayed that the Prohibitionists put forth every effort and that they polled thousands of votes in favor of Prohibition. Never will be them in a real Prohibition contest. On the other hand every vote unpollled was with equal certainty a vote against. The man who would not vote for the Plebiscite 28 per cent. of the vote for Prohibition, nor would he be a factor in sustaining the law. The evidence is overwhelming that the only way in which a prohibitory law can be given even a measure of enforcement is by having an overwhelming sentiment of the people at the back of it. An overwhelming sentiment is not represented by 36 per cent. of the people.



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