

drunkenness. Of these 4,986 were in the Canada Temperance Act counties, and 8,612 in the counties in which license was in operation. That is to say, sixty-one per cent. of the population (under Canada Temperance Act) had thirty-six and one-half per cent. of the convictions for drunkenness, and thirty-nine per cent. of the population (under license) had sixty-three and one-half per cent. of the convictions for drunkenness.

Opinions of Clergymen.

Another line of inquiry carried on by the Royal Commission resulted in some important information. The Commission sent a series of inquiries to a great number of clergymen in different parts of the country.

From these clergymen 2,465 communications were received, in which were answers given to various questions asked. Two of the questions evoked information that was based mainly upon experience of the Canada Temperance Act, which was the Local Option measure of which there was then the largest experience. To a question asking if the persons addressed had observed the working of the Canada Tem-

perance Act, the Dunkin Act, or some other Local Option law had been observed, 2,443 replies were received, and in response to two other questions, the definite answers, other than statements of no experience and the like, were as follows:

Question.—From your experience and observation as a clergyman, had such prohibitory law the effect of lessening drunkenness?

Answers.

Lessening	1,606
Negative	259
No change	4

Question.—From such experience and observation, had such prohibitory law the effect of increasing or lessening the drinking of intoxicating liquors?

(1) In the family? (2) In the community?

Answers.

	(1)	(2)
Lessening	1,434	1,557
Increasing	128	137
No change	93	65

This summary is certainly a conclusive proof that the Canada Temperance Act and similar laws have, on the whole, commended themselves to the favor of a majority of observers interested in the promotion of temperance.

Prohibition in the United States

There are eight States in which general prohibitory laws are in operation. They are Georgia, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Tennessee.

In all the other States there are areas in which prohibition prevails through the Local Option plan, or by some special statutory enactment. The extent of these areas in the different States varies from that of Texas, where 220,000 square miles are free from

licensed saloons, to New Jersey, in which prohibition prevails in only a small section of about 30 square miles.

In some states the Local Option unit is the county. In some places it is the local municipality. The Local Option power is sometimes exercised by a remonstrance or signed petition. It is generally exercised by a ballot vote, which the civil authorities must take upon a specified petition of electors, except in those States in which