

Dominion Medical Monthly

And Ontario Medical Journal

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COMMENT FROM MONTH TO MONTH

Provincial Temperance Acts have gone, or are going, into operation in different provinces of Canada. The occasion offers an unusual opportunity on the part of provincial governments, through their boards of health, to make a scientific study and record of the effects of enforced abstinence from alcoholic beverages. Heretofore it cannot be said that any government, provincial or federal, or for that matter, any government in any country, has ever conducted an exact scientific study of the effects of alcoholic beverages of different kinds upon individuals, or groups of individuals.

In Canada, for the past forty years, we have had temperance lodges, signing the pledge, Dunkin Acts, Scott Acts, Crooks' Acts, Local Option Acts, High License, Restricted License, Abolish the Bar, and now, Provincial Prohibition Acts. In the face of all these, in the face of floods of ink and floods of speech, up to the last two or three official years, year by year the per capita consumption of alcoholic beverages regularly increased throughout Canada: It has been claimed that this was due to the unprecedented immigration from foreign countries which Canada