

Statistical.

THE BUDGET SPEECH.

HON. MR. HARCOURT ON THE LICENSE QUESTION.

Some of his Deductions are open to Criticism.

HON. MR. HARCOURT, treasurer of Ontario, in making his financial statement for the current year, devoted a portion of his speech to the license question. He said:—We received from liquor licenses in 1893 \$294,517, being \$240 less than our receipts of last year. In 1890 there were issued 3,560 licenses. In 1889, 3,923; in 1891, 3,414; in 1892, 3,369; in 1893, 3,195; a falling off in four years of 305 licenses.

In 1875 there was granted one license to each 275 of our population. In 1893 we granted one license to each 633 of our population. According to the latest returns there is one license to every 150 of the population of the State of New York, one to every 246 in Illinois, one to every 248 in Ohio one to every 294 in Indiana, and one to every 200 in Michigan. With this steady and rapid reduction in the number of licenses, with hotels possessing much better accommodations than formerly, with a complete separation of groceries from liquor sales, with saloons to minors prohibited, with numerous other restrictions, each of them making for sobriety, we can, I think, reasonably claim that our license laws have brought about a marked and businesslike abatement of the evils of the liquor traffic. The Province received for its own use as revenue from licenses (I am speaking of the calendar year) in 1889, \$302,734; in 1890, \$312,907; in 1891, \$298,649; in 1892, \$294,758; in 1893, \$291,516; and gave back to the municipalities in the same years, viz.: in 1889, \$297,353; in 1890, \$294,968; in 1891, \$289,487; in 1892, \$289,577; in 1893, \$287,649. It will be remembered that Municipal Councils may be by-laws, and without asking the assent of the electors, require a larger duty to be paid for tavern or shop licenses and retain for their own use the revenue thus derived. They can, however, exact a duty, which, added to the statutory duty, will exceed \$200, unless the by-law has been approved of by the electors. Only in 318 out of 808 municipalities have the Councils imposed by-laws imposing the duties, and in only six of them throughout the whole Province were the fees increased beyond this limit of \$200. These six were Brockville, Port Hope, Bowmanville, Chatham, Sudbury and Rat Portage. We have in all 808 municipalities in the Province. In 628 of them there is not a single shop-licence, and in 185 of them, nearly one-fourth of the whole number, there is no license granted of any kind whatever. Since September, 1890, local option by-laws have been carried in 28 municipalities and defeated in 12. In 15 municipalities where those by-laws were carried they were afterwards set aside by the courts. At present local option prevails in only 12 municipalities, in which formerly 28 licenses were issued. In the Province of Quebec the receipts from licenses are very much larger, more than twice as much in fact, than they are in Ontario. The Quebec Government received from licenses in 1890-1, \$586,296; in 1891-2, \$607,989; in 1892-3, \$672,757; and did not return a dollar of it to the municipalities. In this Province, as has been seen, we return to the municipalities about one-half of the total amount received.

more complete figures. Mr. Harcourt's statement is quite correct, so far as it goes, but for the purpose of full comparison it does not go far enough. Why does he give the number of licenses issued from 1889 only, and why does he leave out the comparative licenses took under the law by the coming into force of the Crooks Act and it is well to have the figures for each year since to fully understand the situation. The figures are:—

Year.	No. of Licenses.	Year.	No. of Licenses.
1876	3,308	1888	3,132
1877	3,576	1889	3,923
1878	3,715	1890	3,560
1879	4,020	1891	3,414
1880	4,019	1892	3,369
1881	4,138	1893	3,223
1882	4,183	1894	3,114
1883	4,201	1895	3,200
1884	3,570	1896	3,193

So it will be seen that there is not after all so great a divergence between 1876 and 1893. The difference too is easy of explanation. Some cities, such as Toronto, have cut down the number arbitrarily, but the great decrease has been due to the increased facilities of transportation, caused by the extension of our railway system, thereby doing away with the country way-side taverns. The country tavern and the stage coach have disappeared together.

LICENSES AND DRUNKENNESS.

What Mr. Harcourt, evidently intended for was that the decrease in the number of licenses has led to a decrease in drunkenness. This is what we would assume from his remark about "a business-like abatement of the evils of the liquor traffic." If this is his contention, it is wrong absolutely wrong. The facts are just the reverse. When, in Ontario, the number of licenses issued has been smallest the drunkenness has been greatest. This fact is indisputable as witness the following figures:—

Year.	No. of Drunk-ness.	Com-mittals for Drunkenness.
1881	1,089	3,759
1882	1,133	3,329
1883	1,163	3,497
1884	1,201	3,963
1885	1,312	3,093
1886	1,374	3,555
1887	1,362	4,129
1888	1,445	4,571
1889	1,560	4,757
1890	1,323	4,273
1891	1,414	4,614
1892	1,389	4,738

We gave in a recent issue the figures showing that the reduction of licenses in Toronto had enormously increased drunkenness and the reasons for it. They need not be repeated here.

But perhaps it may be contended, though Mr. Harcourt does not do so, that the decrease in licenses has in some measure at any rate decreased the consumption of liquor. Here again the facts are directly to the contrary. In 1880 the consumption of liquor per head of population was 3,040 gallons, in 1891 it was 4,464 gallons. We have not the figures later than 1891.

THE PROVINCES COMPARED.

Let us take now to further elucidate the subject a comparison between the proceeds from liquor and those more or less under Prohibition.

Prince Edward Island, off out by herself in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, under total Prohibition for the Island, increased her convictions for breach of the liquor laws from four in 1880 to 1891, and increased the committals for drunkenness from 260 in 1880 to 311 in 1891. The only thing P.E.I. did not increase was her population, which practically remained stationary. Nova Scotia, with Prohibition everywhere outside the city of Halifax, but with open sale in many of

the counties, increased the convictions for breach of the liquor law from fifty-five in 1880 to 118 in 1891, drunkenness 677 to 685. New Brunswick, the banner Prohibition province, increased the convictions for breach of the liquor laws from thirty-six in 1880 to 245 in 1891, and the convictions for drunkenness from 850 to 1,628 in the same period. Quebec which is claimed to be from one-half to one-half under Prohibition, had 339 convictions for breach of the liquor law in 1880 and 434 in 1891. Drunkenness 1,348 in 1880 and 4,199 in 1891. Now take Ontario, which is all under license law. In this province the convictions for breach of the liquor law were 1,089 in 1880 and 1,220 in 1891, but in 1880 under the Scott Act they were 1,646, in 1887 under the Scott Act 2,064, and in 1888 under the Scott Act 3,136. Dropping to 1,982 in 1889 when the Scott Act went out, and to 1,131 the following year. Committals for drunkenness in Ontario were 5,282 in 1880 and decreased to 4,973 in 1891, but in the Scott Act years the figures were: 1886—4,694; 1885—5,868; 1886—5,453; 1887—6,200; 1888—6,383; 1889—7,069. Manitoba convictions for breach of the liquor license laws decreased from sixty-two in 1880 to eleven in 1891, and committals for drunkenness from 525 in 1881 to 518 in 1891.

Now Prince Edward Island increased in population in the last census decade 0.18 per cent.; Nova Scotia 2.25 per cent.; New Brunswick 0.92 per cent.; and Quebec 9.53 per cent. Ontario 9.65 per cent.; Manitoba 148.06 per cent.

IN PROHIBITION STATES.

So much for that branch of the subject. Mr. Harcourt next points out that Ontario grants license to only 1 of 633 of our population; and gives for purpose of comparison the figures for New York, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. He could have said that Prohibition Iowa has one license to sell liquor for every 450 of population, Prohibition Kansas one for every 430, and Prohibition Maine one for every 412 of population. These figures we think make the comparison more complete.

LICENSES' CONTRIBUTIONS.

As to the municipalities that have no licenses, these back districts do not affect the situation to any remarkable degree. But regarding the receipts from licenses something may be said. It is quite true as Mr. Harcourt says that in the Province of Quebec the Government receipts from licenses are more than double those of Ontario, but the license tax is not more than double by any means. In 1892-3 the Quebec tax amounted to \$672,757. In Ontario it amounted to—Government \$294,517, municipalities, \$287,649, a total tax of \$582,166. So that the difference to the tax payer is not so great after all. But aside from the Quebec comparison altogether there is this fact that both the Provincial Government and the municipalities have been taking larger and larger sums from the license holders. To the subjects of the subject shortly we give the figures:—

Year.	Received by Govern-ment.	Received by Municipalities.
1880	\$399,047	\$ 8,108
1881	398,237	10,216
1882	525,915	91,948
1883	524,378	95,248
1884	570,456	102,225
1885	520,290	126,267
1886	571,453	165,295
1887	154,438	216,435
1888	211,453	291,242
1889	190,297	232,511
1890	297,333	307,291
1891	288,219	285,230
1892	298,167	300,004

Yet the men who have contributed this enormous amount of money towards the revenues of the community are coolly proposed to turn a business, cashed, and in many cases bring to utter ruin.

THE REVIVAL OF BRANDY.

The brandy trade is in a stronger position than it has occupied for some years, and there is reason for believing that the long period of depression through which it has passed is now coming to an end. From official figures it will be seen that the production of wine in the Charente and the Charente Inférieure this year has been larger than the yield in either 1891 or 1892; as a matter of fact, it is the heaviest since 1884, and is more than double that of 1880, 1890 or 1892. The following table shows at a glance the yield in each of the last ten years:—

Year.	Charente Gallons.	Charente Inférieure Gallons.
1880	3,048,988	20,052,990
1881	4,772,108	17,789,390
1882	2,311,275	14,841,322
1883	1,827,724	5,330,609
1884	2,282,216	10,000,918
1885	2,906,438	10,808,918
1886	1,506,915	13,201,629
1887	1,829,404	15,573,244
1888	2,479,180	13,461,341
1889	1,480,300	25,180,695

It is almost impossible to overrate the effect which the abundant vintage will have upon the brandy trade. Not only will it enable a pure spirit to be offered at a lower price than in recent years, but it will encourage the peasants to persevere in the work of replanting their vineyards, and, in the course of time, will restore that confidence in the trade which is necessary to continued success. We are quite sure that the future rests very largely in the work of replanting their vineyards, and, in the course of time, will restore that confidence in the trade which is necessary to continued success. We are quite sure that the future rests very largely in the work of replanting their vineyards, and, in the course of time, will restore that confidence in the trade which is necessary to continued success. We are quite sure that the future rests very largely in the work of replanting their vineyards, and, in the course of time, will restore that confidence in the trade which is necessary to continued success.

JANUARY'S STATISTICAL RETURNS.

Following is a statement showing the quantity of spirits taken for consumption in each Province of the Dominion during the month of January:—

Provinces.	Proof Gallons.
Ontario	114,715
Quebec	71,961
New Brunswick	5,240
Nova Scotia	4,000
Prince Edward Island	365
Manitoba	6,353
British Columbia	213,629

QUANTITY OF MALT CONSUMED.

The quantity of malt manufactured and taken for consumption in each Province for the month of January, 1894, is as follows:—

Province.	Lbs.
Ontario	2,665,613
Quebec	1,349,114
New Brunswick	1,000
Nova Scotia	39,230
Prince Edward Island	6,390
British Columbia	11,000
Total	4,130,000

NO TIME TO LOSE.

Cleverton—"Miss Twilling rejected me the other night, but she let me kiss her before she was parted."

Buzsany (reflecting)—"I guess I'll go round to-night and propose myself."

THE UNREASONABLE SEX.

Mrs. Brown—"You keep Lent? Why, I'm astonished."

Brown—"You shouldn't be, my dear. Last New Year's you wanted me to sweep off forever, while the Lord expects it only for forty days."



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