

In old Canada the principle was adopted in 1864, in the Dunkin Act, which allow the municipal authorities, or people in each township, county or city, to prohibit the retail sale of intoxicants, a measure of which many places availed themselves with more or less favorable results.

After Confederation a move was made for the enactment of a prohibitory law for the Dominion, and, in response to monster petitions, Government appointed a commission to investigate the workings of Prohibition in various States and countries. This commission performed its work, and committees of both Houses reported thereon and Resolutions were passed as follows :—

In the Senate :—“ That in view of these facts and considerations, it appears that the time has now arrived when the attention of the Government should be given to this important question—with a view to the introduction of a bill to prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors (except for mechanical and medicinal purposes) throughout the Dominion, at the earliest possible date compatible with the public interest.”

In the House of Commons :—“ That having regard to the beneficial effects arising from prohibitory liquor laws in the States of the American Union, where the same are fully carried out, this House is of the opinion that the most effectual remedy for the evils of intemperance would be to prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors.”

In 1875 the Government introduced and passed a law for the North-West Territory, which prohibits under severe penalties the importation, manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors in all that vast country.

In 1878 Government introduced and enacted a local option prohibitory Bill, by which any county or city in Canada may, by a majority vote of its electors, completely prohibit the retail and wholesale of intoxicants as beverages for consumption within its limits.

So much for the progress of legal Prohibitory ideas in Canada.

In the United States Prohibition became the law in Maine in 1851. It is there to-day, stronger and more beneficent than at any previous period of its history. It was enacted in Vermont and New Hampshire in 1852, and is still maintained. It came and went in other States, at one time victorious and at another defeated. To-day in the form of local option it has a place in the Statute Book of nearly every State, and covers large areas of country, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. In the form of Constitutional Amendment Prohibition, it was adopted in 1880 in Kansas by a popular majority of 8,000, and in Iowa in June 1882 by a majority of 30,000, and is now the burning, aggressive subject in nearly every legislature of the Republic.