

by the country, the Opposition take refuge in a non-committal attitude, and proclaim that they have no policy—"nothing to do with the matter." It is of a piece with their course throughout. They object and carp at petty details, and criticise this and that feature of administration, but have no definite, clearly-cut programme of their own to substitute, nothing but casual makeshift declarations thrown out from time to time, in the hope of catching the current of approval from any quarter, and abandoned so soon as they fail of their purpose.

Local Prohibition Provisions.

Another evidence of the Government's desire to minimize the evils of intemperance, so far as the legislation in its power can be effective to that end, is found in the local prohibitory enactments represented by Local Option Legislation. In 1899 provisions were made for the introduction and passing, by municipalities, of Local Option By-Laws. Since 1890, by-laws for the adoption of Local Prohibition have been submitted to popular vote on 79 occasions in 68 municipalities. These by-laws prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors were passed in 51 municipalities, and defeated in 28 instances. In 15 cases the by-laws passed were quashed on appeal to the Courts, chiefly on the decision of Judge Galt that the Act was ultra vires, a judgment that was reversed by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. At the present time Local Option By-laws are in force in 21 municipalities, by which 39 tavern licenses and 3 shops have been cut off. During the past year (1901) five by-laws were submitted, four of which sustained Local Option. Two of these were quashed by the Courts on technical grounds, and one by-law was repealed.

Canada Temperance Act.

In 1887 complaints were made of the want of machinery for the enforcement of The Canada Temperance Act, commonly known as the "Scott Act," in the counties in which it had been adopted. Though this was a Dominion law, and should have been enforced by the Federal authorities, yet for the sake of the interests involved, the Government of this Province passed an Act for the appointment of special Police Magistrates in all such counties.