

the law. It has been urged by the Opposition that the Liquor License Act represents a "robbery" of the municipalities by the Government. The total revenue derived from the liquor licenses since 1876 up to May, 1901, amounts to the sum of **\$12,224,539**. Of this sum the municipalities have received over half, or no less than **\$6,418,002**.

*Briefly, The Crooks Act*

(a) Limited the number of licenses to be granted in every municipality; (b) Took the power of granting licenses away from the Municipal Councils and conferred it on Boards of Commissioners; (c) Authorized each Council to still further limit the number of licenses; (d) Authorized the Commissioners to do the same thing; (e) Authorized each Council to prescribe conditions for obtaining a tavern license in addition to those specified in the license law itself; (f) Authorized each Council to limit the number of shop licenses, to require the holder of a shop license "to confine the business of his shop solely and exclusively to the keeping and selling of liquor," and to "impose any restrictions upon the mode of carrying on such traffic as the Council may think fit;" (g) Imposed a minimum fee for each of the three kinds of licenses—wholesale tavern and shop; (h) Vested the appointment of License Inspector in the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council; (i) Required all taverns to be well-appointed eating-houses.

Under the operation of the Act the reduction in the number of licenses issued was immediate, and has so far proved to be permanent as the following statement will show:

In the first period of five years, the reduction was **2,165 or 433 per year**.

During the next five-year period the reduction was less, being only **fifty, or ten per year**.

In the third five-year period the reduction was considerably greater—**410, or 82 per year**.

In the next five-year period the figures of reduction were also considerable—**409, or 81 per year**.

In the fifth period the number decreased by **201, or a decrease of 40 per year**.

For twenty-five years, between 1874 and 1899, the decrease in the number of licenses has been a decrease of 130 per year, the **aggregate decrease being 3,235**.

While the actual reduction has been large it becomes relatively much greater when the great increase in population during the period named is taken into consideration. If licenses had been issued in 1899 at the same ratio that obtained in 1874—namely, one for every **280** of the population—the licenses would have reached the very large number of **8,928**, whereas the actual number was only **2,950**.

*Improvements in the License Act.*

Electors who can look back to the wholesome effect of the assumption by the Province of the supervision of the liquor

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