

which I think call for remark. One is the amount asked for enforcement of "The Canada Temperance Act," \$25,000. In 1887 we expended \$24,596 against the estimate of only \$11,400. We sometimes hear our temperance friends finding fault with the Government that we do not enforce the Temperance Act to our utmost ability, and that the Government are not doing their whole duty in that respect. I think, in refutation of that charge, (if it is seriously made), we can fairly point to our expenditure. I may say, that the enforcement of that Act, as regards its cost, is much more onerous upon the Government than upon the municipalities, and yet it is the people of the municipalities who, by their votes, bring the Act into operation, and it would seem reasonable that they themselves should bear the expense, but experience shews that the great bulk of the expense is borne by the Government and not by the municipalities. On the other hand, the municipalities are making direct profit out of it under the clause in the Order in Council passed by the Dominion Government, by which the fines are paid over to the County Treasurers. I think it is unfair to the Province, that the burden of enforcing that Act should have been thrown upon it, and that the Dominion Government should have so applied these fines that they are not available for the administration of the Act, but go to the municipalities, leaving the bulk of the expenditure to the Province. I will give the House some figures shewing what has been the result of the operation of that Act during the past year. The municipalities received in 1887, \$94,808; they were asked to contribute their proportion of the expenditure, two-thirds of which, payable by them under the Act, was \$44,563; deducting that from the \$94,808, leaves the municipalities, during last year, a clear profit of \$50,245, against a clear loss for expenditure by the Government of \$24,596, and no receipts to the Province.

Mr. MEREDITH.—The moral of that is, repeal the Scott Act.

Hon. Mr. ROSS.—No, the moral is, that hon. gentlemen opposite, and those who wish to see the responsibility fall where it ought, should see that their friends at Ottawa so amend the Order in Council, that the fines go into the general fund, and that the Province and the municipalities shall only be asked to provide for the difference. But it may be said, the municipalities lose revenue by the operation of the Act. So does the Province. Let us see what the loss of revenue will be. From a very close estimate made, based upon the amounts received before the Scott Act was