

"In Quebec in 1884 there was a conviction for every 862 of the population, whereas in 1894 there was one for every 359; 50 per cent. better in this Province and 100 per cent. worse in Quebec, according to these statistics. We heard a great deal of the advanced temperance sentiment in Nova Scotia, but in that Province in 1884 there was one conviction for every 751 of the population and in 1894 one for every 361, so that under this much-vaunted and much-boasted sentiment of Nova Scotia the convictions doubled in ten years and lessened by 50 per cent. in our Province. In New Brunswick there was an improvement, though not so great as in our Province. In British Columbia there was not an improvement but the reverse. In Prince Edward Island there was some improvement, but the result of the comparison for all the Provinces and including the Territories showed that Ontario presents noticeably a better showing than any other Province in the Dominion. As to the State of Maine, of which we always heard a great deal when the liquor question or the license question was under discussion. Taking the statistics for five years for Maine, from 1888 to 1892, and the statistics of this Province for the same five years, some instructive results were shown. Taking the four largest cities in Maine and the four largest cities in Ontario, the number of arrests for drunkenness in each per thousand was:—In Portland, the largest city in Maine, 39 out of every thousand; in Toronto, the largest city of Ontario, for that period there were eighteen arrests per thousand, less than half the number in Portland; in Lewiston there were eleven arrests per thousand against six in Hamilton, and taking the four largest cities in Maine—Portland, Lewiston, Bangor, and Biddeford—and the four largest in Ontario—Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa and London—the average number of

arrests was 30 per 1,000 in the Maine cities and thirteen in our four largest cities. We have not the official figures from 1892 to the present for the State of Maine, but we had for Ontario, and it was gratifying to know that each year here there had been a marked improvement in this same arrangement, and unofficially we learned that there had been no improvement in this matter of arrests for drunkenness in Maine. The result was, so far as statistics can show, that this Province under license presented a better showing than Maine under a prohibition law. In this Province during these five years the number of persons committed for drunkenness per 1,000 was 1.92 and in Maine 2.53, nearly twice as many in Maine under prohibition as in this Province under license. There was an equally interesting result if one considered the reduction of licenses under the statutes to which he had referred. Taking four years which could not be affected by the Scott Act, which was in force in one-half of the municipalities of the Province for some years, the number of licenses granted in 1874, 1881, 1891 and 1896 was 6,185, 4,029, 3,523 and 3,132 respectively; so that since 1874 we have cut off through the statutes more than half of the licenses. There were only 3,000 in 1896, as against 6,000 in 1874; it is now one for every 700 people, and in 1874 it was one for every 262. A great stride had been made in the temperance sentiment of the people, and that marked improvement—he did not say completely, but in some degree—must be attributed to the legislation passed by this House. The commitments for drunkenness are equally noticeable. In 1875 there were 3,868 commitments; in 1881, 3,497, in 1891, 2,736, and in 1896, 1,907; so that since 1875, a period of twenty years, the number of commitments for drunkenness in this Province had been cut in two. Last year only one out of