

PUBLIC OPINION.

But among the masses of the people there has never been a more prosperous year for the temperance cause. Educating agencies are multiplying on every hand. The popular knowledge concerning the nature of alcohol—which is the most sure and durable basis of temperance legislation—has been steadily increasing, and the Dominion of Canada is getting its full share of the remarkable temperance wave which is sweeping over Great Britain and America.

Concerning the progress in the several provinces, I can only give such items as I have been able to gather. The reports of the provincial branches to be published in the next Year Book, will give more complete details.

ONTARIO.

Halton is still the only county that has adopted the Scott Act. Though the Act has not entirely prohibited liquor selling, it has greatly diminished it in towns and villages, and nearly extirpated it from rural districts. Fourteen clergymen in Halton have given the following testimony:—

“Whereas a controversy has been going on in the public press of the province, as to the benefit of the Canada Temperance Act in the County of Halton, we hereby give it as our unqualified judgment, derived from personal observation, that it has largely decreased the sale of strong drinks, as evidenced by the sobriety of the people at all the public gatherings in the county. We are also further convinced that drunkenness has vastly decreased—owing principally to the almost entire suppression of the ‘treating system,’ all statements to the contrary notwithstanding.”

Steps preliminary to the submission of the Scott Act are being taken in the counties of Oxford, Norfolk, Essex, Carlton, Kent, Lambton, Dundas, Stormont and Glengarry.

QUEBEC.

The Dunkin Act is in force in the counties of Brome and Richmond since 1877. In Brome it is regarded by the public as useful, but imperfect, and as having greatly diminished the sale of liquor. In Richmond, the town of that name, when incorporated, rejected the Act, but outside the town the results are returned as remarkably favorable. In many of the French parishes of the province prohibition prevails by the simple method of the municipal councils refusing licenses. Among the French population there is now visible a distinct stirring of public opinion in respect to the temperance question. In the cities of Montreal and Quebec there are large vigilance associations composed of influential French citizens, under