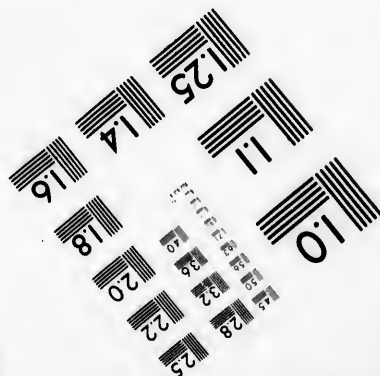
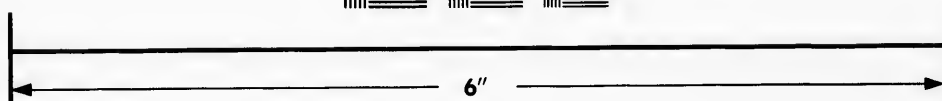
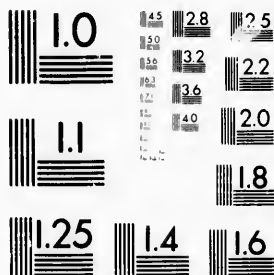


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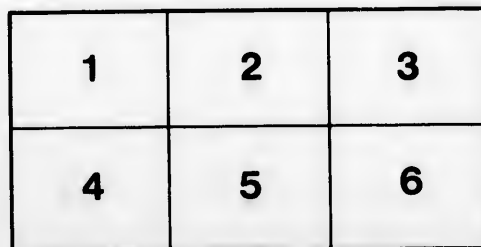
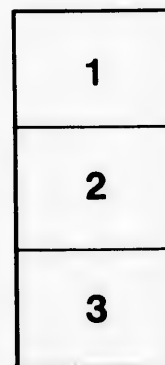
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ONTARIO GENERAL ELECTIONS, 1894.

THE PROGRESSIVE TEMPERANCE RECORD OF

THE MOWAT GOVERNMENT

AS CONTRASTED WITH THAT OF

The DOMINION GOVERNMENT.

MEREDITHIAN OPPOSITION TO PROGRESSIVE TEMPERANCE LEGISLATION.

The policy of the Opposition has been particularly variable on the temperance question, while every motion or bill introduced by the Government bearing on the subject has been opposed. Here is the record in brief:

The Opposition's policy in 1876 :—During the discussion of the licensing law of 1876, on the 7th February, Mr. Meredith contested the proposal of the Government to reduce at once the number of licenses issued by moving that a delay of a year take place before bringing the limiting provision as to the issue of licenses into force. Mr. Meredith's motion (which was defeated) read: "That the Bill be not now read a third time, but that it be forthwith referred to a Committee of the whole House, with instructions to amend the same, so far as to provide that the provisions therein contained, for limiting the maximum number of tavern licenses to be granted, shall not come into force until the first day of March, 1877." A further effort was made by the Opposition through an amendment to leave the licensing business under the partial control of municipal councils.

Its policy in 1877 :—The Opposition made another effort to re-relegate the license matters to municipal control by giving municipal authorities the power to appoint license inspectors who would have all the powers and authority of the present license commissioners and inspectors. Mr. Creighton then moved an amendment to the amendment, the effect of which may be seen by reading it in full: "That the Bill be not now read a third time, but be re-committed to a committee of the whole House with instructions so to amend the Bill as to enable the council of every municipality to decide to whom licenses shall be granted in their respective municipalities, having regard to the limitations imposed by Act 39 Vic., Chap. 26."

Its policy in 1882 :—That they are and have been in favor of the vicious expedient of returning to the municipalities this source of danger and trouble, however, was again made manifest from the position taken at their Convention in Toronto, on September 14th, 1882. At this Convention referred to, it was unanimously resolved to

be "The opinion of this Convention, that without interfering with the laws regulating the liquor traffic, and limiting the number of licenses that may be issued, the power of issuing licenses, and the fees derived therefrom, should be restored to the municipalities." In speaking to this resolution Mr. Meredith said that "He was prepared to say that the present Opposition, if it took office, would be prepared to wipe away the partizan commissioners. (Cheers.) He was prepared to restore to the people of the Province the rights they formerly exercised. (Cheers.) He was prepared to give back to the municipal bodies the rights they formerly enjoyed." (Cheers.)—From report in *Mail*.

Its policy in 1883:—This policy was further pursued in a resolution in amendment to order for Committee of Supply, 24th January, 1883, moved by Mr. Meredith, practically covering the preceding ground.

Its policy in 1890:—The policy of the Opposition was again re-constructed by the submission of the following resolution during the session of the Legislature of 1890 as an amendment to the Hon. Mr. Gibson's measure: "That the Bill be not now read a third time, but be referred back to a Committee of the whole House, and so amended as to provide that the license commissioners hereafter be appointed in counties by county councils, and in cities and towns elected by the municipal electors of such cities and towns." Mr. Meredith returned to this platform in his recent speech at London, on May 21st, 1894."

Its policy in 1892:—In 1892 the Opposition unitedly supported an amendment to the License Act to enable brewers to sell indiscriminately throughout the Province, their trade being restricted to licensed dealers. Mr. Meredith moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. Hammill, "That the Bill be not now read a third time, but be referred back to a Committee of the whole House, with instructions to strike out of the fifth section the words "to persons being holders of a license to sell under the said Act." The effect of this would be to enable them to sell to everybody whether holder of a license or not.

Its policy in 1893:—In 1893 the Opposition, finding that its conduct toward the liquor traffic had alienated from them the public sympathy, made a bold bid to detach support from the Liberal party by the introduction of what became known as the "Marter Bill." This Bill purported to abolish the retail liquor traffic. The proposal was neither honest nor practical. The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council had determined that there was no distinction between wholesale and retail selling. The right of the Province to give municipalities the power to prohibit, otherwise than is incident to licensing, was, and is still, being contested before the Supreme Courts in an appeal against the Local Option Law. In view of the decision of the Judicial Committee on the one hand, and the doubt and uncertainty of jurisdiction on the other, it was apparent that to pass the Bill would result in the indiscriminate sale of liquor without license during a prolonged contention from court to court. The Bill was therefore defeated, and the Government took immediate steps to obtain a decision of the highest courts on all points involving prohibition of the liquor traffic. By consent of the Dominion Government the case has been already argued before the Supreme Court of Canada, and the final decision is being hastened.

On the introduction of a Bill to take a plebiscite on the question of abolishing the liquor traffic the Opposition objected to the proposal and voted against it. On the third reading of the Bill Mr. Meredith moved to limit the question to be placed before the electors to prohibition by the Provincial Legislature. The purpose of this was to prevent the result of the vote from being used to influence opinion in favor of prohibition in the Dominion Parliament.

Its policy in 1894:—Regarding Mr. Meredith's present proposal for a return to municipal control of license affairs, it must be remembered that the temperance people have never favored that view; not a single petition has been received from them nor a resolution passed to that end, so that his proposal is in opposition to what the temperance people want.

The delegation that waited on the Government from the Hotel-keepers' Association on April 5th, 1894, also expressed their preference for the present system of granting licenses through commissioners to the system which preceded it, and that the present system was alike better, having regard to the public interest as well as to the interests of the legitimate trade. In reply to further questions on this point the delegation unanimously expressed the opinion that it would be very harmful both to the public and the legitimate trade to revert to the old system of municipal control. It was also stated that this was the unanimous opinion of the whole convention, as well as of the delegates who were present.

1894—THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION IN REFERENCE TO PROHIBITION.

At the Parliament Buildings, Toronto, on Tuesday, February 6th, 1894, a large temperance deputation, representing the Provincial convention then in session, waited on the Provincial Government "to respectfully request them to declare in favor of total prohibition of the liquor traffic to the full extent of the power vested in the legislature." Every member of the Government in the city was present.

Sir Oliver Mowat concluded his reply with the following positive assurance:—"If the decision of the Privy Council should be that the Province has jurisdiction to pass a prohibitory liquor law as to sale, I will introduce such a bill in the following session if I am then at the head of the Government. If the decision of the Privy Council is that the Province has jurisdiction to pass only a partial prohibitory liquor law, I will introduce such a prohibitory liquor law as the decision shall warrant, unless the partial prohibitory power is so limited as to be ineffective from a temperance standpoint."

Rev. W. Kettlewell, chairman of the deputation, a leader of the advanced Prohibitionists, and Grand Councillor of the Royal Templars of Temperance of Ontario, in response, said:—"I am sure I need not say your answer is everything to be desired."

Rev. Dr. Potts, a spokesman for the convention:—"Eminently satisfactory."

THE GRADUAL REDUCTION OF LICENSES.

The following table gives the number of each kind of license issued for several years between 1874 and 1893 inclusive, and also shows the gradual reduction in their number since the Crooks' Act came into force in 1876:—

Year	Tavern.	Shop.	Wholesale.	Vessel.	Total.
1874-5	4,798	1,307	52	33	6,185
1875-6	4,459	1,257	78	24	5,818
1879-80	3,199	757	72	22	4,020
1884-5	3,253	675	28	14	3,970
1885-6	2,574	525	24	9	3,132
1886-7	Scott Act period.	1,567	367	12	1,974
1887-8		1,496	325	13	1,862
1888-9		2,066	336	17	2,445
1889-90		3,073	445	15	3,560
1890-1		3,071	428	24	3,523
1891-2		2,990	403	21	3,414
1892-3		2,966	378	25	3,369

It will be noticed that there has been a practical and gradual falling off in the number so that now there are in force the smallest number in the history of the Province at any time when local prohibition has been in force in as few municipalities. It can, therefore, be fairly claimed that the Crooks' Act, and the amendment thereto, has had the effect of reducing the number of licenses in the Province almost one-half. The reduction in the number of licenses may be carried definitely, under the Crooks' Act, by municipal action, as well as by the action of the Boards of License Commissioners.

A Striking Comparison.

5,818 liquor licenses issued by municipal councils in 1875, prior to the passage of the Crooks' Act in 1876, as against 3,369 issued in 1893 under the License Law, a reduction of 2,449, or 71 per cent. 1 to each 278 of population in 1875, 1 to each 633 of population of 1893.

A Comparison with American States and Canadian Cities.

In order to furnish a comparison between Ontario and different States of the American Union as to the number of liquor dealers in the latter, it is necessary to take the figures furnished by the United States Commissioner of Inland Revenue of the number

of persons to whom were issued Federal Government permits during last year. The latest return gives the number issued in proportion to population in some states as follows :—

Illinois.....	one to each	183	Michigan.....	one to each	289
Indiana.....	"	247	Minnesota.....	"	301
Iowa.....	"	289	New York.....	"	134
Massachusetts.....	"	386	Ohio.....	"	203
Montreal.....	"	349	Toronto.....	"	1,208
Ontario.....		one to each 633			

The Reduction According to Municipalities.

The position of the people of Ontario on the temperance question under the License Act will be better appreciated by the careful perusal of the following figures :—

Number of Municipalities in the Province, (including townships, villages, towns and cities).....	808
*Number of Municipalities where no tavern licenses are issued.....	185
(Or twenty-three per cent. of the Municipalities of the Province.)	
Number of Municipalities in which only one, and not more than two tavern licenses are issued.....	228
(Or twenty-eight per cent. of the Municipalities of the Province.)	
Number of Municipalities in which either no tavern licenses are issued, and not more than two are issued.....	413
(Or fifty-one per cent. of the Municipalities of the Province.)	
Number of Municipalities without a shop license.....	528
(Or sixty-five per cent. of the Municipalities of the Province.)	

Revenue from License.

Equally noticeable with the falling off in the number of licenses issued under the Crooks' Act, is the increase of revenue derived therefrom. One of the provisions of that Act was, that part of this revenue should go to the Province, and the remainder to the municipalities. The following table shows the amount of revenue accruing to the Province and to the municipalities respectively, from 1886 to 1893, inclusive :—

	Municipal Revenue.	Provincial Revenue.
1886-7.....	153,716 59	216,455 78
1887-8.....	156,979 89	201,542 45
1888-9.....	190,297 79	232,511 55
1889-90.....	297,353 45	307,271 02
1890-1.....	294,968 26	308,200 17
1891-2.....	289,487 41	300,604 38
1892-3.....	289,976 74	297,644 47

The revenue obtained by the municipalities from the liquor traffic, under the Crooks' Act, is much greater than was obtained before the enactment of that law, and much greater than they would have been receiving now, had it not been enacted. This is in striking contrast with Quebec, where, although the license fees are higher than in Ontario, no part of them goes to the municipalities.

Increase of License Fees.

The following table shows the amount of fees as fixed by the Crooks License Act of 1876, and the amount as increased by the License Acts of 1884 and 1886, respectively :—

	1876.	1884.	1886.
Taverns and Shops—			
Cities over 20,000.....	\$100 00	\$160 00	\$250 00
Cities under 20,000.....	100 00	160 00	200 00
Towns.....	80 00	100 00	150 00
Villages.....	60 00	80 00	120 00
Townships.....	60 00	72 00	90 00
Saloons—			
Cities.....	100 00	160 00	300 00
Towns.....	80 00	110 00	250 00
Wholesale—			
Cities.....	150 00	225 00	250 00
Towns.....	150 00	225 00	250 00
Vessels—			

Sale prohibited by legislation of 1890.

*The Dunkin Act or Local Option by-law is in force in fifteen of the Municipalities.

RECENT ADVANCES IN TEMPERANCE LEGISLATION.

During the last six or seven sessions the Mowat Government has introduced and passed important and progressive temperance measures, all tending to the restriction of the liquor traffic.

In 1887 and 1888 the Government provided the necessary judicial and inspectional machinery for the enforcement of the Canada Temperance Act, or the Scott Act, though an Act of the Dominion and not of the Province, and also assumed a liberal share of the expenses thus incurred.

It must be remembered that in no Province of the Dominion was the responsibility of enforcing the Scott Act assumed by a Provincial Government, except in this Province, and that responsibility was assumed by the Mowat Administration, notwithstanding the refusal of the Dominion Parliament to provide the necessary legislation to secure its observance.

The Act of 1889 made not only the *seller* but the *purchaser* of liquor from a person not licensed to sell it, or any one who drinks it upon the premises when so purchased, guilty of offence under the law.

In 1890 equally important advances were made in the direction of imposing desirable restrictions and safeguards. One enactment confers upon the people the powers of a "local option" law in all cases of new applications. In addition to more stringent regulations as to penalties, etc., the Act also

(1) Prohibits the sale of intoxicating liquor on vessels navigating the lakes and rivers of the Province;

(2) Increases the age of "minors" from "sixteen" to "eighteen," thus subjecting to a penalty those who sell liquor to persons under eighteen years of age;

(3) Provides a penalty when liquor is supplied to any person under twenty-one years, in respect to whom notice in writing has been given, prohibiting such licensed victualler to sell or supply liquor to the party in question; and

(4) Gives greater authority to search unlicensed premises and "dives," to seize liquor and arrest persons found on said premises.

Features of the License Law.

That great good of a permanent character has been accomplished under the present administration of the license law is plain from comparing the present state of affairs when:

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| (1) There is a better class of houses. | (7) Less drinking at the bar. |
| (2) Better accommodation. | (8) Prohibition of sales to minors. |
| (3) A smaller number of licenses. | (9) A general weeding out of undesirable persons and premises. |
| (4) Fewer saloons. | (10) A prohibition of sales by druggists on Saturday nights and Sundays without a doctor's or a Justice of the Peace's order. |
| (5) A total separation of the grocery from the liquor shops. | |
| (6) No vessel licenses. | |

With that existing prior to the assumption of the authority to deal with the license system by the Mowat Administration.

THE ANTI-TEMPERANCE RECORD OF THE DOMINION GOVERNMENT.

In the Government of the Dominion, Conservatives have shown unmistakable hostility to the temperance cause. Professions of friendship when out of power made to embarrass the Liberal Government and influence votes have been followed when in power by open and striking hostility to temperance measures.

After assuming office in 1874 the Government of Mr. McKenzie passed a law making prohibition of the liquor traffic in the North-West Territories most stringent. Hon. Mr. Laird, a prohibitionist, was appointed Lieutenant-Governor, and the law was rigidly enforced, to the great advantage of the people. After the defeat of the Liberal Government and the appointment of Hon. Mr. Dewdney as Lieutenant-Governor, the system was relaxed to a great extent, and later under Lieutenant-Governor Royal, and with the consent of the Government, notwithstanding the protests of the temperance people on the floor of Parliament as well as outside, **permits were issued wholesale**, not only for individual use but for the purposes of public sale. With the consent of the Government places for the sale of liquor were opened in the National Park at Banff, and breweries were put in operation at various points.

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The result has been the complete overthrow of prohibition and the establishment of a license law in the territories.

When the McKenzie Government was in power, Conservatives in the Dominion House pretended great interest in prohibition, and in 1874, 1875 and 1877 the latter moved resolutions purporting to affirm the principle of prohibition.

These propositions were all made, not from a desire to assist the temperance cause, but simply to embarrass the Government of Hon. Mr. McKenzie in its efforts to devise means to support by legislation the advance in temperance sentiment.

In 1878 Mr. McKenzie's Government passed the Canada Temperance Act, otherwise known as the Scott Act, and made it incumbent upon officers of the Dominion Government in the Inland Revenue Department to assist in its enforcement. The Liberal Government was soon after defeated, and Conservatives assumed office, and when the Act came into operation the Government refused to instruct its officers to enforce the law, and also refused to assist in obtaining legislation to make it effective. In the absence of any assistance from the Dominion Government the Government of Ontario had to appoint special officers to carry out the Dominion law, and had also to expend a large amount of provincial funds in its enforcement.

The only legislation passed by the Conservative party at Ottawa, since it returned to office in 1878, was the McCarthy Act. This was an attempt to wrest the licensing power from the Provincial Government for party purposes, and was declared illegal by the courts.

It will be seen that there has been neither attempt nor inclination on the part of the Conservative Government of the Dominion to carry out propositions ostensibly favorable to prohibition made by its leaders when in opposition. On the contrary, prohibition, where it existed in the North-West Territories, has been destroyed, and efforts to enforce and amend the Canada Temperance Act have been obstructed and thwarted.

REV. DR. MCKAY ON THE DUTY OF PROHIBITIONISTS.

In an interview Rev. Dr. McKay, of Woodstock, says :—"The Mowat Government should receive the hearty support of prohibitionists. That Government is clearly pledged to give all the prohibition that the courts will decide is within its power. No reasonable man would expect more than this. You know that I am not a party man, and during the last two or three years I have frequently criticised, on the public platform, the temperance policy of the Liberal party; but after the stand Sir Oliver's Government has now taken it would, in my opinion, be a serious set back to prohibition were that Government defeated. It would be many years before we could persuade another political leader to take up prohibition."

"Do you mean, then, that prohibitionists should in every case vote for the candidate selected by the Reform Convention?"

"No, sir, far from it. Such a course would not really strengthen the Mowat Government in carrying out its promises, but the contrary. There are Reform candidates who, whatever their public professions, are secretly courting the liquor vote, and they will receive it. Such men, if elected, will not be reliable prohibitionists."

"A large majority of the Patrons are prohibitionists, but as a society they are not with us, and they have refused to make prohibition a part of their policy. Should the Mowat Government be defeated, I have no hope of prohibition through the Patrons. When, as in North Brant, there is a Reform candidate and a Patron candidate—both equally good prohibitionists—the duty of temperance men undoubtedly is to vote for the Reform candidate."

"What of Mr. Meredith and his party?"

"Well, Mr. Marter has done grand work for prohibition in the Legislature, and the temperance people of Ontario owe him a debt, which perhaps they do not sufficiently realize. But Mr. Marter's leader has shown no disposition to free himself or his party from the liquor influence. Mr. Meredith has never declared himself in favor of prohibition, and some of his followers are in well-known sympathy with the traffic."

"You were on the deputation that lately waited on Sir John Thompson, what of his relation to prohibition?"

"Why, his relation is very distant. Sir John has evidently very little sympathy with prohibition. He has cast in his lot with liquordom. Late tariff changes have benefited the brewers and distillers to the extent of many hundred thousand dollars."

"Why this change?"

"Time will tell."

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