

Government expenditure.

676. The above figures show a Government expenditure of \$1,280,711, to which may be added the sum of \$44,206, given as Government aid in the Province of Quebec to charities generally, making a total Government expenditure of \$1,324,917. It is probable that the Government aid actually amounted to a larger sum, but it is difficult to get the exact figures from the various provincial accounts.

The Canada Temperance Act.

677. By the Canada Temperance Act, 1878 (commonly known as the "Scott Act," from the name of the member who introduced it), it is provided that any county or city may petition the Governor General in Council praying that the Act shall be put in force in such county or city. Such petition must be signed by at least one-fourth of all the electors in the district applying. A proclamation is then to be issued, naming a day on which the votes of the electors are to be taken for or against the adoption of the petition, at which election, only persons qualified to vote at the election of a member of the House of Commons are entitled to vote. If the adoption of the petition is carried, an Order in Council may be issued bringing into force that part of the Act which provides "that no person shall, within such county or city, "by himself, his clerk, servant or agent, expose or keep for sale, or "directly or indirectly, on any pretense or upon any device, sell or "barter, or in consideration of the purchase of any other property, "give to any other person any intoxicating liquor." Certain provisions are made for the sale of wine and intoxicating liquor for sacramental, medicinal and mechanical purposes, and for the disposal of the manufactures of brewers and distillers. Such Order in Council cannot be revoked until after the expiration of three years, and then only on a similar petition and election, and if the result of the first election is against the adoption of the petition, no similar petition shall be put to the vote of the electors for a like period of three years. It is also provided that every person who, by himself or another, violates the above provision against the sale of intoxicating liquor, shall, on conviction, be liable, for the first offence, to a fine of \$50; for the second offence, \$100; and for the third and every subsequent offence, imprisonment not exceeding two months.

Places in which the Act has been submitted.

678. Much diversity of opinion exists as to the result of the working of the Act, and no reliable statistics are available showing the number of convictions for drunkenness in districts for periods when the Act was and was not in force, and only by such means can the results be, even approximately, arrived at. The following particulars, however, of the results of the various elections that have been held under the Act, since it came into force, will doubtless be interesting to some, as showing the movement of popular opinion regarding the Act:—