

2.72, 2.90 and 2.68, showing for the most part a steady, though small increase, for some portion of which improved returns are, no doubt, responsible.

878. The convictions for drunkenness made in the several provinces in 1889, 1890 and 1891 were, in proportion to the population, as given below. The province showing the largest proportion of convictions is placed first in each case, the others following in due order.

CONVICTIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS, BY PROVINCES.

Provinces.	Number of persons to each conviction.	Provinces.	Number of persons to each conviction.	Provinces.	Number of persons to each conviction.
	1889.		1890.		1891.
British Columbia	225	British Columbia	188	British Columbia	145
Manitoba . . . . .	231	New Brunswick.	206	New Brunswick.	197
New Brunswick.	232	Ontario . . . . .	320	Manitoba . . . . .	304
Ontario . . . . .	294	Manitoba . . . . .	323	P. E. Island. . . . .	351
P. E. Island. . . . .	330	Quebec . . . . .	369	Quebec . . . . .	355
Quebec . . . . .	429	P. E. Island. . . . .	380	Ontario. . . . .	426
Nova Scotia . . . . .	683	Nova Scotia . . . . .	702	Nova Scotia . . . . .	710

Change in position of the provinces.

879. The above proportions have been calculated on the ascertained population of 1891, and must not, therefore, be compared with any figures given in previous Year Books. A considerable difference will be noticed in each year, in the interior arrangement of the table, though the proportions in each province remain much about the same, New Brunswick, however, showing a decided tendency towards increased intemperance, while Ontario appears to be more temperately inclined. British Columbia and Nova Scotia, however, both retain their positions, the one as having the most, and the other the fewest, convictions for drunkenness among the provinces.

Canada Temperance Act.

880. 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