

REFERENDUM ACT, 1902.

The Legislature of Manitoba having passed an Act respecting the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors in the province, and the judicial committee of the Privy Council of England having decided that the Act was *intra vires* of the provincial authority, the Legislature by an Act styled "The Referendum Act, 1902," appointed the 2nd of April, 1902 as the day on which the electors should answer the question: "Are you in favour of bringing the Liquor Act into force on the 1st day of June, 1902."

The Referendum Act provided that the Liquor Act should be brought into force, (1) if 45 per cent. of the total number of persons entitled to vote gave affirmative answers to the question submitted, or (2) if at least 60 per cent. of the persons so entitled, actually voted, and 60 per cent. of these voted "yes," or (3) if 62½ per cent. of the actual voters answered "yes."

The official returns show the following results of the vote:—

Total affirmative answers to said question	15,607
Total negative answers to said question	22,464
	38,071
Total number voting	38,071
Total number of persons entitled to vote	74,477

The Liquor Act, 1902 (Ontario), provided in effect for the prohibition of the sale by retail in the province of fermented spirituous and malt liquors. Boarding houses, clubs and societies were inhibited keeping liquors on their premises, and only limited quantities were to be kept by doctors and druggists, and by clergymen for sacramental purposes.

The Act further provided for a referendum to the voters, the question submitted being "shall the Act come into force?" It also provided that the Act should be put into operation if on the voting those in favour had a majority of the ballots cast, the number of ballots to be at least 212,723, figures which represented one half of the total vote in the general elections for the Legislature in 1898.

The voting took place on the 4th of December, 1902, and the result was that the total number of votes polled was 303,297, of which in favour, 199,749; against, 103,548. The votes in favour being 12,974 less than the stipulated number the Act was rejected. The supporters of prohibition had a majority of 96,201.

Statement.

Votes for the Act	199,749
Votes against the Act	103,548
Total votes polled	303,297
Votes remaining unpolled	302,280
Names on voters' lists	605,577
Rejected and spoiled ballots	2,869