

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