

action did not prejudice the temperance movement, because the number of licenses did not exceed that proportion in any municipality, and the number of licenses had not increased since its abolition. The Government had improved the law. If temperance men were honest in their desires, for if it could be proved that there was a light in the bar-room on Saturday night or Sunday, the proprietor was bound to prove his innocence of selling liquor.

Mr. CLARKE—Has there been any conviction under that provision?

Mr. FRASER said there had been two convictions. All the legislation of the Government had been in the direction of making the law more stringent. Previously the municipalities had the power to grant licenses all the year round, but the time was now restricted to a couple of months. The Government ought surely not to be blamed by temperance men for making the law more stringent, and if there was one thing more than another that contributed to the defeat of the hon. Treasurer in East Toronto it was the fact of the Government having legislated against the liquor interest, which went in a body against the Government in that election.

Mr. BELL—It was cold water. (Laughter.)

Mr. FRASER said it was cold water on the Government side, but something else than cold water on the other side. (Renewed laughter.) That led him to another feature of the question. He did not think there was that honesty on the part of temperance men in doing right at the right time that ought to prevail. If the temperance men were so thoroughly convinced of the justice of their cause, why was it that the Dunkin Act, which was adopted in Dundas, was practically a dead-letter? Was it not because temperance men would not enforce the law? And what better would we be if total prohibition was the law of the Province? If the people were afraid to enforce the Dunkin Act now, would they not be equally afraid if prohibition were enacted? If the Government appointed a public prosecutor would an improvement be effected?

Mr. CLARKE—Yes.

Mr. FRASER said the facts showed that the people were not yet sufficiently educated on the temperance question as to want legislation in the shape of total prohibition. We already possessed a prohibitory law as to the sale of intoxicating liquors between a certain hour on Saturday night and Monday morning, and would any hon. member tell him of a municipality in the Province where it was strictly enforced?

Mr. MACDOUGALL—Largely in Toronto.

Mr. FRASER—As much liquor is sold in Toronto on Sunday as is sold in any other half dozen of the rural municipalities of the Province.

Mr. MACDOUGALL—No.

Mr. FRASER said that no doubt the law was largely enforced and prevailed in regard to respectable taverns. No doubt the police carried out the law as far as possible. In Toronto the power was given to the Police Commissioners to issue a limited number of licenses. The County Judge, Police Magistrate, and the Mayor composed the Board, and were surely a respectable body. Moreover, the Police Magistrate was generally understood to be a temperance man, the County Court Judge was also in favour of limiting the number of licenses, and they constituted a majority of the Board. They were not amenable to the influence of the tavern keepers, except perhaps the Mayor, and he should be above it. The reason why the Commissioners did not more fully enforce the law was because the voice of the people was not behind them; a large minority were prepared to support them in reducing the number of licenses, but the majority was against any such action. Not only was liquor sold in Toronto on Sundays, but there was scarcely a municipality outside of it where liquor was not sold during prohibited hours with the knowledge of temperance men, who refused to prosecute.

Mr. LAUDER—The law is well carried out.

Mr. FRASER said that if such were the fact, fewer drunken men would be seen on Saturday and Sunday nights. During a visit to Maine, where a total prohibitory law was in force, he found liquor sold everywhere, and the traffic was openly carried on at the bar of all the hotels he visited in Portland. Before the temperance men asked the House to enact a prohibitory law, they must show that the

Committee investigating the stable stolen.

Mr. TULLY strictly enforced the provisions.

The Committee session an hour