

receipt. I may say more of this receipt when I come to speak of the estimates for the current year.

Fewer Liquor Licenses.

From liquor licenses we received last year \$276,786. The previous year the receipt was \$289,391. As I have heretofore stated on several occasions, this shrinkage is to be expected. Fewer licenses and lessening revenue must go together. There were 212 fewer licenses issued last year than there were five years ago. (Hear, hear.) The number of licenses issued during the last five years is as follows: 1893-4, 3,276; 1894-5, 3,151; 1895-6, 3,132; 1896-7, 3,096; 1897-8, 3,064.

Our license law amendments of 1897, which became operative on the 1st of May last, still further restricted the number of licenses in so far as the number depends on the basis of population, with the result that

during 1898 the number of licenses was lessened by about 100. (Cheers.) The law of 1897 does not come fully into operation until May 1 of this year. It will cut off at least fifty licenses this year. (Hear, hear.)

As I have said, we received last year from liquor licenses \$276,786. For the same year the Province of Quebec received \$540,496. During the last five years the Province of Quebec has received from these licenses \$2,783,864, and this Province during the same period has received \$1,348,755. For the five years in question we have given back to the municipalities of the Province out of license revenues \$1,344,851. (Applause.) Quebec has retained all the revenue for the uses of the Province, and has not given any part of it to the municipalities. But little interest seems to be taken in regard to our local option law. During last year votes were taken in only six municipalities. In three cases ineffectual attempts were made to repeal by-laws. The net result of the six votes was a reduction of two licenses. These by-laws are now in operation in seventeen municipalities.

An Excellent Record.

Hon. gentlemen have not failed to observe that the number of commitments for drunkenness to the county jails is growing noticeably less year by year. Last year the number was 1,707, while in 1888, only ten years ago, it was 4,797. The number of commitments for drunkenness, and the figures I give are taken from the Statistical Year Book of Canada for 1897, which is one of the official reports of the Dominion Government, for the year 1893 was 3,787; for the year 1894 was 3,267; for the year 1895 was 3,132; for the year 1896 was 2,624, and for the year 1897 was 2,465. No other Province in the whole Dominion presents so favorable a report. (Cheers.)

In this Province there was in 1897 one conviction for every 909 of our population: in Quebec one for every 407; in Nova Scotia one for every 381; in New Brunswick one for every 262; in Manitoba one for every 337, and in British Columbia one for every 239. The number of convictions therefore in Ontario is less than half that in any one of the other Provinces. (Cheers.) Brewers and distillers last year to the number of seventy took out licenses and paid therefor the sum of \$17,500.

The Succession Duty.

From succession duties we received in 1898 \$206,185. Strictly speaking, the amount is somewhat less, since in the case of one estate the solicitors instead of filing the usual bond made a cash deposit, and it is possible that this deposit, when we reach a final settlement, may exceed the exactly ascertained duty. We have received altogether from succession duties since 1892, the year of our first receipt, \$1,073,832, every dollar of which has been applied, as the statute directs, to purposes of public charity. This large sum has been received from 435 estates. In no other way, Mr. Speaker, could we have with

less irritation or adverse-criticism added such a large sum to our revenues. Under our legislation those pay who are most able to pay. (Cheers.) Our act perfectly conforms to the economic axiom in matters of raising revenue of "equality of sacrifice," so that the light burden it imposes is shared in equality by those upon whose shoulders it so fairly rests.

An analysis of the receipts of 1898 will, I know, greatly interest hon. members. It clearly proves that our act is most moderate and that its exemptions are most liberal; otherwise it could not happen that in a dozen or more rich counties during the course of a whole year it did not touch a single estate. Of last year's receipt, estates in the County of York (for the most part Toronto) gave the largest yield, viz., \$90,472, or almost one-half of the whole year's receipt. These estates in Toronto alone paid each over \$21,000. The County of Wellington contributed the next largest sum, viz., \$21,000, and the County of Carleton gave the third largest contribution, viz., \$19,251. Three of the counties, therefore, contributed more than three-fourths of the receipts of the whole Province for the year 1898. (Cheers.)

Estates in the County of York (including Toronto) have altogether since our act was passed paid \$385,047, or more than one-third of all our receipts from the whole Province. The next largest is from the County of Carleton (including Ottawa), aggregating \$255,739. Then comes Oxford, which has paid us \$52,357, and then Wellington, with its contribution of \$43,976, and next in order Wentworth, with \$39,427.

Sale of Annuities.

We sold annuities last year, receiving for them \$128,417. Our first sale of annuities was in 1884. Although authorized by statute to sell them every year, we were able in 1888, 1889, 1890, also in 1893 and 1894, to make special expenditures, railway aid expenditures included, without selling them. This receipt of \$128,417 is a special receipt, and the money was used to meet a special payment, viz., to retire the railway aid certificates which matured last year. It will be noticed that the sale of last year was for a less amount than on any previous occasion. (Cheers.) The issue sold in 1898 was less than that of the previous year by \$28,000, less than that of two years ago by \$49,000, and less than that of 1891 by \$141,000. If we need to sell them this year it will be for a still less amount than that of