

above 5,000 population; abolishing the offices of reeve and deputy-reeve, and providing that all municipal councillors shall be elected for two years, one-half of the council being elected each year, and for the whole municipalities. This will abolish the ward system.

Tavern and Shop Licenses.

The annual report on the working of the tavern and shop licenses acts of Ontario has been issued, and contains much information of interest. From the comparative statements which it contains it appears that there is a steady reduction in the number of liquor licenses, the total for 1897-98 being 3,123, or 37 less than the previous year. There is also a proportionate loss of revenue to the Province, the receipts last year being \$268,247 40, as against \$270,906 in the previous year. The total amount of license fees and fines collected under the law for the year was \$602,853 51, of which the municipalities received \$259,873 38, and the expenses of commissions, inspection, etc., were \$74,732 73. The number of commitments for drunkenness was 1,707, as compared with 1,716 in the previous year, and 4,451 in 1888.

The Speaker's Dinner.

The following guests were invited to the Speaker's dinner last evening:—Lieutenant-Governor Mowat, Attorney-General Hardy, Bishop Sweatman, Very Rev. V. G. McCann; Rev. W. Caven, Knox College; Rev. A. Burwash, Victoria University; Rev. O. C. S. Wallace, McMaster University; President Loudon, Toronto University; Chief Justice of Ontario Sir George Burton, Hon. Sir George A. Kirkpatrick, Hon. Sir W. P. Howland, Hon. Sir James Edgar, Lieutenant-Colonel W. D. Otter, D.O.C., Hon. George A. Cox, Geo. H. Bertram, M.P., E. B. Osler, M.P., E. F. Clarke, M.P., W. F. Maclean, M.P., J. Ross Robertson, M.P.; Hon. William Mulock, Postmaster-General; Hon. Geo. W. Ross, Hon. J. M. Gibson, Hon. R. Harcourt, Hon. J. Dryden, Hon. E. J. Davis, Hon. W. Harty, Hon. J. T. Garrow, Mayor Shaw, Commander Law, Capt. H. M. Mowat; J. S. Willison, Editor Globe; A. F. Wallis, Editor Mail and Empire; T. G. Shaughnessy, Vice-President C.P.R. Co.; Chas. M. Hays, General Manager G.T.R.; C. F. Sise, President Bell Telephone Co.; J. P. Whitney, Leader of the Opposition; G. F. Marter, M.P.P., Lieut.-Col. Matheson, M.P.P., James J. Foy, M.P.P., W. A. Charlton, M.P.P., W. J. McKee, M.P.P., T. A. Wardell, M.P.P., J. R. Stratton, M.P.P., J. Conmee, M.P.P., Dr. Mackay, M.P.P., T. Crawford, M.P.P., A. Pattullo, M.P.P., W. M. German, M.P.P., R. Ferguson, M.P.P., E. C. Carpenter, M.P.P., J. H. Carnegie, M.P.P., Samuel Russell, M.P.P., F. F. Pardee, M.P.P., A. B. Thompson, M.P.P.; Lieut.-Col. Clarke, Clerk of the House; F. J. Glackmeyer, the Sergeant-at-Arms; Colin G. O'Brien.

Notes.

Mr. Craig, who recently became private secretary to Hon. E. J. Davis, Provincial Secretary, has relinquished that office and is not now on the departmental staff.
