

to prohibit the retail sale of liquor within their respective limits; but a serious difficulty arose as to the relative extent of Dominion and Provincial power in the enactment of prohibitory legislation. Roughly speaking, the Dominion Government has the exclusive jurisdiction over manufacture, importation, and exportation of liquor, whilst the Provinces have power to regulate or prohibit the sale of liquor within the Province; but the uncertainties of the situation have often been made an excuse for avoiding further legislation. However, in 1878 the Federal Parliament passed the "Canada Temperance Act," which improved upon the Dunkin Act in many particulars. The measure was adopted successfully in three of the smaller Provinces; but in Ontario and Quebec it was only temporarily adopted in some of the countries and cities, and by 1889 the Act was repealed in every locality.

In 1898 the Federal Government decided to test public opinion on the question of prohibition by a plebiscite, and as a result 278,380 votes were cast for prohibition, and 264,693 against. Eight out of the nine Provinces showed a majority, but the Government decided that the results did not justify the introduction of a prohibitory measure, and the Ontario Government similarly declined to act on the result of the referendum taken in the Province in 1902, though this gave 199,749 votes in favour of a Prohibition Act and 103,548 against it, or nearly a two to one majority. As public sentiment was denied expression by a change in the law of the land, it turned to the local option provisions already in existence, according to which any municipality might enact a by-law prohibiting