

The other Provinces likewise for the most part adopted prohibition in 1916 or thereabouts, and it remained in force for some time after the abolition of National prohibition in December, 1919; but of recent years there has been a stronger and stronger impulse in the direction of repeal. Indeed, the *Province of Quebec* rescinded its decision for prohibition before it came into actual effect, and in 1919 decided by referendum to permit the sale of beer containing not more than 2.5 per cent. of alcohol (by weight), and wine or cider containing not more than 6.4 per cent. of alcohol. Such beer and wine could be sold in hotels and restaurants, but no attempt was made to revive the saloon. The sale of spirits, strong beer, and wine was restricted to Government dispensaries, and was available only for medicinal and sacramental purposes. An unsatisfactory situation resulted, and in two years the Government by a special Act took over the entire liquor business. A commission was appointed which controls the sale of all alcoholic liquors, and grants permits and licences to groceries, hotels, and restaurants. All restrictions in regard to the alcoholic content of wine and beer were removed, and the hours of sale in taverns were extended from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The present conditions in Quebec are not very satisfactory, as there is said to be a good deal of clandestine distilling, trading, and smuggling throughout the Province. This may be in consequence of the local prohibition, which is in force in a third of all the cities of the Province, in half the towns, and in five-sixths of the villages and rural districts.\*

\* R. Hercod, "Internat. Rev. Alc.," 1927, p. 209.