

The Vote on Thursday.

Thursday's vote presents a number of interesting features, which furnish food for reflection. By it the Ontario Liquor Act remains a legislative corpee, and its awakening to life and action, on the 1st of May 1904, is now marked off the programme. The impossible feat imposed on the temperance people, requiring a vote of 212,723 at least to carry the act into force, is shown by the fact that Saturday's figures indicate that all the votes polled for and against the law are less by 14,932 than the minimum number of votes needed to call the law into effect. The conditions were undoubtedly arranged to defeat the measure, and the time for taking the vote was no doubt chosen with the idea that the roads would be so bad that that the country people would not be able to get to the polls. The full returns had not been given on Saturday, there being fifteen constituencies yet to be heard from. The figures on Saturday stood thus:

For the Act	126,846
Against the Act	70,945
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Majority against the bar	55,901
Total vote polled	197,791
Less than temperance vote required	14,932

The large majority asking for the abolition of the bar-room over those who voted for its retention, shows a vigor and strength in the temperance ranks that cannot be ignored. A majority of over 70,000 in any other election would be regarded as overwhelming and the government must regard this vote as a mandate to provide for more restrictive measures on the liquor traffic. It is a very significant fact, that most of the towns, villages and rural constituencies gave majorities against the saloon. Eight cities gave a united majority for the act of 3,732 and seven cities gave a united majority against of 1,087, making a total city majority in favor of the Act, of 2,545. There are some peculiarities about the vote that are suggestive of political influences. The misfortune is, that in party government almost everything is more or less affected by political considerations. The vote on Thursday involved issues of infinitely greater importance than any mere political question. The moral and social issues embrace the people bearing on the country's material prosperity and the welfare and happiness of the home. What is going to be done to meet the mandate of the great majority who voted for the Act, is now the question. That some action will have to be taken is a certainty.