

vince—in five or six thousand public schools, and that this was done by means of text books specially provided for the purpose. I ask the House further to remember that four years ago the Minister of Education made it compulsory that temperance instruction should be imparted in our public schools; and I further ask hon. gentlemen to refer to the last report of the Minister of Education, in which you will find the gratifying statement that last year 191,715 pupils received instruction from these text books, imparted by their teachers on matters dealing with the subject of temperance. The importance of that instruction, the far reaching consequences of it, no one can estimate. That instruction in itself assists from time to time in paving the way for additional instalments of legislation concerning the license question. Now I come to the result of this legislation.

Effects of Past Legislation.

I have said that we have had a dozen statutes passed in eighteen or twenty years. How can we judge of their efficacy? We must look at the results; and the only way to estimate these results is to resort to such statistics as the blue books of the Dominion or our own province will furnish. I repeat that one result is, I do not say solely due to legislation, that the people of this province are noticeably a sober people. I can substantiate that by reference to statistics. If these statistics are of any value, they prove abundantly that the people of this province are more noticeable for their sobriety than the people of any other province in the Dominion. The statistics to which I will refer are within the reach of every hon. gentleman. I will first of all quote from the Dominion Year Book, taking the two years for 1884 and 1894, and I find that the number of convictions for drunkenness in this province in 1883 was one for every 423 people; whereas ten years thereafter it was one for every 670 people, an advance of 50% in the direction we all hope for and look for. In Quebec in 1884 there was a conviction for every 862 of the population; whereas in 1894 there was a conviction for every 359 of the people. Matters had grown 50% better in this province during that decade, and 100% worse in the sister Province of Quebec.

We hear much as to advanced temperance sentiment in the Province of Nova Scotia. The number of convictions in Nova Scotia in 1884 was one for every 751 of the population, and in 1894 it was