

The law fixes no limit in that province, and does not state that there shall be only such or such a number; and I find the same thing is true of Quebec, so that in four of our provinces—British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and Quebec there is no provision at all fixing a limit upon the number of licenses granted from year to year. There are some enthusiastic, earnest-minded men in this province who say to us it should not be three per thousand—it should be only two. My answer is that the hon. gentlemen of this Legislature are as anxious as these enthusiastic temperance workers are to promote in any feasible way the cause of temperance and we say to them that when we fix the population limit at three per thousand, we give them another door by which the number can be reduced. They can appeal for reduction to their municipal councils; nay, they can demand it of them. They can by their votes insist that there be a still further reduced number. They can by a moral sentiment influence the License Commissioners—men whom I have proven by actual statistics to be more readily responsive to this sentiment than municipal councillors.

Aside from that, it may be said that this is not necessarily the last word of this Legislature on this question. We are not pronouncing our last word. We remind honorable gentlemen and the country also that what we call the "plebiscite" is soon to be voted upon; and in the light of that fact, surely we can be contented with the three fold provisions, aside from the statutory reduction to which I have alluded, by means of which a still further decrease in the number of licenses can be had. We started twenty years ago with 6,000. We have got down to 3,000. We are reducing it by 150 by a single line in the statutes of the bill which we are considering; and our Municipal Councils can make a still further reduction; and temperance advocates, provided they can educate the ratepayers up to their own sentiments, so that they will see eye to eye with them, can secure local option clauses and still further reduce the number of licenses to be granted.

Hours of Closing.

Now I ask honorable gentlemen to notice the clause of the bill which concerns the hour of closing—on page four, clause nine of the bill. We have every sympathy with those, whether they come by deputation, or their views are expressed in the public print, or in whatever way, we have sympathy for those who say to us, you