

mind or mine would be the case of John Howard, the prison reformer, who opened the doors of dungeons, and who was able to do more than is permitted to most men to lessen the sum of human misery. Did John Howard accomplish his work in a week? In a month? Did he accomplish it in a lifetime? The work to which he gave his life still goes on, and other philanthropists are taking it up and carrying it on in the same line. John Howard could not get legislation until the people were educated up to the views and saw eye to eye with him. The same applies to Wilberforce, who helped to free the slave; to the life work of Shaftesbury, and to Samuel Plimsoll, the seamen's friend. I repeat that it is idle to legislate until education has done its work, until the people see eye to eye with those who ask for this or that advance, and until public sentiment is ripe it is idle to ask for extreme or heroic measures of legislation.

I have taken some pride in proving, to my own satisfaction, at any rate, that the people of this Province are eminently a sober people. I have accounted in my own mind, partly at least, for this eminently satisfactory state of things by referring to the wise legislation of this chamber on twelve different occasions. I do not pretend that legislation in itself and by itself alone accomplished this great work. Then what did accomplish it? My answer is that every pulpit in this land, and there are tens of thousands of them, have assisted in bring about this great change, and in promoting temperance sentiment. I answer that every school-house in this land, six or seven thousand of them, day by day and month by month, has assisted in educating our people up to a greater and still greater advance on temperance lines. I answer that the press of the country—and no tongue can tell how much the people of any country owe to the press in its powerful advocacy of reform—has contributed to this result. I say that every well regulated home in this land, and every happy fireside has contributed in bringing about this great result. And I cannot say, I cannot apply the scales, I do not pretend to weigh or measure it, I cannot say just to what extent the work of legislation has contributed to this result. I do argue that it has done much, and what it has done it has been able to do only when the educational process has made the people ripe for the legislation which the legislation from time to time enacted.

I ask this House to agree with me, all things considered, in the light of all that has been accomplished—our licenses, 3,000 less in number