

wer in the past. For one by-law, cut off 74 Council of Hamilton in and 10 shoplicenses. In of reduction by by-law, op licenses. In Ottawa provisions were made for retaining in the municipal power given to them. it so as to cut off 105 and I have only given time allowed, I might

ly a few municipalities e learn this lesson from haps not advanced far more extreme provision w asking the House to

useful information from s. I have been able to o Boards, and 438 municipalities total number of municipalities to be instructive and I The information comes e, 105 have heretofore municipalities to reduce the number of the number of taken advantage of that Now still further, in no limitation was proposed 8 of them, half of the ber of shops. But this 5 cases the municipalities by-laws. Now what did n twenty out of thirty- sidering the conclusion limit and granted more d reduced the number slowly, inasmuch as it

cannot be clear to honorable members that public sentiment, as shewn by influence brought to bear upon the direct representatives of the people in the municipal Councils, demands a heroic or drastic change.

License Commissioners.

I now refer to License Commissioners, to shew how they have dealt with and used the powers given to them. In 69 out of the 105 municipalities the License Commissioners issued fewer licenses than the by-laws called for: and that shews that these much criticized—I might say much abused—Commissioners were in advance of the municipal Councils in the matter of their attempt to reduce the number of licenses. In 69 out of 105 the License Commissioners responded more readily and more quickly to the wishes of those who have at heart the promotion of the temperance interest, than did the municipal Councils, the direct representatives of the people. Local option by-laws have been passed in only two instances in this province since 1894.

I simply wish to remind the House as to some facts which are pertinent to a careful consideration of this bill.

Is this legislature to be blamed for not going further in the matter of this population limit, when we find that a large residuum of power in this very direction is in the hands of the direct representatives of the people—the Municipal Councils; when we find that an inherent power rests in our License Boards to reduce the granting of licenses, when we find that Municipal Councils have used the power given to them, that the License Commissioners have also taken advantage of the power entrusted to them, and that there is still the open door to every earnest temperance advocate in this country to suppress the trade altogether, and to educate the people up to the point in any municipality to pass a local option bylaw and close all the taverns in that locality? I submit that, as to the population limit, there certainly is every necessary provision in the existing law, as amended by the bill we are now considering, to reduce, and bring about still further reduction from year to year, through the direct representatives of the people. I find that there is no population limit at all in British Columbia. There is no population limit in the important province of Prince Edward Island; that there is none in Nova Scotia, of the advanced moral sentiment of which we hear so much. Any number can be granted in Nova Scotia.