

Contrasted with Nova Scotia.

I have been making some enquiry as to the working of the license laws in the Province of Nova Scotia. Some earnest men coming to this House as members of deputations have pointed to it always as a system to be envied. I have reminded the House that in that province there is no population limit at all, and that there are some very serious defects which go to the root of the matter in the license laws of Nova Scotia. For example, the licenses are issued by the Municipal Councils of the Province of Nova Scotia, and there is no limit to the number of them. The License Inspectors are appointed by the Municipal Councils. No one would suggest that we go back to that system here--a departure from which was eagerly sought by the people long years ago. But further, the Act in Nova Scotia, while some of its provisions are more rigid than corresponding provisions in our bill, is by no means enforced. I ask you to listen to me while I quote from reliable authorities as to the working of the law in that province. Mr. John A. MacKasey, License Inspector of Halifax, said that six sergeants of police had been appointed as his assistants, but that it would require an inspector to be placed in every licensed place to carry out the law. And that is the state of things in Nova Scotia. Respecting his own position this License Inspector says, "I am now annually appointed by the City Council, and that takes away my independence to a certain extent." Regarding the issuing of licenses, he testified that even if he reported unfavorably the Council would grant the license. Such a thing never has occurred and never can occur in Ontario. The Nova Scotia Legislature simply passed the Act and handed it over to the Municipalities to enforce it. The Municipalities have not proved equal to the task.

Then Mr. Bulmer, an advanced prohibitionist in Nova Scotia, gives similar testimony, and he says emphatically that the license provisions of Nova Scotia are by no means enforced. This proves that if your provisions are extreme, too heroic, too drastic, if you cannot carry popular sentiment with you, you cannot enforce the law, and it is idle to think of passing a law which cannot be enforced. I remind the thousands of earnest men who ask for a measure more heroic than this, more drastic than this, I remind this House, that in all great social questions such as this, the growth of sentiment is necessarily slow, is a matter of education. There is an educational process required first of all, before your legislation can be at all effective. The first illustration which would come to your