

### The New Bill.

Now I come to the provisions of the bill of which I move a second reading. In the first place, at the first glance at the amended bill, it will be found that it deals with the population limit; and I must, in the nature of the case, speak very hurriedly. We now propose, that hereafter there shall be only three licenses for the first one thousand of population. Formerly there were four; and we ask that beyond the first one thousand, there shall be one license for every 600 instead of 500—a very decided advance. It may be said that we only cut off by this legislation, a matter of 130, perhaps 140 licenses; some say 153, certainly it is in the neighborhood of 150. I do not understand the position of those who say that there is nothing good in this new provision. If gradually year by year, as I have shewn, we have been able to reduce the number of licenses these last twenty years, and if it appears that 150 licenses are now to be cut off by statute, surely that is going in the right direction, and making a measurable advance.

But to those who argue that we are not going far enough in this direction, I ask them not to overlook other important provisions of the bill. The License Commissioners, in exercising the duties and powers given to them under existing legislation, have frequently refused licenses; and is still within the power vested in the municipal councils by by-law, further to reduce the number of licenses; and in the third place, we have the local option clauses to which I referred. Now you have a threefold way in which to reduce the number of licenses. By statutory provision, this bill we are now considering cuts off 150 licenses. If that be not enough, if local sentiment be educated in advance of this bill, our own local governing bodies, our municipal Councils, can do as they have always done, and once a year further restrict the number of licenses. On page 2 of this Act, there is set out the conditions under which a by-law reducing the number of licenses can be hereafter passed by the municipal councils in cities and towns. It is provided, for example, that a notice of an application to pass the by-law must, on or before the 15th November, be signed by 100 electors in a city, and 50 in a town, and filed with the Clerk of the municipality; and this notice sets out that application will be made to the Council for the passing of a by-law on or before the 15th February following, and the Council on or before 1st of March, may pass a by-law further reducing the number of licenses. We must not forget that the