

impossible of enforcement, and therefore you create a greater evil, for which you provide no adequate remedy. Others say, let the traffic do its business in shorter and fewer hours and you solve the problem; and the reply is: that if you do so you do not lessen the evils of the traffic, you simply open the doors to selling in illegal dives, and in another way you create evils for which you provide no remedy. Even our two large and influential temperance organizations, the Dominion Alliance and the Royal Templars do not fully and in all regards agree as to the best methods to be adopted for the suppression of the evils of the liquor traffic. Some there are who believe that prohibition itself is the supreme remedy for this difficulty. I express no opinion as to that, but I simply observe that thousands of men of highest motives, of noblest aims, who have given close attention to this subject, dispute that view in toto, and they ask the question: Has it been a result in those states of the Union where there is a prohibition amendment in force that liquor is no longer sold? And there again I find a difficulty. I allude to these matters simply to show that the question is a complicated one, that it bristles with difficulties, that extreme views, no matter how honestly held, are not views likely to lead to such legislation as will be easily enforced and command the sympathies of the people. These are a few of the difficulties incident to legislation touching the traffic we are now discussing.

Limiting of Licenses.

In no time in the history of this chamber has this House turned a deaf ear to a reasonable request from any portion of our citizens to further restrict the traffic; to so restrict it that the restrictions would be observed and that the law could be enforced. We all remember that in 1876 very important legislation in this direction was enacted. The issuing of licenses in that year was withdrawn from Municipal Councils and placed in the hands of Boards of License Commissioners. I think that the majority of people in this country approve of that change. As a fact they have frequently approved of it, and the result has been satisfactory. I will allude to that question later on.

In that year for the first time, 1876, the number of licenses was limited according to our population, and in that same year inspectors were appointed by the Government to enforce the law. The following year restrictions were placed upon the sale of liquor by