

The Prince Edward Island Magazine

Vol. I

MARCH, 1899

No. I

IS THERE ANY PRACTICAL WAY OF DEAL- ING WITH THE LIQUOR PROBLEM IN CHARLOTTETOWN?

THAT the problem is a difficult one goes without saying. We tried the license system : it was, confessedly, a failure. Whether under new conditions it might be made to work with better results is possible, but hardly likely. The Canada Temperance Act will, we think, be admitted by almost all fair-minded men to have been unsuccessful. The great hope of those who worked for it in its inception here, and in its earlier years, was that under its operation a sober generation of young men would grow up to become our future citizens. It was said freely : "No young man will sneak into illicit dens to take his first glass." The Act was certainly in operation long enough to effect this object; but, if we look at the report of the G. W. P. of the Sons of Temperance, we find the statement—which our own experience readily confirms—that the victims of intoxication on our streets are largely young men. Comparing our city with larger cities which have been under the operation of license acts for the period during which the Canada Temperance Act was in operation here, it is difficult, if not impossible, to say that we show any advance over them. Certainly the condition of our public streets is not as good in this respect as St. John or Halifax.

It will be said that the Act was not properly enforced. Granted. But that only draws attention to