

substance to property which the Act or an application of the hours of selling, condition, but a accomplishment; a raising an objection to this one provision recommends the bill. That clause Municipal Councils place once a year a other limit, in the that in our bill, to the Municipal Council. It may be

It must not be used to accept does stand now in force, closing than the provisions to go below have taken that by name in their

at feature of the page 5. I asked go, and I remind at sixteen years. people called for a at present eighteen to what extent to raise the limit is as important as with the license argue. If in the bills to acquire the reaches twenty-nine to one that

no temptation thereafter can overcome him; so that if we protect the lads of this province, and if we hedge them round with safeguards up to the time when they become twenty-one years, when they have reached man's estate, when they are accountable for debt as other full grown men are accountable, we place upon our statute book a provision than which nothing can be conceived which could be more valuable and useful.

But we go further in this bill. Liquor is sold in Clubs in the cities and larger towns of the Province. In this city there are perhaps two score of them or more. Some have charters under which they have a right to sell liquor; some have been incorporated through one of the Departments of this Government, and their letters of incorporation prevent them selling liquors. We have all kinds of Clubs differently governed and differently regulated; and one of the most valuable provisions of this bill is to make it an illegal act to sell liquor in any club or society to a boy or girl under twenty-one years of age. I need not enlarge upon the usefulness of this clause. I ask this House to notice, that in another way, and if possible a better way, a more effectual way still we protect the youths of the country from the dangers of over-indulgence in strong drink. We have a clause the heading of which is "minors loitering in bar rooms" if you will look on page 5, subsection 4 of clause 10. That provision makes it illegal for a boy to loaf or loiter in a bar room or tavern where liquor is sold. The boy himself can be fined; and the keeper of the tavern is liable to a fine.

Now I ask honourable gentlemen to conceive, if you can, the possible good, nay the likely good, from that single clause in our bill. If we can keep the boys at home off the streets, and make their education something other than a pavement education, if we can close the bar room doors to them and the clubs until they are 21 years, then I say we have done more to promote a healthful and effectual moral sentiment than we have ever been able to accomplish in any other statute. We have 2,114,000 people in this province. Of this number 1,101,000 are under the age of 21 years; so that half our population, Sir, come under prohibition by this clause of the bill. Better still, between the ages of 18 and 21 years we have 135,000 people in this province; so that by these provisions in our bill, apparently simple provisions, we effectually shield—and for the first time as effectually as legislation can devise—135,000