

this much-vaunted, Nova Scotia, the ; whereas it has province. In New ough not as great as re has been not an rd Island there has arrived at by com- provinces, Ontario, Edward Island and sents noticeably a Dominion.

f which we always estion is under dis- he State of Maine, this province for cities in the State o, and this is the kenness per thous- 39 out of every less than half that n, the next largest the city of Hamil- thousand, whereas whole four cities gregate population eford—there were ness during that Hamilton, Ottawa, sted for drunken- 892 to the present But we learn un- improvement in the 892, and it is grati- 892 there has been me direction. The ve them to us, this than the State of

Maine under a prohibition law. As proof, we find that 1.92 per thousand were committed for drunkenness in that period of five years ; in Maine—nearly twice as many, as compared with this province under license.

The somewhat equally interesting result is arrived at if we consider the reduction of licenses under the statutes to which I have alluded. I will take four years which could not be affected by the Scott Act. The Scott Act was for a time enforced in more than twenty counties in this Province, but I do not take Scott Act years. The number of licenses which were granted in 1874, 1881, 1891 and 1896 were respectively 6,185, 4,049, 3,523 and 3,132 ; so that since 1874 we have cut off, through the provisions of our statutes, more than one-half of our licenses. Only 3,000 licenses were issued in 1896, as against 6,000 licenses in 1874. We have one license now for every 700 of our people. In 1874 we had one for every 262 of our people.

The city of Toronto, in 1874, had a population of less than 63,000. In that year it had 300 tavern licenses, 150 shop licenses, 18 wholesale licenses and 10 saloon licenses, or altogether 487 licenses.

In 1896 its population had grown to about 190,000 and it had only 140 tavern licenses, 50 shop licenses, 7 wholesale licenses and 10 saloon licenses, or altogether 207 licenses.

These figures show admittedly great improvement. A great stride has been made in promoting temperance sentiment, and this marked improvement in some sense—I do not say in every sense—in some degree, I do not say completely, must be attributed to the legislation passed by this House.

Some Criminal Statistics.

The commitments for drunkenness in this province are equally noticeable under the moderate legislation which this House has given the country from time to time. There has been marked improvement. In 1875 there were 3,868 committed ; in 1881 there were 3,497 ; in 1891 there were 2,736 ; and in 1896 there were only 1,907 people ; so that since 1875, a period of twenty years, the number of commitments for drunkenness in this province has been cut in two. Only 1,907 in 1896, as compared with 3,686 twenty years ago, in 1875. Last year only one out of 1,148 people in this province were committed for drunkenness ; twenty years ago one