

always been willing to give time and trouble and substance to promote this cause of moral reform, and the machinery which the Act provides for, viz., a notice that in the following year an application to the Council will be made to still further limit the hours of selling, will not deter us. This condition is not a harsh condition, but a reasonable condition and feasible, and of easy accomplishment; a condition to which no moderate man will think of raising an objection for a single moment. I claim, therefore, that this one provision as to the hours of closing, of itself greatly commends the bill to the minds of honest men throughout this province. That clause justifies this bill, and the power reposed in Municipal Councils makes it easily within the reach of our people to place once a year a further limit, and the following year a still further limit, in the matter of hours of closing. You will remember that in our bill, year by year this power is entrusted and given to the Municipal Council. And the same thing as to the hour of opening. It may be made later by the action of the Municipal Council. It must not be forgotten that the legislation we are asking the House to accept does not interfere with any regulation of the License Board now in force, provided that regulation is for an earlier hour of closing than the statutory hour. The right of the License Commissioners to go below the 10 o'clock is not only preserved, but if they have taken that action their action stands, and the earlier hour they name in their regulation prevails.

### Sales to Minors.

I pass on to what perhaps is the most important feature of the bill, and that is the clause relating to minors, on page 5. I asked honourable gentlemen to remember a few days ago, and I remind them now, that some years ago we placed the limit at sixteen years. As time went by and as the moral sentiment of the people called for a change, we raised it to eighteen, and the limit is at present eighteen; and now we are asking this House in reponse to what evidently is the firm wish of our people, once again to raise the limit and to fix it at twenty-one years. I say that this is as important a feature as could be contained in any bill dealing with the license question, and why it is important, Sir, I need not argue. If in the tender years of the life of any young man he fails to acquire the evil habit of over-indulgence in strong drink; if he reaches twenty-one saved from that vice, the chances are ninety-nine to one that