

tion of its provisions. The bill which is now under consideration in the minds of honourable members differs materially from the bill as read the first time in this House. The fact of the general discussion in the country and in the press, to which I have alluded, would make it almost unnecessary for me to say anything on this occasion, were it not for this other fact to which I have just alluded, that considerable additions and very important amendments are contained in this bill as compared with the provisions of the original bill.

Experience of the Past.

It is a trite observation to say that there is not and cannot be any scientific basis for legislation of this kind. Dealing with almost any other subject, a parliament or legislature can find some scientific basis by way of precedent or otherwise, upon which to found the provisions of a bill. The only basis that will be considered a test or a guide in dealing with this complicated and troublesome question of the liquor traffic is the experience of the past. A bill which would or might suit one country or one province, would be found quite inadequate, quite unsuitable to the needs or conditions of the people of another province. It might well happen that a bill which had been found to work well, to be effective in one State of the Union for example, would be vain and futile and ineffective in another state of the same Union. Therefore, the only test this legislature can safely adopt concerning legislation of this kind, is our own experience in the past. That being so, I purpose with the approval of the House to-night, in the first place to review the legislation of this province on this question of the liquor traffic. Having reviewed past legislation, I purpose then, secondly, to ask the House to consider with me what the results of our legislation have been—whether satisfactory or otherwise; and in the third place, I purpose referring seriatim almost, and with some detail, to the provisions of the amended bill, which is now in the hands of honourable gentlemen.

I premise, Sir, what I have to say in speaking of the past legislation of this chamber on this liquor question by remarking that in the main it has been eminently satisfactory. We have done well in this province in our attempts to promote a temperance sentiment, in our desire to better the condition of our people. I cannot imagine that there will be any difference of opinion in this chamber