

NEEDED BY THE CITY.

It Should Have a Larger Portion of the Saloon License Revenue.

Mayor Cowherd is very much interested in the passage of the bill now before the senate at Jefferson City, giving Kansas City 80 per cent of the revenue from dramshop licenses now paid to Jackson county. The bill was introduced by Senator Lyman and referred to the senate committee on ways and means, which brought in an unfavorable report. Yesterday the mayor received a letter from Senator Lyman stating that he had secured a second reference of the bill, and that both sides would be heard before the committee on Tuesday. The mayor expects to go before the committee and present Kansas City's side of the case, and it is desired that other citizens of influence should be present. The opposition is strongly organized. They managed to secure an unfavorable report before, and will be on hand again on Tuesday and use their utmost endeavors to defeat the bill. Mayor Cowherd says that it is no more than justice that this bill should pass. Kansas City pays this enormous revenue to the county, and should be entitled to the use of a part of it, at least.

"As I said before to THE TIMES, one day this week," said the mayor, "there is more reason than ever for the city to demand a portion of this fund, since we may be called upon to fight cholera this summer, and the city is already overburdened with the care of all the sick poor, while the county, whose real business it is to take care of them, does nothing for us. This is the only county having a large city in the country where the county does not maintain the hospital. We spend \$33,000 a year on our hospital and outside sick unable to pay for treatment and give out \$5,400 in charity, while the county does nothing but maintain a poor farm that pays for itself. Out of an annual hospital appropriation of \$25,000 we are able to devote only \$5,200 to the sanitary department. If the cholera comes this year the county will do nothing and the city will have to fight it alone with little money in the treasury and need for every cent of it. The city has more miles of streets to maintain than the county has of roads. We keep 175 policemen and this force is made necessary largely by the saloons. If the senate does not give us at least half of the dramshop fund it will be an outrage."

Last year 381 saloons paid a license of \$95,250 to the city and \$190,500 to the county. This year 359 saloon licenses have been granted thus far with several applications pending. These 359 saloons will pay in round numbers \$90,000 to the city and \$180,000 to the county. If the city had half of this county revenue, its revenue from saloons would be \$180,000, and if it had 80 per cent its revenue from saloons would be \$231,000.