

body in favour of local option, a committee on temperance was appointed by them, and a general bill favourably reported, which came within five votes of passing the House, the Senate seeming fully ready to concur. However, on the failure of the general bill, special local-option laws were passed for the counties of Talbot, Caroline, Queen Anne, Dorchester, Worcester, and seven districts of Somerset. Another Act was passed at the same session transferring the granting of licenses from the hands of the county clerk to those of the Grand Jury for the twelve counties of Harford, Cecil, Kent, Caroline, Worcester, Calvert, Montgomery, Charles, Queen Anne, Garrett, Frederick, and Talbot. In the subsequent election, under the local-option statute, were carried for prohibition by majorities larger than those obtained for any party ticket the counties of Dorchester, Worcester, Talbot, and Caroline, and two districts in Queen Anne and six in Somerset. There was at the same time a great reduction in the number of licenses issued in several of the counties where the aforesaid Grand Jury law prevailed.

A liquor-dealer in Caroline County took an appeal from the lower court to the Court of Appeal to test the constitutionality of the local-option law. The case was strongly presented and ably argued by competent lawyers on both sides. The court decided by a vote of four to one that the law was valid, and also that licenses procured previously to the day of voting on the question were null and void from the time of said vote. The court took the position that a license to sell liquor was not a contract between the dealer and the State, but simply a privilege which might be withdrawn at any time.

At a subsequent session of the Legislature local-option bills were passed for Kent and Calvert Counties, and at the election under the same both counties were placed in the prohibition ranks by handsome majorities.

At the last session of the Leg-

islature local-option bills were passed for several other counties. Under those bills elections have taken place during the current year, and decisive majorities have carried for prohibition the three counties of Prince George, Cecil, and Montgomery, together with nearly half the districts of Frederick, four districts in Somerset (where the vote was retaken), and six districts in Washington.

Thus, to recapitulate, we have nine entire counties, with the exception of a few districts already indicated, and portions of other counties equal to about one and a half more, making in the neighborhood of *ten and a half counties of the State* (out of twenty-two) *now under prohibition.*

We consider this splendid work for the short space of seven years. Another seven years of equal success will sweep the State with prohibition of the vile traffic by *the direct vote of the people.* Such an achievement would hardly have a historic parallel in brevity and brilliancy since the heroic conquest of Jacob over sordid Laban. Seven years! Significant words! May they presage the everlasting downfall of the hoary rum Babylon!

Hon. William Daniel, of Baltimore, has been president of the Maryland State Temperance Alliance from its foundation, and still occupies that position. To his incessant and efficient labours and generous material contributions, more than to anything else, are due the glorious results that crown to-day the efforts of the past seven years. Long may he live!

Who is the Rumseller?

ANSWERED NEGATIVELY.

1. *He is not a maker of anything useful.*

The Carpenter takes the lumber, handles his tools and toils all day. At the end he gives to the community the chair, the table, the sofa, the chest of drawers or other article he has made. This article is from raw material of comparatively little value; the article itself is of comparatively

high value from its usefulness and service to people.

The Shoemaker takes the leather, cuts it into patterns, sews it together, and labours all day at his work. At night he gives the community a pair of shoes that can be worn, that contributes to comfort and helps the wearer to reproduce something in return.

The Blacksmith makes the implement of use from iron, the tailor the clothes we wear, the cotton manufacturer the fabrics we use, the iron founder the stoves and furnaces so indispensable to us.

All these and their fellow-workers are honest toilers whose labour contributes to the comfort, necessities and progress of the community.

The Rumseller *makes nothing useful.* He stands lazily behind his bar, trusting to the appetite he forms, the attractions he spreads, to find customers, and to them he passes *Alcoholic liquors* which stupefy the senses, weaken the will, whet the passions, enervate the mind, disease the body and destroy the soul.

2. *He is not a supplier of anything necessary to health, happiness or purity.*

The Grocery and Provision man supplies people with tea, coffee, eggs, butter, hams, fruits, sugar, meal, fish, flour, all of which contribute to the sustenance of our bodies, the happiness of our homes, and enable us to grow strong, to work and earn and enjoy.

The Dry Goods man supplies us with cottons, silks, woollens, carpets, threads, blankets, and innumerable other articles, which clothe us, keep us warm, beautify our persons and our homes, and so conduce to the welfare of the people.

The Bookseller supplies us with news, thoughts, histories, philosophy, and such like food so necessary to our mental growth. And so on all through the chapter.

But the Rumseller stands lazily behind his bar, trusting to the appetite he forms and the attractions he spreads, to find customers, and to them he passes *Alcoholic liquors,*