

matter of great difficulty, nor has it been long enough in force to [enable us to] form any decided opinion of its effect."

RHODE ISLAND (population, 276,531).—After a very full recitation of Acts and forms of procedure, the report concludes:—"This system has naturally caused a great loss to the state from license fees. Statistics, however, show in some towns a decrease of drunkenness and offences chargeable to the intemperate use of intoxicating liquors. The enforcement of this system is most arduous, and there is no doubt but violation and defiance of this prohibition law is carried on to a great extent with impunity."

[The law was repealed in 1889.]

The general result of these reports, if not strongly in favour of prohibition, is at the least so far in favour of it as to show that the contemptuous way in which it has been treated recently both by newspapers and individuals as if it were a failure is altogether unwarranted.

Of all the states in which it has been sought to work prohibition, that which has attracted by far the greatest attention of late is Kansas. It is comparatively a new state, and the prohibitory law was enacted in 1880. The contest was very keen, and the result not very decisive—92,302 for, and 84,304 against. There was no little bitterness and contempt shown after this decision. In February 1881 a prohibitory law was enacted to carry out this decision, which was amended in 1885, and again in 1887. The last amendment was directed against drug shops, some of which had become almost as bad as saloons.

The law is now enforced in Kansas in a very rigorous way. Mr. Maynard in the account of his inquiries which he has published ("The Facts about Kansas," by L. A. Maynard), says that few of the guilty escape, be they rich or poor. One of the first men sent to jail in Topeka for viola-