

fair laws. While gambling was legal it could not be made disgraceful. While slavery was a creature of the law, it was bulwarked by the law. Where polygamy is lawful, a plurality of wives is reputable. But with the sanction of the law removed, each and all become disreputable. So it must be with the liquor traffic and intemperance.

To prove, positively, the efficacy of prohibition is also a very difficult task. Prohibition is the legal forbidding of the manufacture, importation, and sale of intoxicating liquors. There are no examples of a prohibitory law which fulfills all these conditions. We may say that, in so far as it fails to fulfill these conditions, it must fail in efficacy. Again, the area affected must be considered. It must be evident that with the same measure of enforcement the efficacy must be in proportion to the area, since, as the prohibition area is increased, the force of the opposition to the law from the traffic (which, after all, is the main source of the opposition) must be correspondingly diminished.

Now, existing prohibition examples do not fulfill all the conditions, and are very limited in area. But even with these disadvantages they will assist materially in reaching a conclusion. Space does not permit the insertion of statistics. By means of them the advocates of prohibition prove its efficacy. But we have the strange anomaly of the opponents of prohibition proving their case by means of the same statistics. The average man has not the time to investigate and ascertain for himself the reliableness of the computations of either. There is another means of judging. The prohibitionists are, in most cases, animated solely by a desire to benefit humanity; their opponents, in most cases, individually, by selfish motives of personal gain, and collectively, by the mighty forces behind the infamous traffic, which sees in prohibition a peril to its very existence. The reasonable man will be inclined to accept the figures of the prohibitionist.

Let us judge its efficacy by another standard, that of the opinion of those affected by prohibitory legislation. Prohibition, of a varying degree of perfection, has been in force, with the exception of one year, in the limited area of the State of Maine, since 1851. After 33 years of trial it was, in 1884, by a majority of over 47,000, the largest ever given in the State on a constitutional amendment, made a part of the constitution of the State. In the legislature a bill to resubmit the question to the people was, despite the efforts of the advocates of license, defeated by a vote of 114 to 13. In