

northern states legislatures having Republican majorities have, with the aid of some Democratic votes, passed laws submitting prohibitory amendments to the popular vote. In four of those states the amendments have carried, in two they were not. In three southern states legislatures having Democratic majorities have passed laws submitting prohibitory amendments to the popular vote. In two of these states the amendments were lost, and in one the vote has not yet been taken. These submission laws have been wrung from the old parties by the force of necessity, not because they, or either of them, have adopted "submission" as a policy, for in no state has either party espoused the cause of "submission" at the polls; and the fact remains that the two old parties divide the liquor supporters about equally between them, taking the parties as they are in the whole country.

It is probably about a fair representation of the state of the Republican and Democratic parties to-day to gauge the influence of the liquor traffic in them by the number of liquor men who are selected as delegates to their representative gatherings. At the Republican State Convention, recently held at Saratoga, New York, out of 110 delegates and alternates representing the city of New York 29 were liquor dealers, or closely connected with the liquor interest by business relations. Other delegations contained many liquor dealers, or manufacturers, or their attorneys, and it is probably safe to say that at least one-fifth of the delegates and alternates to this great gathering of more than a thousand representative members of the Republican party were also representatives of the saloons; nor is the matter any better in the Democratic party.

It is not probable that the saloon power will permit the submission of any more prohibitory amendments while it controls the two old parties. The experiments so far—as in Ohio, Michi-

gan and Texas—have proven too expensive to be often indulged in as luxuries, as in Kansas, Iowa and Rhode Island they have proved too uncertain in their results to be pleasant. But the agitation will go on, and time will demonstrate in this matter, as it has in every other great political problem, which has agitated the public mind in every age, in every country where popular government has prevailed. That no great reform can be either established or enforced without a great party behind it, which party, in this case, will inevitably embrace all those who believe the moral and material interests of the country—its intelligence and its freedom from the appalling aggregate of vice and crime (which are fast becoming the rule rather than the exception in our large cities)—are only to be attained through constitutional prohibition of the traffic in strong drink and the unswerving enforcement of the laws in support thereof. (—)

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