

Prohibition in Kansas.

In the year 1880 the electors of Kansas voted upon and approved an amendment to the State Constitution in the following terms :

The manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors shall be forever prohibited in this State except for medical, scientific and manufacturing purposes.

In favor of the amendment 91,874 votes were polled, and against it 84,037. In the following year the Legislature enacted a prohibitory law.

The Royal Commission Enquiry.

In 1893 the Canadian Royal Commission on the Liquor Traffic visited several cities of Kansas and examined sixty-five witnesses. They learned that it was difficult to enforce the law in Kansas City, Kan., which is only separated by a river from Kansas City, Mo., where license law is in operation; and that similar difficulty was experienced in Leavenworth on the Missouri River, which is a military post, and has a large foreign population. Notwithstanding these unfavorable conditions, many witnesses testified that even in these cities the law had done very much good. In other parts of the State the beneficial effects of the law of prohibition were strikingly manifest. More than three-fourths of the witnesses examined unhesitatingly testified to the good effects of the law. A number of persons who had opposed the adoption of prohibition, declared that they had been led to change their views by its satisfactory working, and now strongly favored it. The following extracts from the evidence taken are merely samples of many similar statements that were made :

S. M. Gardenshire, of Topeka, Clerk of the District (County) Court, said : We have no criminal business to speak of in this county, and we have not had since the adoption of the prohibitory policy. We have less than four cases on our docket now, in this county of eighty thousand people. We do not average a capital offence per year in this court, and this court has exclusive criminal jurisdiction. We have sent less than twelve men to the penitentiary in the past year from this county for all crimes.

Hon. Mr. Gains, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, said : The effect is grand. In Dickenson County I stood before one of the high schools and asked how many of the pupils had never seen a saloon. Out of an attendance of 140 over 100 of their hands went up in answer; they were young boys and girls who had never seen a saloon. We have a four weeks term of special training for teachers in the summer months in each county, and I have asked as many as 140 or 150 teachers at these assemblages how many had never seen a saloon, and in answer the majority of hands went up. This shows that we have driven the saloon from the State.

• Col. James Abernathy, Manufacturer, Leavenworth, said : I believe there is great improvement even right here in Leavenworth, in comparison with the time before the law was passed. I know a great many men who have quit drinking. Although the law has been poorly enforced, I believe a great deal of good has come of it, even here, although this is probably the hardest place in the State of Kansas in which to enforce the law, owing to its peculiar circumstances.