

Anything else is a quack remedy, which will injure and not help. No evidence of a conspiracy to defy the license laws exists, and if the state cannot enforce the law against single individuals, it is positive the law is a fraud, and that all time spent trying to make it operate is wasted. Certainly no evidence of a conspiracy exists, such as would justify private individuals organizing a government within the government to perform the work of the state, and try by extra constitutional means to make a law effective which the state, by a hundred years' trial, through the ordinary and legitimate channels of enforcement, has proved absolutely inoperative and bad. These statements made by those organizations, that the people are to blame for not enforcing the license law, is false. The trouble is with the law, not with the people. License laws have had a fair trial for more than a hundred years in this country, and have utterly failed to accomplish the object for which they were passed. The temperance men upheld these laws and gave money and time to make them operative, and only abandoned them after years of trial had proved them wholly useless. If the license system had proved practical there would never have been a thought of Prohibition, and these people who came around and with an air of, "I'll tell you how to do it," inform temperance workers that they must enforce the license laws, simply air their ignorance of temperance history and their superficial knowledge of the reform. The license laws are fatally defective both in principle and construction, and the statement frequently made, "there is no need of further legislation until the present law is enforced," is idlest nonsense. Let me say again, the fault is with the law, not with the people. The blame laid on the people for not making a bad law operate well shows a shallow thinker, or a tricky demagogue who wants to lay the blame where it does not belong, and thereby have an excuse for not perfecting the legislation. "If the law is to blame, then the law must be amended, and that will make the liquor-sellers mad, but if we can take the blame from off the law and place it on its enforcement then we are safe," say the politicians, and many a law and order league has received support from these men for the purpose of creating a false public opinion as to the real cause of a failure, and thereby give a plausible reason for inaction. I object to a law and order league organized to enforce a license law as a license law, because no evidence exists that would justify its organization, and because it creates the false impression that the fault is with the people and not with the law. They constantly say: "Enforce the present law before you ask