

Kansas was the first state of the American Union that adopted constitutional prohibition. In the general election of 1890 the following amendment to the constitution was adopted :

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

The results have been summed up as follows: (1.) The traffic is outlawed and criminal, and men of any character have gone out of it. (2.) The open saloons have been almost entirely closed. (3.) There has been an immense reduction in the sale and use of liquor. (4.) There has been a great decrease of disorder and crime. (5.) There has been general and great prosperity. Many who were opposed to it, have seen its good effects in helping all business and now favor it as the best policy. (6.) The traffic has lost its political power. (7.) The law has been a great educator. There is an increasing contempt for the traffic.

They say "We do not claim the absolute destruction of the traffic, but in view of the training of the people for centuries as to the drink habit and the power of avarice as well as appetite, the progress we have made is marvellous, and we believe we are in the path that leads to victory over this enemy of the race.

Gov. John A. Martin of Kansas, a man of high character, was originally opposed to prohibition. In his late message he says:

"The public sentiment of Kansas is overwhelmingly against the liquor traffic. Thousands of men who a few years ago opposed prohibition, or doubted whether it was the best method of dealing with the liquor traffic, have seen and frankly acknowledged its beneficent results and its practical success. The temptations with which the open saloon allured the youth of the land to disgrace and destruction; the appetite for liquor, bred and nurtured within its walls by the treating custom; the vice, crime, poverty, suffering and sorrow of which it is always the fruitful source—all these evil results, of the open saloon have been abolished in nearly every town and city of Kansas. There is not an observing man in the State who does not know that a great reform has been accomplished in Kansas by prohibition.

There is not a truthful man in the State who will not frankly acknowledge this fact, no matter what his opinions touching the policy of prohibition may have been."

What is good for Kansas is good for Canada. The liquor traffic as a burden to our country and a curse to our people.

An argument that has been used against Prohibition is that it is an unfair interference with the rights of a free citizen to attempt to regulate by law what he shall eat or drink. All law is for the good of the subject and it is a strange doctrine that the people of any community have not the right to protect themselves and their families by statute against any evil.

A favorite argument with many good temperance people is that the country is not ripe for Prohibition. It needs to be educated up to it. To the first statement it may be replied that temperance people are ripe and ready for it, and those who drink liquor and sell it will never be. The question, therefore, comes to be the simple, practical one of whether there are enough temperance people in the country to carry it. With regard to educating the country up to it there is no public educative influence so powerful as a Prohibitory law.

We speak of Christian and heathen nations but if judged by their fruits the terms are sometimes misapplied. For example, two or three years ago numbers of Chinese in the Western States, were mobbed, robbed, and driven from the country. A few months since two American missionaries were mobbed, and robbed, and driven from where they had been laboring in China. The Chinese Government was not long in paying liberally for the damage done, and giving liberty to the missionaries to return to their field. Not until after this was done did the American Government decide to pay damages to the injured Chinese. While this is true, the wonder is, on the other hand, how steadily and well the neighboring republic pursues its onward and upward way, when we consider the enormous amount of evil she has to receive and assimilate in the immigration from the old world.

We complain that our life is short, and yet we throw away much of it, and are weary of many of its parts.