

of the Local Option Law that is possible. He is active in the extreme in instituting prosecutions whenever he thinks he has the least chance to succeed. He is assisted by the police department, who are more alert in arresting men for drunkenness and other crimes, and this may account in a large measure for the big increase in the court convictions.

So this leads The Planet to place minor importance upon the fact that convictions for drunkenness have INCREASED.

The police court records, however, show two things:

(1)—Men are still getting drunk in Owen Sound, and this drinking is leading them to other crimes that are worse.

(2)—Local Option has been proven ineffective in SAVING men from the drinking habit—and it is thereby stamped as an incomplete and fallible TEMPERANCE measure.

Men can get liquor in Owen Sound, any time they want it, and they can get enough of it to get gloriously drunk whenever they want to.

Then there is the argument of the Assessment, and the loss the town sustains in the way of taxes from the hotels.

When Local Option passed in Owen Sound, the hotel men appealed to the court of revision for a reduction in their assessment, but the appeal was thrown out. They appealed further to the County Judge and he made a reduction of 25 per cent. in their assessment. Since that time there was a general increase in the assessment of 20 per cent., all over the city to answer the growing demands of the town, but that first 25 per cent. reduction for the hotel men still holds good. Whether the County Judge will sustain his own decision when the matter comes up again is another question. Whether or not the County Judge of Kent would take the same kind of a stand in over-ruling the court of revision in Chatham, should they decide to leave the hotel assessment as it is, is still another question. No matter how it goes, the question of reduced assessment is not regarded very seriously in Owen Sound. The town is prosperous and the matter of a few thousands of dollars in the assessment is not felt to be a very material