

the state to license it and regulate it so as to destroy the evil and promote the good. Regulation implies something good in the thing regulated, that is to be developed by regulation. The liquor traffic is productive of evil, and only evil. Regulate it until Gabriel blows his trumpet and its last fruit will be the same as to day—bummers, broken hearts, ruined homes. Possession is nine points of the law. License gives the traffic possession and creates a presumption that its rules are legal and places upon the people the burden of disproving the presumption of innocence, and establishing the exception over the rule. The system is based on incorrect principles, is utterly impracticable, and never was and never will be enforced. There are more saloons selling liquor in Chicago without license under the license system, than in any prohibitory city in the world, and this in addition to the licensed saloons. In this cultured city of Boston, I am informed by good authority, that there is more than one thousand places which sell liquor without license, in addition to over two thousand licensed places. In Nebraska, under high license, drug stores almost equalling the saloons in number, sell liquors as a beverage without license to sell as a beverage. The system wherever tried, has been a failure, and it is utterly useless to waste any more time or money trying to make it work.

I am aware, that some of my friends would say: "Men must organize to enforce law." Certainly, but who organize? Burke said: "When bad men conspire, good men must combine." The state through its machinery, the government, gives the only safe method of enforcing law, and only when a conspiracy exists of such formidable character as to prevent the operation of the government, is a private organization of citizens justifiable. The government is the state machinery to enforce law, and every tax-payer is taxed to pay for such enforcement. Public officers take oaths to enforce laws; if they do not do it, the statute which creates the office provides for the removal of the incumbent, and the remedy is not the organization to do the officer's work, but proceedings to remove and punish the officer for his neglect of duty. This people does not need or want two governments to enforce the law. Demonstrate that two governments, one public, one private, one supported by public tax, one by private contribution, are necessary to enforce law in this country, and you have proved our republican government to be fatally weak and defective. You say to me: "It is your duty to give money to help enforce law." I answer: "I pay taxes to support a government to enforce law, and if that is a failure and can not enforce