

account. And yet the same officer never feels very strongly that it is his duty to see that the liquor laws are carried into effect. Indeed, our laws respecting the restriction of the liquor traffic, with regard to prohibited hours, and under certain conditions, is to all intents a dead letter. It is not carried into effect. It is played with, as boys toss a ball from one to another. It is made a laughing stock of. Why? Because here in this province the Government does not govern. It sits and winks. And that in the most aggravating way, because it has made no proper provision for carrying the law into effect. Now, when it sees to the execution of some laws—minor laws—laws that only deal with the interests of corporations, why should it not see to the working out of those that touch the whole people and which are for the highest moral good of the whole people. This surely is the province of government. If not, of what value is it? The moral should certainly have precedence, in a professedly christian land, of the sanitary or the commercial, such temperance legislation is moral.

That that robs a people of its reason, as strong drink does, that demoralizes its activities, that lays a heavy tax upon its earnings, that takes away its honor, its health and its happiness, that is a burden on thrifty and honest industry, and becomes to it a standing menace, should by all means be looked after by the vigilance of the officers of the law. First and foremost this demands attention, and surely in a country where such an overwhelming vote in favor of prohibition was polled, no difficulty should stand in the way. It should not be left to private prosecution. That is carrying it into the wrong realm. It must be left in the hands of the accredited officers of the government. Government should govern here, as in many other quarters. Just now we have coming to us from many parts of the United States, reports of the enforcement of the laws against Sabbath violation, and liquor selling in prohibited places, and in illegal hours. And the prosecutors are the police—the hands and fingers of the ruling authorities. The following is the account the *Boston Record* gives of the enforcement of the law in Kansas:

When Morrill was inaugurated governor, he was appalled at the condition of affairs which he found and the task which confronted him. But he and his attorney-general soon determined that the defiant saloon men must be taught that the law was supreme and must be obeyed, even in a "reformed" State.

The attorney-general visited incog. every large city in the State during the past two weeks, while he was supposed to be in New York on legal business. His report to the governor caused the issuance of positive injunctions to the police commissioners of every city under the metropolitan police law to close every saloon within three days or immediately resign. The attorney-general sent a letter to every county attorney in the State, in which the law was cited, and the best methods for closing the drinking establishments were indicated, ending with the notification that unless the laws were enforced in that county a writ of ouster would be filed in the supreme court within ten days. These measures have resulted in the closing of every saloon in these towns, some of which have never been without open saloons since the advent of the cowboy and the border gold rooms.

While the governor is not convinced that this law is the best method of handling the liquor traffic, and while the attorney-general is personally opposed to the law, yet they have announced their determination to obey their oaths of office as nearly as possible and there

is no mistaking their intentions in the matter. In some of these cities the enraged saloon keepers are organizing a campaign against the violators of the Sunday observance laws, and they declare that they will stop every street car, close up every cigar stand, livery stable and barber's shop, stop the sale of newspapers and prevent the occupation of the pulpits by the ministers who labor in the Lord's vineyard "for hire."

That is intensely interesting and instructive. The best element of the republic feel deeply that their very existence as a people depends on the laws being executed. There is here an important lesson for Canada. Let us have our laws carried into effect by government officials. Men who come clothed with authority and armed with power. It is simply a mockery to enact a law and make no provision for its thorough enforcement.

The Church Choir.

The question of music has always been a disturbing element in the churches says the *Musical Record*. For many years the effort to introduce rude musical instruments into churches was opposed with all the rancor of aroused ecclesiastics; and the rash promoters of this æsthetic innovation were denounced with the choicest terms of an unsanctified vocabulary. They were charged with being emissaries from the lower regions, and allies of Satan; but in spite of vituperation and abuse they won their point, and musical instruments became an established feature of the Sabbath-day service.

To-day a religious service where no music is heard seems crude and lacking. The public demand for musical accessories has become imperative, and has led to the introduction of an elaborate musical programme and costly instruments. The worshipful and exhortatory features of public service have in many instances become subordinate to the æsthetic; and the Sabbath meetings of the Puritans, where the preaching lasted for two hours, have assumed in great measure the character of sacred concerts. It is not to be expected that such a marked change as this should be allowed to pass without notice and continue without protest. Criticism at the present time, however, is directed not so much toward harmless musical instruments as toward offering musicians. The point of attack has charged from the organ to the choir, and the effort at reform will be directed toward what is considered to be the disturbing element in religious services. It is very evident that a frivolous and worldly minded choir can counteract the impressiveness of the service, and detract from the helpfulness of public worship.

Maine's metropolis has been the birthplace of many important movements of reform and many enkindlings of religious activity. It was in Portland where that movement which embraces young Evangelical Christians in a society for Christian Endeavor was initiated, and Portland has the honor of beginning the crusade against a frivolous choir. One of the clergymen of that city, the Rev. Dwight M. Pratt, sounds the bugle charge in these emphatic words: "An unsaved choir does little else at times than neutralize the spiritual effectiveness of worship. That which is purely professional and artistic cannot lift a congregation above the point of admiration. Heart responds to heart. The spiritual in the people is only touched by the spiritual in the song. If this is wanting, music ministers only to the flesh; and the so-called worship becomes entertainment instead of praise.