

This increase came chiefly from the working classes."

Let the shopkeepers of England ponder over this fact. Every legitimate trader is injured by the presence of the public-house, and benefits by its absence.

Reducing Beer Consumption

It is not claimed by the no-license party that all consumption of beer in a given area is stopped by the adoption of their policy. It is the sale which is prohibited, and the keeping for sale.

The whole population is not compulsorily turned into teetotalers. At the present time official returns show that the consumption of alcoholic liquors in Invercargill amounts to $4\frac{1}{2}$ gallons per head per annum. That is to say, about a half-pint per day for each of those who voted for license, leaving 10,500 of the population without a glass of liquor among them during the whole year. In the license districts of New Zealand the consumption is $10\frac{1}{2}$ gallons per head per annum. In the United Kingdom it is over $30\frac{1}{2}$ gallons per head per annum.

If we reduced our drink bill to the level of that of Invercargill, say in the proportion or from $30\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$, we should be spending now £23,750.00 on liquor, and saving £137,250,000 per annum for better purposes. What possible reform, tariff or otherwise, could equal this?

Drunkenness

In examining reports as to drunkenness in prohibitory areas in New Zealand, one possible and serious error has to be guarded against. Invercargill is a case in point. It is the head of a police district, with a stipendiary magistrate in charge. This area is much larger than the licensing area which has enacted no-license. The stipendiary holds periodical courts in such places as Riverton, Orepukis, etc., and all cases he tries are entered in his office returns at Invercargill.

For the eighteen months preceding no-license there were returned 209 cases of drunkenness. For the same after no-license there were 149, but only 6 of the 149 were from no-license localities.

In the last year of open bars in Invercargill there were 145 cases of drunkenness. For the year ending June 30th, 1908, there were only two who obtained their liquor in the town; 81 others obtained their liquor in license areas, and returning drunk, were met at the railway station by the police and promptly arrested.

Other Good Effects

Other good effects of a no-license policy may be thus summarized.

Applications to the Charitable Aid Relief Board decreased by one-third during the first year.

The Hospital Board reported that covering a period of four years, two before and two after no-license was carried, the cases of admission from alcoholic poisoning and delirium had decreased by 63 per cent.

The loafer and the cadger disappeared from the street corners when the saloons were closed, and migrated into license areas.

Drink tragedies disappeared also. For over two years "there has not been a single accident, fatality, death, or tragic occurrence arising from the use of intoxicating beverages." Besides, the poor drunkard does reform in the absence of temptation, and the town shows several remarkable cases.

Increased Land Values

We were told last year, during the discussions over the Licensing Bill, that closing a large number of public-houses would penalize the ratepayer, who would be called upon to pay more rates.

The first valuation of Invercargill after carrying no-license showed an increased capital value on the previous valuation of £139,904, the largest in the history of the town. The next year there was a further increase of £41,420, and the improvement still continues.

The aggregate values of all hotel properties are now greater than in the last year of license, and the rates payable by these houses are larger than they were, although the thorough rate has been slightly reduced in the £.

The general increased prosperity has far more than compensated for the loss of license values.