

This is a bald statement, but it seems to be borne out by the facts in Owen Sound. The town is going ahead in leaps and bounds and everyone seems to be prospering to a very marked degree. Business is good in Owen Sound, and trade flourishes even though the bars are closed.

It would be equally unfair to say that Local Option CREATES this prosperity in Owen Sound. The town is favorably situated and naturally must grow as a manufacturing centre. Its merchants and manufacturers are wide-awake business men, and for that matter people have to live whether there is Local Option or not, and they have to buy things, creating trade and business, so that the statement is easily supported that Local Option does not affect the general business of a town one way or the other.

Some of the business men who have identified themselves actively in the Local Option controversy find that their opponents in the cause decline to buy in their stores. In this way men on both sides have lost business, and they suffer through airing their views. But what they lose someone else gets, and the trade goes on just the same.

It is a fact that since Local Option has been inaugurated in Owen Sound the Police Court cases of drunkenness have greatly increased. There are more drunken men making their appearance in the police court to answer to charges of excessive drinking. Some people would lead you to believe that this proves that there are more drunken men in Owen Sound since Local Option carried, but this is a pretty hard statement to support.

Owen Sound was a pretty famous place for drinking even before they got Local Option, but The Planet is informed that the enforcement of the law under the license system was very lax. Six or seven months before Local Option carried, the government decided to be more strict in the enforcement of the license law in Owen Sound, and they appointed a new License Inspector. This Inspector started out to do his duty and to "clean up" Owen Sound as far as infractions of the license law were concerned. Before he had a good chance to show what he could do toward improving the town under the license system, Local Option was carried by the people. Since that time this Inspector has been giving the strictest enforcement