

Three Others

The Legislature of Idaho has this year passed a very strong Local Option law.

Both branches of the Legislature of Utah passed a County Option bill, but just at the last of the session, when too late for a remedy, the Governor vetoed the bill.

Prohibition was the main issue in the municipal elections held in Colorado, outside of Denver, early in April. The Anti-Saloon party generally was successful.

Local Option in New York

A Local Option bill for cities as a whole is pending before the New York State Legislature. The present liquor law of the State permits Local Option for towns, under which elections have been held this year, resulting in a net increase of thirty "dry" towns. About 330 towns in the State are "dry," about 320 "wet," and the rest are part "wet" and part "dry." The Committee of fourteen introduced a bill at Albany, providing among other things for the opening of saloons in cities of the first class during certain hours on Sunday, which was promptly killed in the Senate Committee. Yates County, by a vote on February 23rd, carried all the towns in its territory against the saloon, and became the first and only entirely "dry" county in the State.

In New England

Recent elections in Connecticut have abolished the liquor traffic from 3,000 square miles of territory, closing 300 saloons during the year.

Massachusetts has gained ten municipalities for the "dry" column.

During 1908, 429 saloons were driven out of Rhode Island.

Important Federal Legislation

For several years the temperance people have undertaken to secure an amendment to the Interstate Commerce law, forbidding the importation of intoxicating liquors into territory made "dry" by State legislation, and have failed.

On February 17th last there was incorporated into the penal code of the United States the Interstate Liquor Shipment bill, introduced by Repre-

sentatives Humphreys, of Mississippi, and Miller of Kansas. It is considered by many the most important temperance legislation since the passage of the Wilson law in 1890. This bill does three things: (1) it prohibits C.O.D. shipments. (2) it prohibits delivery to fictitious consignees. (3) it requires that all packages of liquor for interstate shipment shall be plainly marked, designating the contents and consignee.

The bill was in grave danger and would have been killed in the committee had it not been that Speaker Cannon obstinately demanded its passage and then voted for it upon the floor. This law, while it will not do all that the friends of temperance might desire, will go a long way toward correcting the abuse that the liquor dealers have practised upon the citizens of the States that have prohibited the drink traffic, and will pave the way for further relief which the people of the States may demand in the future.

Fighting for Its Life

Almost all of the Legislatures meeting during the present year have had bills relating in some way to the liquor traffic. Very few of these bills showing any friendliness to the saloon have been allowed to become laws. A recent editorial in Bonfort's Wine and Spirit Circular, written by T. M. Gilmore, the president of the National Model License League, expresses the opinion of many liquor dealers upon the present temperance revolution. It says:

The Anti-Saloon League is backed by able men and plenty of money. In the last eighteen months the business we represent has been outlawed in the States of Oklahoma, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Tennessee, and it is now facing destruction in West Virginia, Texas, Kentucky, Arkansas, Utah and Idaho. The saloon is fighting for its life in practically every State in the Union.

Talk That Does not Tske

The liquor dealers strenuously insist that "prohibition does not prohibit," and their literature, which is