

ORGANIZED LABOR AND TEMPERANCE.

The speaker on Sunday last at the Pavilion meetings in Toronto was Mrs. Leonora M. Barry, a woman of middle age, unaffected manner, and an earnest and persuasive speaker. By the very large audiences which were present she was very warmly received and listened to with close attention. Her presence on the Temperance platform is suggestive and encouraging.

Nearly sixty years ago it was a band—a very small band—of English philanthropists, working men themselves, who set on foot the Temperance movement, which in its earlier stages drew its support mainly from the ranks of labor. Its advocates worked with pen and voice for many years before they saw much result of their efforts outside their own class of the community.

Then came the gathering in of young people in Bands of Hope. Pictures, songs, recitations, fastened temperance truths in the minds of many, and made the later generation faithful and determined.

Very slowly, but surely, science began to speak on the same side. Repeated experiments and patient observation proved that in health men accomplished more work by abstinence, and that in sickness they more rapidly recovered without alcohol.

About this time the Christian ministry began to see its duty. Although leaders of thought are yet far from unanimous, in personal abstinence and in belief in the desirability of legislative prohibition, there is undoubtedly in both the old and the new English-speaking world a great advance in the position of the Christian Church.

After moral reformers, educators of the young, physicians and ministers had become our allies, it was seen that the removal of the evil was a task for statesmen. Persuasion, argument, preaching were good, but only partially effective. The law must be invoked to lay the axe to the root of the tree of intemperance by sanctioning first local and then national prohibition of the sale and manufacture of intoxicating drinks.

Statesmen lead as they are driven by popular vote to lead. And the vast majority of votes are now cast by working men. The men with whom the temperance reform originated are political to-day, through an extended franchise and ballot voting. There is nothing more gladdening and hopeful in the present phase of our movement than the position of the Knights of Labor. They are numbered by the hundred thousand, and as Mrs. Barry explained, they admit none into their order who are in any way connected with the manufacture and sale of alcohol. Not one in fifty of their local assemblies meets in rooms connected with saloons. Mrs. Barry, as the head of the woman's department of investigation, speaks with no uncertainty, and declares that any man who has so little control of himself as to be overcome by liquor, is an unfit representative of the great army of sobered workmen.

Nor does Mrs. Barry speak without authority or without the sympathy of the leaders in the Order. We have not only read, but twice heard the General Master Workman, Terrence V. Powderly, speak in the strongest terms. Always cogent and forcible in his utterances, he seems to reserve his strength for denunciation of the liquor traffic. So long as breath was left in him, he declared that he would emphasize the importance of personal abstinence and the necessity of legislative interference.

So it is that every decade adds new and powerful forces to the agitation for Prohibition. In the march of social progress, the control of public affairs is coming more and more into the hands of those who are most deeply and personally interested in the welfare of the whole community. The vote of organized labor will one day totally outlaw the unholy drink traffic.

THOUGHTS BY THE WAY.

Mr. JAS. THOMPSON has written another letter in reply to comments of mine in these columns two weeks since on the subject of High License vs. Prohibition. Our correspondent shapes his letter, as one might say, into two divisions. First, his effort is to prove the old chestnut, that "Prohibition does not prohibit," and the State of Maine is taken as an illustration, and certain authorities are quoted pointing to the selling of liquor in the city of Portland, and likewise in Bangor. I hardly fancy that Mr. Thompson is serious in this matter, and I do not know that the readers of the Citizen would thank me to go over the old and thoroughly trodden ground on this question. It might have answered eight or ten years since, when prohibitionists were obliged to reply to such statements made by E. King Dods, John Joseph Hawkins, friend Bell of Dundas, and other well-known Anti-Prohibition advocates. I am satisfied that any one who has thoroughly investigated this question is convinced that prohibition in the State of Maine is a success, and I leave the matter here with this simple statement, not wanting to fill up the pages of the Citizen with absolutely tons of evidence that can be quoted in substantiation of the statement. The Citizen's readers know all about it; and the people of Maine know all about it, as is proven by their engrafting prohibition into the very constitution of the State only a short time since.

Thirty-one liquor dealers of Wichita, Kansas, are in jail. Prohibition we fancy does prohibit in Kansas. Frank Jones, the great brewer, says that prohibition in Rhode Island has cut off the sale of beer to the amount of 80,000 barrels. The big international distillery at Des Moines, Iowa, owing to the prohibitory law, is preparing to move out of the State. A public meeting, led by the Mayor, has offered inducements to the manager of the distillery to locate at Rock Island, Ill. This is a case of exchanging localities, from a prohibition city, that "does not prohibit" to a High License city that, of course, "restricts the traffic."

Mr. Thompson's second division is to quote evidence to substantiate his "pet scheme" of High License. This is the first authority: "Father Elliott, a Catholic priest, in a speech delivered at New York, last February, said, 'Let us settle down to business; let us not dream; let us adopt means which we know are efficient and practicable. High License does succeed. Let me give you an instance. In Joliet, Ill., a town of 11,657 people, there was supposed to be prohibition. No licenses were granted, but, for all that, one hundred and sixteen saloons existed. The Harper License Law, imposing a license fee of \$1,000, was passed, and cut down the number of these places to twenty-eight, and made them comparatively inconspicuous and decent—not respectable, that cannot be done.' Our readers will notice that the statement made by the Rev. Father carries a somewhat fishy appearance. This being observed by an American journalist, the official records of Joliet were consulted. Here is the record.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING.	NO. OF SALOONS.	LICENSE FEE.
1882	112	\$ 50
1883	80	500
1887	49	1000

Then these further facts are elicited in connection with this Illinois city. Instead of prohibition before the enactment of the Harper law, the \$50 license was in effect; instead of a reduction of the saloons to 28, 49 were in operation on June 1st, 1887, under \$1,000 license. As to the saloon being "comparatively inconspicuous and decent," this may be a question of opinion, but it has not lost its potency to damage society, as the following significant table will prove. Unfortunately the Joliet officials have no records of the number of arrests for drunkenness during Low License, at the records show the following steady increase since the Harper law took effect, notwithstanding the fact that the fee has been doubled since that time.

Arrests for drunk and disorderly, year ending June 1.	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888
June	64	97	128	163	118
July	36	98	128	126	161
August	32	88	127	144	153
September	26	103	106	108	115
October	23	87	115	88	113
November	63	83	100	21	30
December	24	20	82	29	72
January	29	28	66	43	83
February	29	33	39	61	48
March	40	35	97	19	65
April	12	65	75	13	55
May	60	83	123	125	131
Total	734	830	1018	1081	834

The evidence of the police force has been considerably increased since the law was first passed, but the salutary effects of high license do not seem to have appreciably diminished drunkenness. The Joliet Police say that at a very moderate estimate the per cent of all arrests are due to the issue of liquor.

Mr. Thompson's next authority is as follows: "Governor McMillan, of Minnesota, writing in January of this year of High License Law of Minnesota, says that 'with very few exceptions the law throughout the State is in effect. There has been a reduction in the number of saloons of over 1000. There are many facts which warrant the inference that there is much less drunkenness than before the law went into operation. As evidence of this I quote you this opinion of Bishop Ireland, in some of his personal observations in the Southern half of the State, known as the parish of St. Paul, the bishop testifies as to the improved condition of Winona, Calumet and Hibbing, Houston County, and other parts, concluding thus: 'All classes of people are pleased through the county. If there was a popular vote taken to day as to High License in Minnesota, the majority in its favor would be overwhelming. There is scarcely any poverty among the French of Minnesota, simply because there are no saloons among them. I could relate instances of this all over the State, and could multiply them by the twenties. The High License Law is the solution of the Temperance question. (The italics are Mr. Thompson's.) Its benefits are already appreciated by the people, and it would be impossible to change this law in Minnesota to-day.'"

This is an instance of endeavoring to prove too much. "There is no poverty amongst the French because there are no saloons." In other words, prohibition has done its work in this section. This needs to be understood in regard to the State of Minnesota. It is true that High License is in operation in certain portions of the State, but this High License Law is of that character that gives almost absolute prohibition; in other words, it is more a prohibitory law than a high license law, and it is the prohibitory clauses that make it so effectual. Take the city of Minneapolis in this State. About eleven-twelfths of the city has absolute prohibition, the other one-twelfth, a \$1,000 license. In 1884, under Mayor Pillsbury, a vigorous effort was made to remove the saloons from any point where there was not a regular and continuous police patrol. In his inaugural address of that year he said, "If saloons can be kept out of the resident portions of the city, private homes would be more secure, industrious men would accumulate competencies, and I will try to make it safe for respectable women to go about their honest occupations or recreations at any time of the day or night." In inquiring, therefore, as to the results gained for the city by the increased license fee, it is not fair to take the first year and a half of the patrol limit system. No fair high license man will claim that the reduction of the number of saloons, and of drunkenness and crime, in that period was due to the raising of the license fee from \$100 to \$500, but will admit that the improvement was certainly attributable in a much larger measure to the prohibitory system for eleven-twelfths of the city, put into operation at the same time. To ascertain whether High License has reduced the evils springing from the saloons, it is necessary to compare the conditions following the increase of the license fee from \$500 to \$1,000 with those before the increase. For the first half of 1887 there were 334 saloons, each paying \$500 license; for the second half there were 230, each licensed for \$1,000. In the first half of the year, "before the doggeries were closed, before the business was put," as the Minneapolis Tribune said "on a higher plane," there were 1,132 arrests for drunkenness and disorderly conduct; during the second half, after the closing of the doggeries, etc., there were 2,238 arrests for the same offences, an increase of nearly 1100, or nearly twice as many following the doubling of the license. This would seem to prove that the experience of Minneapolis in the State of Minnesota, is identical with that of St. Louis, Kansas City, Omaha and other places to which I have frequently referred. And there is little doubt that the longer the law is in operation in Minnesota, the effects will be found as elsewhere, that the saloons as well as the commitments for drunkenness will increase.

Mr. Thompson's concluding evidence on the question is from City Collector Onahs, of Chicago, who is reported as saying: "Neither is it true that drunkenness is increased out of all proportion these years, as it is claimed these arrests show. They show no such thing; in fact, the police reports for several years do not show arrests under the distinctive heads of drunkenness, drunk or disorderly—the arrests made for these offences are included under those of disorderly conduct,

which embraces a variety of other offences as well. Plainly, therefore, any use of the figures such as is suggested, that is, in proof of an increase of drunkenness, would be misleading, and certainly cannot be sustained.

This is an effort to break down the damaging evidence that has been and can be quoted against the High License experiment in the city of Chicago. The High License Law came into effect in this city in July, 1887. Now, if we take the number of saloons in 1882, under \$52 license fee, we find that there were 3,849 in 1887, under the \$400 fee, there were 4,195. We take the number of barrels of beer consumed in 1882, under the low license, and these were 874,228, in 1887, under High License, this number had increased to 1,074,146. The "drunk and disorderly" in 1882 were 18,045, in 1887, 27,532. The total arrests in 1882 were 32,800, in 1887, 46,505. So it will be found that whether we take the increase in the number of saloons, the increase in the consumption of beer, the increase in the drunks and disorderlies, or the increase in the total arrests, the showing is very bad for High License. Something more than a mere general statement such as is quoted by Mr. Thompson, in the face of these official records, is requisite to prove that High License has been the panacea for the evils of intemperance in this great western city.

It is the desire of our correspondent that we should fire some further guns on this question. I feel that I have, in one way and another, within the past three months given so much evidence that it is unnecessary to substantiate the failure of High License by adding anything further. But here are just a few jottings that I shall group together and let the matter stand in this way. As our readers know, in Atlanta, Ga., the friends there, through peculiar influences that were brought to bear upon the colored voters, went back on prohibition a short time since, and almost immediately thereafter adopted a high license law. What does it prove so far? We take three months of License and three months of Prohibition. Under Prohibition in that time there were two hundred and sixty-three arrests for drunkenness; under High License in three months there were eight hundred and eighteen arrests for drunkenness. Is it to be wondered at that distillers and brewers are ready to accept High License as a bar to Prohibition? Mayor Lovell, of Elgin, Ill., in a communication to the City Council, says he deemed it his duty "to call attention to the rapid and steady growth of the number of saloons in Elgin, a High License city." The population of Elgin in 1879, when there were fifteen saloons, was 12,000, now the population is not in excess of 16,000, although the number of saloons has risen to twenty-six, "with a prospect," Mayor Lovell says, "of a still larger number the coming year." In Lycoming, Pa., a year ago, under Low License, 54 liquor licenses were granted, this year, under High License, there are 51 licenses, no remonstrances being presented. Under the old law in Scranton, Pa., there were 321 legalized rum-shops, under High License, in the same place, there are now 340 respectable (?) saloons. The Western Brewers' annual official trades statistics give the number of barrels of beer sold in three High License States as follows:—

	1884	1885	1886	1887
Illinois	1,114,395	1,267,692	1,317,233	1,508,362
Nebraska	91,253	99,280	84,533	108,756
Missouri	1,139,101	1,136,461	1,176,582	1,357,920

It will be seen that these significant figures show a steadily increasing beer consumption in these High License States. It is also especially noteworthy that Missouri, with the lowest license of the three, shows the smallest, while Nebraska, with the highest license, shows the greatest relative increase.

But enough, enough! though I hardly seem to have got over the first few pages of my scrap book. A clever journalist, writing on the subject, may well say, "The liquor people, as a rule, are men of sense, not born fools, and they will not butt their brains out against a stone wall. They know that a high license stitch 'saves nine prohibition stitches.'" JAS.



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