

bition, is no more a temperance State than it was before Prohibition was introduced." It appears that upwards of 1,000 people in the State paid United States retail liquor tax, though Archdeacon Farrar was informed that the trade had been completely driven out of sight. With these accounts the general results and most recent enquiries appear to correspond.

Gen. Neal Dow himself, upbraiding his former party for its slackness in the cause, complained of the number of low drinking places infesting the cities of Maine. The New York Sun, after investigation carried on through its correspondent, said: "The actual state of affairs in Maine is perfectly well understood by every Maine man with eyes in his head, and by every observant visitor to Maine. In no part of the world is the spectacle of drunken men reeling along the streets more common than in the cities and larger towns of Maine. Nowhere in the world is the average quality of the liquor sold so bad; and consequently so dangerous to the health of the consumer and the peace of the public. The facilities for obtaining liquor vary in different parts of the state, from the cities where fancy drinks are openly compounded and sold over rosewood bars, to the places where it is dispensed by the swig from flat bottles carried around in the breeches pockets of perambulating dealers. But liquor, good or bad, can be bought anywhere." Perjury, the Sun correspondent also stated, as usual, was rife. In the cities of Maine, though the law had been forty-six times amended to sharpen its teeth, liquor, generally of a bad kind, was freely though clandestinely sold. "Pocket peddling" was rife, and pressed the temptation on the young. The city of Bangor had openly taken itself out of the law, and established a liquor system of its own. In Portland the city government sold liquor nominally for medicine, but really also as a beverage, and the agency was a scene of falsehood, jobbery and corruption. The corruption of city officers was an almost inevitable and a serious consequence of the system. Some of those who administered the law in Maine were among the strongest advocates of repeal, and of a return to the license system. They tried to give effect to the law. They fined, they imprisoned, they perhaps ruined one set of liquor dealers, and the only result was that a worse set succeeded.

It is said that in Maine the abuse is confined to the mixed population of cities, especially the seaports, and that in the rural districts the law is successful. It is apparently successful in the rural districts, because there people are temperate of their own accord. It fails where coercion is needed.

I interviewed Neal Dow, the venerable patriarch of prohibition. It may have been a casual mood, but he seemed to me to be disappointed and somewhat embittered. The wife of a man imprisoned for liquor selling had sold some liquor, which was left in the house, to buy bread. Neal Dow spoke of her offence and of the punishment which she merited in very extreme terms. Moral crusades have done much for us. But moral crusaders are apt in their zeal to overstep the limits of justice. The Scott Act set up arbitrary tribunals, forced a man to incriminate himself, compelled husband and wife to break the marriage vow by testifying against each other. The practice of forcing the consciences of candidates at elections is not consistent with public morality, or with true loyalty to the commonwealth, whose general interests it disregards. Traders in liquor are treated as assassins, and put out of the pale of justice, though they have been specially recognized by the state, which has received their license fees.

Some years ago seventy or eighty taverns were suddenly closed in Toronto. The keepers of the taverns could not starve. They sold liquor secretly, and the result was an unusually drunken Christmas. The tavern door, when you have closed it by law, ceases to tempt; but the illegal liquor seller may be a more active tempter.

In all these cases the law, no doubt, has its friends. It could not otherwise have been passed, and its friends naturally give a favorable account of its operation. Much evidence of that kind was given to the Canadian Commissioners, and has formed the basis of a minority report. But, making the fairest allowance for this, and supposing the evidence to be balanced, it is surely impossible to say that in any case there is such practical proof of the success of prohibition as would warrant us in encountering all the cost and risks of a sweeping measure for the whole Dominion. Improvement which was really spontaneous may sometimes have been credited to law.

Evidence of the evils of drunkenness, though largely given, is not to the point. The evils of drunkenness nobody disputes. The question is only as to the practicability and efficacy of the remedy now proposed.

Imposing statistics are brought to prove a connection between drinking and crime; and it is inferred that if you stop drinking, crime will cease. Is there not a fallacy here? In most cases, is it drinking that is the parent of crime, or is it not rather depravity of nature, inherited or induced by circumstances, that is the parent of both? Besides, criminals have learned the trick of pleading drink as the origin and excuse of their crimes. There is no absence of crime in Turkey, where the Koran prohibits drink, or in Spain, which is noted for temperance. We are also told that drunkenness is the great source of poverty. That drunkenness, where it