

Bowmanville Town

Local Option has been in force now four and a half months and already evidence is abundant that business has been greatly benefited by its adoption in Bowmanville. Newcastle, five miles to the east, and Oshawa, nine miles to the west, are "wet" towns and draw a few "suckers" from this town but they go there simply for drink. We believe that every retail business in Bowmanville has received financial gain from the closing of the bars. The greatest benefit has come, however, through the almost total cessation of drunkenness. It is true there is some drinking of imported liquor but that is to be expected. We did not expect our town to become heaven on May 1st last, but it is very much more like it in several homes since then.

Hotel accommodation was never quite as good as it is now. Commercial travellers freely express approval of and praise "Hotel Bowman," under management of The Bowman Limited. Farmers also find the accommodation ample for man and beast.

The Local Option by-law is capitally enforced. A few infractions have been brought to light by Chief of Police Jarvie, who says liquor cannot be sold in any public place in Bowmanville without the fact coming to his knowledge. He was instructed by resolution of Town Council to see that the by-law was strictly enforced. Police Magistrate Horsey gives no quarter to actual offenders brought before him, and public opinion is strongly behind the Act so that unquestionably Local Option is in every sense a splendid success in Bowmanville.

M. A. JAMES.

It is with pleasure that I certify that the above presentation of the conditions in Bowmanville under Local Option is fair, just and correctly stated.

JOHN J. MASON, Mayor.

Orillia Town

Rev. Canon Greene, of Orillia, is one of the most prominent Anglican clergymen in the Province of Ontario. He has lived for many years in the town

of Orillia, and is thoroughly conversant with conditions there.

Speaking in Huntsville near the end of 1908, Canon Greene, by request, referred to the enforcement of Local Option in Orillia. The Huntsville Forester quotes him as follows:

Based upon the most careful and judicial enquiry, and upon information gleaned from sources thoroughly trustworthy, he was able to say that Orillia was prospering under Local Option. The effect upon business was declared by the business men themselves to be productive of a greater volume of trade, with a smaller proportion of unpaid accounts. It was shown also that licensed municipalities close at hand did not draw from Orillia merchants trade from within their circle.

The hotel accommodation was better than ever before, meals were better, the houses were cleaner, and the travelling public were better satisfied. Hotel men and clerks were more obliging and civil than under license, and so far as the financial return was concerned, some of the largest houses had declared that they were able to make a splendid living from the table alone, without the revenue of a licensed bar.

The police court returns gave ample evidence of the strict observance of the provisions of the act. For the six months prior to May 1 there were 47 cases of drunks and violations of the Liquor Act before the local magistrate. Since May 1—the Local Option period—there had not been a single case of drunkenness up for adjudication until last week.

It would be easy to add a great many similar testimonies to that of Canon Greene. The following are simply examples of statements which other prominent citizens have written.

Orillia, Ont., Dec. 7th, 1908.

From a general standpoint would say that I consider the town has greatly benefited from Local Option.

From a professional standpoint would say that during the time that Local Option has been in force I have