

State, as the result of a combination between liquor dealers and politicians; that its object is to secure a return to the old license system; that as we were opposed to it before its passage, so we are opposed now, and will seek its repeal at the earliest practicable period.

Resolved, that in our opinion—Prohibition, pure and simple, has been for some years, is now, and will continue to be, the only satisfactory principle which will meet and satisfy the demands of all the true friends of temperance in this great State.

Resolved, that in the stringent provisions of the license law, and its partially prohibitory character, we discern only the gilded covering of internal rottenness, and that to escape the one we are quite willing to forego the other.

Resolved, that we know nothing, will sustain nothing, and act for nothing but prohibition, and that we will leave to those who have procured the enactment of this law, and are interested in sustaining it, the labor and effort that may be necessarily to secure its effectual observance.

We believe that some few of our readers are still inclined to think that a stringent License Law would accomplish our object. Such a law was enacted in Maine when the Prohibitory Law was repealed. What have been the effects? How does the far-famed "Stringent License Law" work? Let our readers ponder well the statements contained in the following article, for which we are indebted to the *Prohibitionist* :—

REPEAL OF THE MAINE LAW IN MAINE.—Before the Maine Law came into operation in June, 1851, there were over 300 grog-shops in the city of Portland, besides several wholesale liquor stores. Many persons who have opportunities for judging, say that the sales would average six dollars a day, in each of these shops. But to be entirely within the facts, three dollars a day, for 313 days, in these three hundred grog shops, gives \$281,700, as the expenditure for liquor, per annum, in the city of Portland, before the Prohibitory Law took effect in June, 1851.

When the Prohibitory Law came into operation, the traffic in intoxicating liquors, underwent a sudden and wonderful shock. The wholesale business suffered an instant collapse. Immense quantities of liquors were at once shipped to other parts. The retail traffic, from being open and public, retired to back rooms, or went down to cellars. Shops, heretofore rented for the sale of liquors, were now let for other and innocent purposes. The streets were changed. A drunkard was seldom to be seen; and when such a spectacle was exhibited, it never failed by way of surprising contrast, to suggest the time when such sights were a matter of course. And the same powerful cause, which worked these striking changes, wrought a corresponding effect upon the commitments at the Jail, the House of Correction, the Watch House, and the Alms House.

The repeal of the Prohibitory Law, and the re-enactment of a License Law, wrought reverse effects, and as rapidly. Open liquor bars sprung up everywhere into sight. In-

stead of carrying liquors away, steamers and packets now brought hogsheds and casks to the wharves of Portland, as of old. Nor is the traffic confined to the licensed grog-shops. The mounds are broken down, and the enemy has come in like a flood.

Among other reckless assertions, it has indeed been said, by a city official that the sale of liquors has not increased under the License Law. But his remark was overheard by a large manufacturer who promptly replied:

"You need not make that remark to me—I know its falsity. In my business I want empty rum barrels and a great many of them—they are better for my purpose than any other. Under the Maine Law it was very difficult to obtain any at all, and only a very few could be had at any rate; but now I can get them in any quantity every day."

One common carrier says that whereas under the Maine Law he took but forty or fifty dollars a week to Boston, to buy liquor for a certain vender, he now takes from the same man, for the same purposes, a thousand dollars a week. During six months under the Maine Law, the New York steamers brought but 10 pipes, 23 barrels, 11 cases, and two barrels of ale. And nearly all of this for lawful sales, in the city agencies. During the six months which followed the repeal of the Prohibitory Law, and the substitution of the License Law, these steamers brought 58 pipes, 1,040 barrels, 308 cases, and 373 barrels of ale.

Such is the difference in the liquor trade between Portland and New York—showing an increase under the License Law, of nearly thirty gallons to one under the Prohibitory Law. The difference in the trade between Portland and Boston was as follows: Under the License Law, in six months there arrived, 1,622 barrels of beer, to 137 in six months under the Prohibitory Law. In the same time, 2,108 barrels of spirits arrived from Boston, to 196 barrels under the new Prohibitory Law.

But the most striking single statement which appears in this report from Portland, is the following. In a bad part of the city which seems to be the "Five Points" of Portland, there was not one open grog-shop under the Maine Law. It is found by actual count that under the present "stringent License Law," there are more than two hundred open grog-shops of the vilest description upon that street.

The Illinois people are adopting a sensible course. They treat the traffic as a nuisance.

The President and Trustees of the village of Hillsboro have enacted an ordinance declaring that the storing, keeping, or having in possession, any intoxicating liquors for the purposes of sale for a beverage, is a nuisance; they provide suitable pains and penalties, with which to punish such offenders, and abate the nuisance. The Editor of the *North Western Home Journal*, reports that this prohibitory ordinance "works to perfection in Hillsboro, and a more quiet, orderly place we have not found in the North-West." Jacksonville, Paris, and several other large towns and cities in Illinois, have enacted a similar ordinance, and by such means have nearly annihilated the liquor traffic.

APRIL SESSION OF THE GRAND DIVISION AT WILMOT.

The Quarterly Session of the Grand Division was opened in the Hall of Wilberforce Division, Middleton, on Wednesday 22nd April, at 3 o'clock, P. M.—The Grand Officers having been delayed in reaching Wilmot in time to open at 10 o'clock, A. M. as announced. The first sitting was principally devoted to the receipt of the usual Reports—those of the G. W. P., G. S., Committee on Constitution, Publication Committee, &c., &c.

The two first named documents presented the cheering fact of a large increase in the membership of the Order since the beginning of the present year, and the great progress of the cause throughout the Province. From the Report received by the Grand Scribe it appears that the number admitted into the Order during the past quarter, has been double the number admitted in that of the preceding term. A new division has been instituted; several old ones revived, and others nearly doubled their membership.

The Publication Committee suggested the issuing of the *Abstainer*,—half its present size, and without change of price—semi-monthly; this was adopted by the G. D. See Report on another page. A Report from the Temperance Committee of Cape Breton County states that the Divisions there are in a very healthy condition and increasing in number; also, that temperance principles are advancing. The Report also states that the Rev Jas. Quinan, R. C. C., had administered the Total Abstinence Pledge to upwards of four hundred of his parishioners in the course of a few weeks.

The Circular Letter of the M. W. P. (which is inserted in another page) was submitted to the G. D. and listened to attentively by the Representatives. All present felt the necessity of acting upon the suggestions thrown out in that able document.

On Thursday morning the Grand Division opened at 8 o'clock. The Rev Mr Robertson, chairman of the committee on the State of the Order, presented a very able and excellent Report; as it appears in the present issue of the *Abstainer*, we forbear making any remarks on it. It will speak for itself.

There was but one Appeal case sub-