

to plan, to organize financially and politically. A monopoly in any trade or business is a curse to the community. But a monopoly in the business of making drunkards and filling the land with crime and poverty will prove the *curse of curses*.

This is not theory, but fact. For more than two years High License has ruled in Chicago. Robert Graham and others declare the inevitable effect of High License will be to suppress the low doggeries and place the saloon business in the hands of better men. But what is the fact? Dr. Herrick Johnson of Chicago, who has lived in Chicago under both systems and who has carefully studied the matter says: "It is my opinion that High License here (Chicago) is not at all working out a sentiment in favor of Prohibition. The saloons closed by High License are chiefly those connected with groceries, and kept as an accommodation to customers, and probably the least harmful, the least patronized, and the most decent of all. All the vilest saloons are in full blast. The great arteries of the cities show no closed saloons. . . . High License is a delusion and a fraud."

In Nebraska, \$1,000 license fees are charged. The almost unbroken testimony is, the result has been a grievous disappointment to the temperance men who advocated the adoption of this law. This law was drafted and urged through the Legislature by the Hon. John B. Finch, who is the official head of the Good Templars organization in the world. In a recent interview with him, in reply to our question whether the bill had met his expectations, he said, in substance: "That was the bitterest disappointment of my life. It was the gravest blunder I ever committed. To my amazement, the effect was to increase the worst evils of the liquor traffic. It placed the business into the hands of a sharper class of scoundrels—men who had both brains and money to give organization to this villainy. Before the law went into effect the selling of liquor was in the hands of men of a low grade of intelligence. Now, in all

the large towns it is an organized, compact, and thoroughly entrenched business. It pays the taxes of the towns, and this has silenced the consciences of the citizens. Prohibition has been made almost impossible. Before we can get it now we have not only to persuade the people that it is right, but we have to persuade them to put their hands down deep into their pockets to pay the taxes which the licenses now pay. The men who control the business are just as mean, if not meaner, than were the low doggery keepers, but far more capable. The effects of the law has been to convert the doggery, into which no decent young man would enter, into a magnificent gin-palace, with pictures, music, all fatally inviting to the young man, and with nearly every one, directly or indirectly, is connected a gambling and a bawdy house."

Mr. Finch concluded with the fervent ejaculation, "God save New York from this High License madness!"

High License is no untried experiment. In Lincoln, Nebraska, under low license there were twelve saloons; now there are 23, each of which pays \$1,000. Before the High License law went into effect in Chicago, there were 3,800 saloons which paid into the treasury some \$200,000; now, 3,300 pay \$500 each—that is, some \$1,700,000 into the treasury, and it is estimated that there are from 500 to 1,000 saloons which pay no license. Both the Chicago *Tribune* and the *Inter-Ocean* have lately declared that High License has been a disappointment in not having perceptibly lessened the number of saloons. A writer in a recent number of the Chicago *Advance* says: "We are unable to see that High License has appreciably reduced the number of saloons in this city."

We are told that a great decrease of crime will be wrought by High License. Has this been the effect where tried? Just the contrary has been the result in Chicago. Never was crime there so flagrant, so rampant, as now. Read the indictment presented by the last Grand Jury of that city—said to be the most scathing report against the police and