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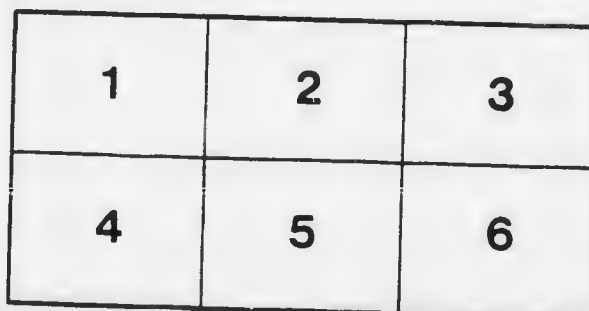
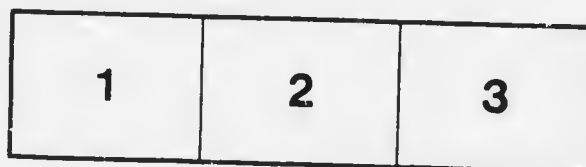
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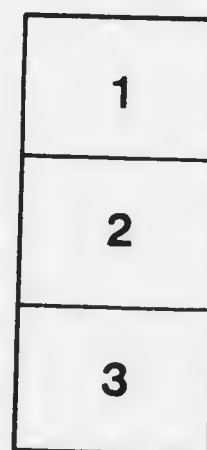
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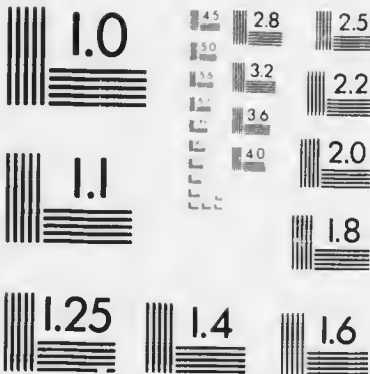
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A SHORT HISTORY

of the



Failures of _____ _____ Prohibition.

PROHIBITION has been given so many trials and has proved such an utter failure in every instance, without exception, that it seems little short of ridiculous to spend time and printers' ink in again exposing its worthlessness as a cure for the evils of intemperance. However, the extremists in the temperance ranks has succeeded in again bringing the question prominently before the public, and a vote will be taken on December 4th next upon the advisability of enforcing a partial prohibitory law in Ontario. It is therefore the duty of every professional man, every business man, every farmer, every artisan, and in fact every citizen who has the best interests of his country at heart, to refresh his memory regarding the disheartening failures of every attempt to enforce prohibition both in Canada and the United States. It is his further duty to vote on December 4th according to what practical experience, not theory, teaches him is best for his country.

A HISTORY OF FAILURE.

The history of attempts to make men temperate by force of law dates back in America to 1851, at least. In that year, after an agitation which had lasted nearly ten years, the State of Maine passed a prohibitory law. The example set by Maine attracted attention all over the Continent. In 1852 similar laws were passed in New Brunswick, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont and Minnesota. In 1853 Michigan gave it its first trial. In 1854 New Hampshire, Maryland, Ohio, Connecticut and New York were added to the States

in which the panacea was being given a trial. A year or two later, Delaware, Iowa Indiana and Wisconsin were swept into line by the popular war of enthusiasm in favor of Prohibition, although it was already beginning to show signs of worthlessness in the States in which it had first been put into operation. So, you see, prohibition is no new fad. It has been tried and found wanting many and many a time since 1851, but evidently the lessons of experience have no weight with the extremists in the Temperance ranks. They ask the people of Ontario just to please give their pet fad another trial!

Perhaps the most recent authoritative statement of the condition of affairs in the States in which prohibition has or is being tried, is the report of the Commissioner of Excise for the State of New York, issued from Albany on January 15th, 1901. Here is what it says:

The excise laws of our own country disclose the fact that every possible theory for the control and restriction of the liquor traffic has at some time or another been enacted into law and placed upon trial. Liquor legislation has been a coat of many colours, checkered and incongruous, a series of unhappy and non-satisfactory experiments. Striking illustrations of changes of public opinion may be noted in the localities known as prohibition states, where this important question has often been made the paramount issue in the election of state and local officials.

"Many millions of dollars, many years of valuable time, have been wasted in the effort to arrive at a practical law which would justly restrict and control the liquor traffic, but as time has passed and experience produced its slow results, the general tendency throughout the entire body of the Union now seems to be towards a system of high license with local option rather than a futile attempt at absolute prohibition."

Almost every conceivable theory for the control, limitation and prohibition of the traffic has been incorporated into law. Acts have been passed, repealed re-enacted and condemned by the score. Hardly a year has gone by without some new statute, general or local, having been put to the test. Much of this legislation has been of a special character, some of it valueless, a part of it vicious, and as time progressed and laws multiplied the result was a network of statutory tangles of no particular benefit to anyone, except it might be the lawyers.

FAILED IN ELEVEN STATES.

The Act which created a prohibitory law in our own State was passed in April, 1855, but it was declared unconstitutional by the courts in 1856. Of the other States, Delaware repealed prohibition after two years; Rhode Island after eleven years; Massachusetts after two trials, one of sixteen years and another of six years; Connecticut after eighteen years; Michigan after twenty years; Iowa after two trials of more than thirty-six years; Indiana after three years; Illinois after two years, and South Dakota after eight years.

The remaining States, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Kansas and North Dakota still have prohibitory liquor laws, but their results have been far from satisfactory.

CONTINUED FAILURE IN MAINE.

The Maine law has been upon her statute books in various forms for fifty years. Its operations after all these years may best be given in the words of the Hon. Charles F. Libby, ex-president of the State senate, ex-mayor of Portland, and prosecuting attorney for the State from 1871 to 1878. He says:

"I consider that the prohibitory law is a failure so far as the City of Portland is concerned. I consider that it has tended directly and indirectly to bring about a certain condition of affairs which I consider is not favorable from a moral point of view. * * * I found that I had driven out of the business one set of men and another set of men had come in, and so far as I can judge from my experience, the last set of men engaged in the business was worse than the first set who were out of the business and were in jail. * * * The prohibitory law does not prohibit, it simply restricts it; it does not do more than that, and I believe it does that badly. I am very sorry to say it, but it is true, that this liquor law opens up such an avenue for bribes that it tends greatly to corruption; the liquor sellers are given immunity by officers on their beats, and that has been a large source of corruption. It is a matter of history that our sheriffs and police force become corrupted. I therefore say that, to my mind, this prohibitory law has not been good to us as a whole, because it does not effect what its friends claim for it, claim in good faith.

NOT ENFORCED IN VERMONT.

In Vermont it is a notorious fact that the provisions of its prohibitory law are not enforced in the larger towns and cities. From

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time to time offenders are complained of and arrested. There is postponement and delay, finally a conviction, generally for one offence a fine of \$10 and costs, and the offender continues his unlawful sales until another arrest. The fines and costs result in a moderate license fee.

OPEN SALE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

"It is inevitable that in a state where the manufacturing interest is powerful there will be a considerable wholesale and retail market (liquor). In practice, the New Hampshire law operates more as a *local option* than as a prohibitory Act, the traffic being entrenched in the important localities because of the legal standing that its most prominent representatives enjoy.

THE EXPERIENCE OF KANSAS.

The experience of Kansas for many years under prohibition is briefly summed up by Rev. Father Kuhls as follows.

"There are in Kansas City, Missouri, probably thirty wholesale houses, all of which do business in Kansas, sending packages of liquor there. You can have it sent in quart bottles, or in ten gallons, or in fifty gallons, just as you want it, delivered at your house. I myself have counted at the Union depot about 1,200 liquor packages at one time, all addressed to different places in this State.

Mayor Barnes of the same city states that there were (1890) sixty to eighty joints in the city selling illegally, and that the fines for the unlawful sale of liquor amounted to over \$40,000 annually. R. P. Waggner, mayor of Atchison, Kansas, says: "I do not believe that it is possible to enforce the prohibitory law to the extent of closing up all places where intoxicating liquors are sold in violation of its provisions. For ten years the experiment has been tried in the City of Atchison, and I think I can safely say, without fear of successful contradiction, that during all of that time we have had many of the evils resulting from the traffic without receiving a fair revenue therefrom."

Examples could be multiplied, but the experience given sufficiently establish the proposition stated. There exists no law, either in this country or elsewhere in the world, that ever has or probably ever will successfully abolish the manufacture and use of liquor. Even most prohibitionists admit this fact while deploring it.

As prohibition of the liquor traffic by legislation seems to be impossible, or at least impracticable, it must, for the welfare of the State, be restricted and controlled.

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