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PEOPLES FORUM.

Cold Facts.

If more liquor is sold under prohibition than under license the liquor people are doing something they have never been known to do. They are fighting a measure that helps their business. For the benefit of the Home Rule Association and those simple ones whom they will deceive, it ought to be said that a safe rule to follow is to do the opposite of what you find the liquor people are doing. And when your words give comfort and cheer to the liquor people you can be pretty certain that you are wrong. No, they never work to curtail their business. Their plans are outlined at a meeting of the Ohio Liquor Dealers' association by one of the speakers as follows: "Gentlemen: The success of our business is dependent largely upon the creation of appetite for drink. The open field for the creation of this appetite is among the boys. After men are grown and their habits are formed they rarely if ever change in

this regard. It will be needful, therefore that missionary work be done among the boys, and I make suggestion, gentlemen, that nickels expended in treats to the boys now will return in dollars to your tills after the appetites have been formed. Above all things, create appetite."

Most men oppose prohibition for one or the other of these five reasons: Money, appetite, politics, ignorance, or pure wickedness. If the common good were consulted every man would vote to close the saloons. There is only one side to this question. The testimony comes from every quarter. Men who have seen prohibition tried testify to the wholesome results. They agree, and the statistics confirm them, that Gov. Stubbs of Kansas is right when he says "I am prepared to prove beyond question of a doubt that the prohibition law is beneficial in this state from a financial, business, and moral point of view." I gave the statistics as they were given by Secretary Coburn of Kansas. But I suppose because he refused the office of United States Senator when offered him that he cannot be trusted to give these statistics correctly! What logic the defenders of saloons use! Even

the Oregonian says that "Kansas is an excellent example" of where "it has been found easy to extirpate the liquor traffic." Lesser advocates ought to take notice. A man who will refer to Maine or Kansas to show that prohibition is a failure is incorrigibly blind to the facts. There is no hope for him.

Men who are in the midst of the fight to better their condition of their fellowmen realize the situation. John Mitchell said, "I am not at all impressed with the argument that if you close down the liquor traffic you bring about a calamity. When you shut down a distillery, a factory takes its place; and when you close up a saloon, a grocery store is put in." Gompers, Lennon, Lewis, Simpson, all hold that the saloon is the worst enemy the trades union movement has to contend against.

Heed what a few Catholic clergymen say:

"I am in hearty sympathy with the present movement for no-license, because I believe it is calculated to lessen the evils of intemperance among our people."—Bishop Monaghan, of Wilmington.

"The principle of prohibition seems to me the only safe and certain remedy for the evils of intemperance. This opinion has been strengthened by the hard labor of more than twenty years in the temperance cause."—Father Mathew.

"Where saloons are licensed, how many live up to the law. Not one. Vested rights! Has the community no rights? There is no reason for the existence of saloons. Blot them all out, and what harm?"—Bishop Conaty.

"Suppression of the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages is the only adequate remedy. Temperance societies attract comparatively few, and are efficient only as long as their members are stimulated to a sort of moral intoxication. High license diminishes the number of saloons, but not the quantity of liquor drunk, nor the amount of drunkenness. And then, too, license is, in a way, to approve; and a wise and a good man cannot approve the liquor traffic. Whatever restrictions may be thrown around its management the American saloon is and must continue to be, so long as it shall be tolerated, a nuisance. Its influence upon individual, domestic and national life is wholly evil. As to the right of the State to prohibit, there can be no question, since the right to suppress crime involves the right to suppress its chief cause."—Bishop Spaulding, of Peoria, Ill.

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