

A Model Town With No Saloon Is Hoopstown, Ill., And It Prospers

The Mayor Serves For 50 Cents a Year And the Aldermen For 25 Cents—Civic Pride is Great With The People.

A Striking Illustration of The Failure of High License Adduced in The Case of The Harper Bill in Illinois.

About twenty years ago the "Harper Bill" was placed upon the statute books of Illinois. A meeting of the pastors of Chicago and vicinity was called in the interest of this bill as a temperance measure, and addresses were made by the most prominent clergymen of the city advocating the passage of the bill. The argument was to the effect that if the \$50 license of the city was raised to \$500:

1. That it would close up all the low, bad places.
2. That the saloon-keepers who paid \$500 would aid in prosecuting all who did not pay the high license.
3. That those who paid the \$500 would obey the laws, restricting the sale to minors and drunkards; also against selling on Sundays and at all hours of the night and all other restrictions lest they lose their license.
4. That the bad men and women would be kept out of the saloons, and that the places would be safe and respectable.
5. That every increase of license money was a step toward prohibition.

My official connection with the American Anti-Saloon League and with the Citizens' League of Chicago for the suppression of the sale of liquors to minors and drunkards for over four years has brought me to the following facts:

1. I have found in Cook county and in twelve adjoining counties, that the higher the license the greater the violations of law allowed by the local officials, and the more indifferent the public to those violations. Take Evanston, Oak Park, Hyde Park and Englewood as illustrations. These are prohibition districts, where the people are actively interested in prosecuting violators of the law. "Blind Pig" keepers are fined or sent to jail. There is no open and but little secret violation of the law against the sale of liquor. The people follow their boys into the license districts adjoining and prosecute the saloon-keepers who sell to them. Four such cases are now in court brought by the people of Evanston.
2. In a city like Joliet, with its ninety saloons, Aurora with its forty saloons, which pay \$1,000 each per annum, there is no earnest effort made either by the officials or the citizens to enforce the laws restricting the sale of liquor.
3. The high license money affects the officials as booty, and the citizens as bribe money would affect juries. The officials, from mayor to policeman, say, how can these saloon-keepers pay this money if we cut off their business? They know that Sunday is the best day, because men are idle and have money. The all-night trade is the best time to rob, cheat and murder drunken victims. The common expression for this night work is: "If you catch a sucker roast him." Hundreds of saloons in Chicago live by midnight robbery.

The officials claim that it is not their duty to initiate a trial, that the individuals affected must make complaint, look up witnesses, pay costs of court and bear all the burdens of prosecution, except to serve papers and make arrests on complaint. The people become discouraged and give up all efforts to restrain the traffic that supports officials and pays so largely the expenses of the city. Chicago saloons pay \$500 each or \$3,250,000 per annum. This amount of money paralyzes public conscience, deadens moral feelings and leads thousands of good people to apologize for the traffic. They accept of the falsehoods circulated by the public press as truth, without the least effort to learn the facts. They speak of those who challenge these lies sent out by the brewers and distillers, as fanatics and cranks, even preachers and church officials have done this in my presence.

When will the Christian and moral people refuse to vote to support the drink curse? We believe God has a controversy with His church on this question.

M. M. PARKHURST, Chicago.

A MODEL CITY.

The village organization of Hoopstown, Ill., was formed in 1874 and in 1877 it was incorporated into a city form of government. At that time there was one saloon here. At the spring election of 1877 a temperance board was elected. After a hard contested fight, by a small majority, the saloon had to go and there has not been one here since. There was a hard fight for several years to

keep them out, but now the question is never brought up.

When anyone is named as a candidate for alderman or mayor, the only question asked is, "Is he a temperance man, and how does he stand on the saloon question?" Party lines are never considered. The mayor serves for the munificent salary of fifty cents per year, and each alderman for twenty-five cents per year. The wealthiest and most influential citizens of the city are always ready to give their services in any way to benefit the city. Mr. J. S. McFerren, Hoopstown's first mayor, and the wealthiest citizen of the place, is again serving in that capacity. The city now has a population of about 4,500; has about six and one-half miles of paved street, and asphalt, also about fifteen miles of permanent sidewalk.

The Sprague Manufacturing Co., the American Can Co., the Hoopstown Horse Nail Co., the Hoopstown Plating Mill, and two large canning factories, all employing about 1,500 hands, with a pay-roll aggregating nearly \$10,000 weekly, are our principal manufacturing industries. The educational advantages of the city are of a high order. There are three fine, large public school buildings, and over twenty teachers are employed. Greer College is also located here. They have a fine large college building, costing \$40,000 with large campus and boys' and girls' dormitories. This institution was built by funds left by Mr. John Greer, a former wealthy citizen of this vicinity. We have a public library of about 3,000 volumes, with good prospects of a new library building, during the coming year, costing about \$10,000.

We have also a fine city building costing \$6,000 and a township building now in course of erection, to cost \$9,000, and a large brick union depot costing \$30,000. We also have a city water plant, owned by the city, costing \$80,000, on which there is a bonded indebtedness of \$13,500, the only debt of the city. The revenue of the water system is nearly \$5,000 per year, and after paying operating expenses, leaves a handsome balance for extension. We also have electric lights and telephone system. Last year the rate of taxation was \$6.82 on each \$100 assessed valuation, or about \$1.36 per \$100, actual valuation. With the fine paved streets, on each side of which are large shade trees, with close cut lawns and magnificent residences, many costing \$10,000 to \$25,000 each, combine to give the appearance of a great park, more than a country town. The city derives its support from its fine farming community and is large manufacturing interests.

In reply to your inquiry, "Has the question ever come up, that the closing of the saloons would drive away the farm trade?" I would say, it has not. Soon after the closing of the saloons here we had a saloon merchant who was a hard-boiled man. He made the claim that the closing of the saloons would ruin his business and said he would go to a town where they had saloons. He boxed up a large part of his hardware stock and shipped it to Ambia, Ind. He remained in business there about six months and then shipped his stock back to Hoopstown, saying he had all the business in a "blinking eye" and was going in a load of grain and get the money for it and go to the saloon and spend it, and come and buy hardware and have it charged." He never talked saloons afterward. No sir, our merchants never make that complaint. They know that the "saloon bill" will have to be cash and their own bills will have to be "charged" on the books.

PAYING TAXES WITH BOYS.

By Rev. O. R. Miller.

Some people never can see anything but the dollar argument in everything presented. Their first thought always is, Will it pay in dollars and cents? We believe that the prohibition of the liquor traffic would greatly reduce taxes by reducing court and pauper expenses. But even if it could be proved that prohibition does increase your taxes are you not willing to pay something to protect your boys?

It increases your taxes to maintain a police department and a fire department to protect your homes, but you do not object to this increase of taxes. Why, then, should you object to a small increase of taxes, if necessary to protect the boys who live in these homes?

If you vote for license in order to get the saloon's revenue to reduce your taxes, then you should be willing for your boy to patronize the saloon, for the saloons cannot run without boys any more than a saw mill can run without logs.

If to get the saloon's revenue, you vote for license, will you contribute a boy to keep them running?

Would you rather pay your taxes with your money or with your boy? Which?

GET OFF THE HELL-BOUND TRAIN.

Tom Gray lay down on the barroom floor. Having drunk so much he could drink no more, and fell asleep with a troubled brain. To dream that he rode on the hell-bound train. The engine with blood was red and

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damp, And dimly lit with a bluish lamp. An imp, for fuel, was shovelling bones, And the furnace roared with a thousand groans. The boiler was filled with lager beer, And the devil himself was the engineer. The passengers made such a motley crew— Church-member, Atheist, Gentle and Jew, Rich men in broadcloth and beggars in rags, Handsome young ladies and withered old ladies, Yellow and black men, red and white, Chained all together—a horrible sight, Faster and faster the engine flew, Wilder and wilder the country grew, Louder and louder the thunder crashed, Brighter and brighter the lightning flashed, Hatter and hatter the air became, Till the clothes were burned from each quivering frame, And in the distance was heard such a yell— "Ha! ha! croaked the devil, "we're nearing hell!" And, oh! how the passengers shrieked with pain, And begged the devil to stop the train, And he capered about and danced with glee, And laughed and joked at their agony. "My faithful friends, you have done my work, And the devil can never a pay-day shirk, You have bullied the weak and robbed the poor, And the hungry brother have turned from your door; You have gathered up gold where the cancer runs, And given free vent to your hellish lusts; You've drunk and rioted, and murdered and lied, And mocked at God in your hell-born pride, You've paid full fare, so I'll carry you through, For it's only right that you get your due; For every laborer is worth his hire, So I'll bind you safe in my lake of fire, Where my fieryimps will torment you forever, And all in vain you will sigh for a Saviour." Then Tom awoke with an awful cry, His clothes soaked wet and his hair standing high, And he prayed as he never prayed before To be saved from hell and the devil's power, And crying and praying were not in vain, For he never more rode on the hell-bound train. —Author Unknown.

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