

Weight of Testimony in Favor of Prohibition

Read What Eminent Authorities Say of Success of Liquor Legislation and Then Vote to Make Your State Dry

Governors Tell of Success of Dry Policy

WEST VIRGINIA

Gov. H. D. Hatfield says: "I am unhesitatingly in favor of prohibition, because I have seen its practical results. Prior to the time that the prohibition laws of this state were changed I was not thoroughly satisfied that it was for the best, although I cast my vote in favor of the amendment. Since becoming governor I have watched the conditions in the state closely, and have noted with satisfaction the wonderful improvement in general moral and industrial conditions of the state. There is no question but what business in the state has improved instead of being injured from the enforcement of the prohibition law, and this argument, which was advanced in many quarters during the time that issue was before the people, is no longer taken seriously."

IOWA

Gov. Geo. W. Clarke says: "Taking the matter up with ex-Mayor Hanna of this city, I was advised by him that the following were the results that have followed the abolishment of the saloons in the city of Des Moines. I do not know of any one more competent to answer than the ex-mayor. He says that it is a fact that arrests for intoxication and for assault and battery, and for disturbing the public quiet, and for petty larcenies have been reduced in number forty to fifty-five per cent each; that forty per cent fewer persons have been sent to the state hospital for inebriates, and that commitments to the state hospitals for the insane have decreased very materially within that time. That demands on the poor fund have been greatly reduced. That practically all of the merchants in the city report that collections on sales have been very much improved. He also advises me that it is a fact that shipments of intoxicants into the city have been reduced so that there are not more than from one-eighth to one-tenth as many as there were heretofore."

IDAHO

Gov. Moses Alexander says: "In our state we used to discuss the liquor question in days gone by, but since the law went into effect, on January 1, 1916, we have even stopped discussing it. Even those who argued about personal liberty and the economic side of the question of prohibition have stopped even discussing it and are now discussing it from the opposite point of view. Why didn't we have this prohibition business long ago? Business since January 1 has improved. Merchants are selling more goods, small accounts are being paid more promptly and oftener. Efficiency has increased among the people, there are fewer accidents in the mines than ever before. Savings deposits have increased in our state over 200 per cent. Our jails are empty and our police courts out of business. In Boise, where we had 23 saloons and everybody predicted that everything would perish from the earth on account of the abolition of the saloons, business improved, drunkenness decreased and the other day the city government discharged the chief of

police and four patrolmen, because we have no use for them, and we could just as well have discharged all but two. In the mining district, in the northern part of the state, two years ago the people told me that it would ruin the town and bring about starvation if my plan should prevail. I had occasion to visit that section about ten days ago and everyone there demanded of me the full and rigid enforcement of statewide prohibition, so no liquor could be smuggled over the line from a neighboring state. I asked them how that came about in so short a space of time; what brought forth such a change in sentiment? They said they had more efficiency, fewer accidents, more contentment and less tendency toward crime."

KANSAS

Gov. Arthur T. Capper says: "One of the greatest blessings ever bestowed upon the people of this state, and the law which is doing more to make good men and women and to bring prosperity and happiness to the people of Kansas, is the amendment to the constitution prohibiting the traffic in intoxicating liquor. Prohibition has been on trial in Kansas for thirty-four years—a sufficient length of time to give adequate evidence of its merits and demerits. And at the end of nearly a generation under prohibition it may be truthfully said that the prohibitory law was never so well enforced as now and never so generally approved by the people of the state. Approval indeed, is too mild a word to express the attitude of Kansas people toward this provision of the state constitution. Nine-tenths of them are enthusiastically in favor of it. It is the portion of the fundamental law of the state that is nearest to their hearts. In short, prohibition is an unqualified success in Kansas and our people would not think for one moment of going back to the saloon."

NORTH CAROLINA

Gov. Locke Craig says: "The benefits accruing to the state of North Carolina because of prohibition have been very great and are continually increasing. Since prohibition was enacted in 1908 twenty-one more children out of every one hundred of school age have enrolled and twenty-one more children out of every one hundred of school age have actually been at school each day. The school fund of the state has increased more than 85 per cent. The capital stock of state chartered banks has increased about 50 per cent. The deposits in the same banks have increased 100 per cent. The stock of building and loan associations has increased in value more than 250 per cent. Agriculture and manufactories have kept pace with the great improvements in our public schools and financial institutions. Rural conditions generally, especially with reference to labor conditions, are vastly more satisfactory."

NORTH DAKOTA

Gov. L. B. Hanna says: "I believe prohibition in North Dakota has been a success both from a moral and fi-

THE STATUS OF PROHIBITION

(From the Union Signal.)

More than 80 per cent of the area of the United States is no-license territory, and more than sixty millions, or sixty-five per cent of the population, live under prohibitory laws. The United States government prohibits the liquor traffic among Indians, in portions of the territories, in military forts, and reservations, in the navy, in the national capitol, in soldiers' homes and in other specified areas under federal control.

Nineteen Prohibition States

Maine, Kansas, Oklahoma, North Dakota, North Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, West Virginia, Virginia, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Arizona, Iowa, Arkansas, Idaho, South Carolina.

States That Will Vote in November, 1916

South Dakota, California, Nebraska, Montana, Michigan, Missouri, Idaho, Alaska. Idaho has prohibition law; will vote on constitutional amendment in November. Baltimore city and other wet city and county units of Maryland vote separately on prohibition at the November election.

financial standpoint, and am convinced that as the years have gone by prohibition has become more firmly rooted in the minds and hearts of the people of North Dakota, and that they will never go back to license."

TENNESSEE

Governor Tom C. Rye says: "Drunkenness upon the highways, streets, railroads and other places with accompanying profanity and obscenity has practically disappeared. A higher civic conscience, a growing sense of responsibility for citizenship among the better classes and the injection thereby of a new moral force and power into our political life is apparent. There is gradual but certain elimination from public office of the corrupt and willing tool of the well-nigh omnipotent liquor traffic. The liquor rings which have controlled our municipal affairs, corrupting judges, suborning juries, plundering treasuries, intimidating citizens, consorting with boot-leggers, gamblers and thieves, are broken up and destroyed, and better civic conditions prevail everywhere. We are spending more money for education, for public roads, for the care of the unfortunate and for religious causes than ever before. We are building a new empire upon a broader and better foundation, which will make for peace and righteousness."

WASHINGTON

Gov. Ernest Lister says: "The state has now had nearly nine

months during which the law has been in force. There is no question in my mind but that the enactment of this law has been of great benefit to the people of the state. Sentiment in its favor is much stronger today than on the day when it took effect."

ARKANSAS

Gov. Geo. W. Hays says: "I think the law one of the best that has been passed in this state in many years. It is certainly a great success in every way, from an economical as well as from a moral standpoint. Our business interests are greatly improved; we have more money in the banks; our merchants are doing more business and make better collections; and, of course, as you know, that means that helpless children and good women are being better provided for. In addition to this, crime has greatly decreased since the prohibition law went into effect January 1st, 1916."

ARIZONA

Gov. G. W. P. Hunt says: "The effect of the measure is chiefly noticeable in the marked decrease of commitments to the state prison and to the state hospital for the insane. I am further authoritatively advised by officials connected with charity work, that the number of needy families seeking public aid has perceptibly decreased since the adoption of prohibition. It is not, in my judgment, discoverable that the abolishment of retail liquor selling has had any appreciable adverse effect upon legitimate business."

MISSISSIPPI

Gov. Theo. G. Bilbo says: "My observation has been that prohibition does prohibit. I regard it as the very greatest benefit to any state to have the most stringent law prohibiting the sale and manufacture of liquors. Since Mississippi has been in the 'dry column' crime has materially decreased and millions of dollars per year have been turned into legitimate channels of trade which would otherwise have gone for the purchase of intoxicants."

WHAT CLOSING THE SALOON HAS DONE IN OTHER STATES

Judge Samuel D. Weakley, noted Alabama jurist, makes these claims regarding the effect of prohibition in that state: "1. Reduction in crime of all kinds and especially in those to which drinking liquor bears a close relation, such as drunkenness, wife-beating, assault and disorderly conduct. 2. Increased quiet and good order on the occasion of the assembling of large crowds, at soldiers' reunions, football games and on Labor day. 3. Better business for legitimate merchants selling articles for family use and especially for women and children, and better collections for merchants doing a credit business, such as furniture dealers, grocers, dry goods merchants, etc. 4. Improved labor conditions, under which laborers now after pay day return promptly to work and are more reliable and efficient. 5. Economic improvement as manifested by increased bank accounts, deposits in banks and increase in number of depositors. 6. Removal of liquor from soci-