

home-rule amendment by 3,500. When the state of Colorado voted on state-wide prohibition in 1914, although the state as a whole went dry, the city of Denver voted wet by 8,000 majority, and on January 1, 1916, the state prohibition law went into effect, thereby closing the saloons and liquor stores in Denver. In November, 1916, at the general election the liquor people tried to repeal the state-wide prohibition law by submitting to the voters an initiative petition for an amendment to the state constitution declaring beer not to be an intoxicant. Now, please bear in mind that Denver voted 8,000 wet in the state-wide fight, but after the people of this city had lived under prohibition for nine months they went to the polls in 1916 and voted dry by a majority of 10,960. In the same election the majority for prohibition in the state of Colorado was 85,000. Yes, my friends, the people of Colorado and Denver spoke for themselves with regard to what their sentiments were toward prohibition, and yet in face of these facts we still hear the thundering voice of the chief exhorter of the liquor interests who lives down in Cincinnati, 3,000 miles away from Denver, proclaiming with a loud voice that prohibition has been a deplorable thing for Denver. On December 12, 1916, one of the daily papers of Denver had this to say about prohibition after it had made a very careful investigation of conditions in that city during the first 10 months without saloons:

"Taxes have decreased.

"Finances of municipality never were so good.

"Business is better than it has ever been.

"Every man who wants work can get it.

"There are fewer vacant houses and stores than ever before.

"Building permits, especially for the last six months, show a decided gain, particularly in the matter of small homes.

"Collections are 40 per cent better.

"Savings accounts in Denver have broken all records.

"Hotels whose proprietors predicted they would be driven out of business within three months are planning extensions, and two new million-dollar hotels are assured within a year.

"Divorce suits filed show a decrease of 40 per cent.

"Arrests for all causes have decreased 31 per cent.

"Arrests for drunkenness have decreased 59 per cent.

"Arrests for vagrancy have decreased 55 per cent.

"The cost of maintaining the city jail has decreased 28 per cent.

"The cost of maintaining the county jail has fallen 27 per cent.

"The number of murders, suicides, and burglaries has fallen off at an astonishing rate.

"There has only been two murders in Denver in 1916. One of these was so clearly a case of self-defense against a demented man that the jury reached a verdict of not guilty in less than 20 minutes. The other case has not come to trial. At least a half a dozen murders a year was formerly Denver's average.

"Police Chief Hamilton Armstrong says crime is decreasing at a phenomenal rate. He attributes this to prohibition.

"District Attorney John A. Bush stated in open court recently that the work of his office has decreased 50 per cent since the city went dry.

"Every newspaper in Denver has

cut its staff of police reporters from one-half to two-thirds.

"The state penitentiary has one-fourth fewer prisoners than formerly, and about February 1 will close one whole wing of its chain of buildings.

"Just before Denver went dry saloon interests predicted that property occupied by saloons would remain vacant, as the locations were fit for nothing but saloons; that saloon men, brewery workers, and others dependent upon the liquor trade would move away from Colorado, causing houses to become empty and real estate values to depreciate; that ice plants, which were supposed to rely upon the saloons as their best customers, would reduce their output at least 50 per cent; that merchants in every line would encounter the worst times in the history of the city; that taxes would be heavily increased to make up the loss of \$341 annually paid by saloon licenses."

Then follows this statement:

"The best of the saloon locations were rented before the bars moved out. Proprietors of other businesses had their fixtures built in advance; saloons closed and moved out on Saturday night; new concerns installed fixtures and stock on Sunday and opened for business Monday.

"Merchants in all lines are commenting on the increased business during 1916. Their customers pay their bills promptly, they say. Nearly every merchant tells of accounts owing so long he had written them off the books. Since the saloons closed the men who owed these bills have drifted unsolicited into the stores and commenced to pay up on the installment plan."

Mr. Wayne C. Williams Testifies

Mr. Speaker, on December 21 I wrote to Mr. Wayne C. Williams, of Denver, Colo., who is a member of the Industrial Commission of Colorado, and requested him to give me in writing his views as to what the effect of prohibition had been to the people of that state, and I desire to have printed in the Record his answer to my request.

"The Industrial Commission of Colorado, Denver, December 28, 1916.—Hon. John G. Cooper, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. My Dear Mr. Cooper: It is a pleasure to comply with your request for information about the results of prohibition in Colorado. The nation has been lied to so flagrantly and persistently on this matter that I welcome a chance to state the truth through such an influential channel as you offer.

"Summing up in one sentence, the plain truth is that the success of prohibition in Colorado exceeds the fondest predictions and expectations of its most ardent supporters.

"In the early days when we were fighting for prohibition in this state and the saloon was enthroned in power everywhere, the favorite argument of the 'wets' were these:

"1. That prohibition would result in a general business depression in all lines.

"2. That specifically it would result in throwing thousands of people out of work and leaving hundreds of our store buildings empty and in practically stopping the tourist travel to Colorado.

"3. That the drinking of liquor bore no relation to crime, and that there would be more crime and more arrests for crime under prohibition than under the saloon.

"These were the arguments which defeated us in the early fights. Without a single exception, they have

been utterly shattered by the results under prohibition. There is not a prominent public official or business man in the state of Colorado who will not now admit this.

"Taking up these arguments in turn, and the results which have furnished the answer to them, we will look first at the business side of the matter.

"Instead of a general business depression in Colorado since prohibition went into effect, we have enjoyed the greatest prosperity the city and state has ever known. This is verified by the weekly reports of Dun and Bradstreet in every line of business, by the bank clearings of Denver, which have practically doubled, and by the unprecedented industrial activities throughout the state. As a member of the industrial commission, I am in the closest touch with all branches of industry, and can state reliably that the wage increases under prohibition have never been equaled in the history of our state, and that these increases amount to millions of dollars. The beneficial effects of prohibition to laboring men are so conspicuous that it is a matter of general comment throughout the state.

"Instead of empty stores in Denver, we had our store buildings filled up so rapidly that we now have fewer vacant buildings than ever before, and never have we had so few men out of employment as now.

"Instead of prohibition resulting in the tourists refusing to come to Colorado, our tourist travel to Colorado last year was double that of any previous year in the history of the state. The argument which the 'wets' made, to the effect that no tourist would drive an automobile up a mountain highway unless he was tanked up with intoxicating liquors, is about the silliest piece of moonshine ever invented, and it has been blasted by the facts. The other false assumption of the 'wets' was that if a man could not spend a dollar in a saloon he would never spend that dollar anywhere else.

"On the question of crime the success of prohibition is possibly even more satisfying than any other phase of the policy. The arrests in Denver alone have decreased nearly one-half during the past year.

"Every assertion that I make above is based upon absolute facts. I am sending you data covering the question of arrests and business conditions to verify the statements I make.

"To my mind the two most striking facts which show the success of prohibition are:

"1. The fact that this year all political parties in Colorado declared for prohibition without reservation or qualification. I know of no group or bodies of persons that can so quickly and unerringly detect the failure or success of a policy as that group of persons who control a political party.

"2. The remarkable vote which Colorado has given against the liquor traffic. I submit a table showing the successive votes on the question of prohibition in Denver and Colorado and the progressive trend of this vote toward prohibition, culminating, as it does, in the overwhelming majority of this year against the beer amendment, presents to my mind an unanswerable argument. When the people voted on the beer amendment in Colorado this year it must be remembered that they were not voting for the return of the open saloon. If that had been the issue the majority against the saloon would have been far greater;

but the liquor interests knew that they did not dare to present a proposition for the return of the saloon, so they offered a much milder proposition, and the 85,000 majority against it speaks in trumpet tones for the success of prohibition in Denver and Colorado. The table is as follows:

Votes in Denver

"1910 Denver voted wet by 17,000.
"1912 Denver voted wet by 22,000.
"1914 Denver voted wet by 8,500.
"1915 (Home-rule amendment) Denver voted wet by 3,500.
"1916 Denver voted dry by 10,960.

Votes in Colorado

"1912 Colorado voted wet by 40,000.
"1914 Colorado voted dry by 11,500.
"1916 Colorado voted dry by 85,789.

"The figures in some cases are exact and in others approximate, but they are so nearly exact that the table may be given as an approximate one, substantially showing the change in sentiment.

"Very truly, yours,

"WAYNE C. WILLIAMS."

The Liquor Traffic and Labor

Mr. Speaker, now just a word in regard to the liquor traffic and organized labor. There is at this time an effort to leave the impression that the labor unions of our country are opposed to prohibition of the liquor traffic, and the members of this congress are being flooded with numerous memorials from certain labor organizations protesting against the passage of prohibition laws.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I deny the statement that the laboring people and the thousands of members of organized labor are in sympathy with the un-American licensed liquor traffic and that the "beer keg and whisky bottle shall become their emblem." It is true that certain labor organizations are opposed to the prohibition of the liquor traffic. But these organizations represent various crafts that are engaged in the manufacture, sale, and distribution of alcoholic liquors. I hold no brief against these men and I have no quarrel with them, and I assure you I would do them a good turn if it lay in my power so to do. But this fact remains, that they are engaged in the manufacture, production, and distribution of that which is the greatest enemy of the workingman today. There are many labor organizations in our country that are not opposing prohibition of the liquor traffic, and some of them have gone on record as opposed to the open saloon.

I feel proud of the fact that my name is recorded upon the rolls of one of our great labor organizations, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, which has declared in favor of prohibition of the liquor traffic. At the biennial convention of this organization held in Cleveland in June, 1915, a resolution was introduced and passed unanimously placing this order on record as being in favor of state and national prohibition, and I desire to insert as part of my remarks a statement made some time ago by Warren S. Stone, grand chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, concerning the stand that this organization takes upon this question:

Why He Fights Liquor—Grand Chief of B. of L. E. Speaks

"Cleveland Ohio.—In a letter recently made public, Mr. W. S. Stone, of this city, grand chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive En-