

better, collections prompt and more and better goods sold. This is especially evident among the small fellows, the little grocers and bakers. Many of these are men born in foreign lands, and heretofore strong opponents of prohibition. They are for it now after having seen its effects on their neighbors and their increased purchasing power.

"The big employers of labor, like the packing houses, smelter and railroads, are a unit in saying that prohibition has greatly increased the effectiveness of the workers.

"Fewer accidents in industry are reported since the men have been shut off their supply of liquor."

#### GRAND ISLAND LIKES NEW PLAN

A Grand Island dispatch, dated April 30, says: The elimination of the saloon has had a noticeably beneficial effect on business, according to the consensus of opinion of leading merchants in the various lines of business.

A. L. Joseph, secretary retail merchants' association: There have been fewer calls at my office in the past year than during the previous year. The "slow pay" people have shown marked improvement and some of the "no goods" have come to life. As far as paying bills is concerned conditions are much improved among the laboring classes.

Police court records show less disorder and drunkenness, fewer petty crimes, and a decrease in immorality. The number of arrests on such charges has been cut more than 70 per cent. During the period from May 1, 1917, to April 25, 1918, the total arrests for intoxication and connected charges was 14. In the same period for the preceding year the number was 492. From May 1, 1916, to April 25, 1917, the last wet year, the number of arrests for drunkenness and disorderly conduct was 296 as compared with 37 in the period the city has been without saloons. Arrests on immoral counts dropped from 118 to 38. Only 9 assault cases have been docketed in police court in the past year, whereas there were 33 assault cases during the previous year. During the last twelve months the city was wet there were 24 arrests for disturbing the peace while since prohibition became effective the number of these arrests have decreased to 18. Bootlegging might be expected to assume serious proportions in the city newly placed in the prohibition column, yet there were only 39 arrests on charges of violating the prohibition law, while during the previous year with 24 saloons and a large number of clubs there were 21 arrests for the illegal sale of liquor. Police officers say that when Grand Island had saloons they made nearly twice as many arrests on any Saturday night as they now make in a whole month on intoxication charges.

#### HASTINGS MUCH PLEASED

A Hastings dispatch, dated April 30, says: One year of state wide prohibition in Hastings has done more than any other one thing to boost business, right moral conditions and stimulate the collections of old and new accounts according to the consensus of opinion of leading business men, not one of whom would return to the old regime, were it possible.

It's a "sixty-to-one shot" for improved conditions in Hastings according to the police records as the following statement of Mayor William Madgett shows. He says:

"The best evidence I can give in regard to the way prohibition is working in Hastings is by the number of drunks handled by the police department the last years of the saloons, which was more than three thousand. During this year of dry Nebraska they have handled less than fifty cases. I am against 'the Hindenburg line' for light wines and beer."

A remarkable falling off of the number of cases docketed, tried and determined in district, county and police court records and comparatively small number of divorce cases filed in Adams county are among the numerous other instances of improved conditions of a dry Nebraska for twelve months.

C. G. Lane, president of the Hastings Chamber of Commerce, and president of the Exchange National bank, replying to a question on prohibition in Adams county, says: "I will say that in my opinion it has been of great value to the county both economically and morally, an effect which has greatly heightened the tone of the population of the county and increased their in-

terest in things of importance to the well being of the nation.

"No one possessed of ordinary common sense ever had the temerity to argue economic advantages derived from the traffic of intoxicating liquors without the dollar sign being stamped upon him so plainly that the argument was downed in the sea of profiteering. The year 1917 held in its hand the gift of complete loss of the winter wheat crop and a badly damaged crop of corn, the two most valuable crops of the county, yet in the many drives for money for the prosecution of the war and its various activities the money was easily raised. The savings of the people who had not been accustomed to save because of the saloon and its influence is generally believed to have had much to do with the results, so I consider the effects to have been most beneficial.

"In morality, the feature of most significance, as above stated the effect has been to heighten and broaden the tone of our people and to cause them to turn their minds to things worth while."

#### REPORTS FROM OTHER CITIES AND TOWNS

Below are extracts taken from reports made from different Nebraska cities and towns to the Nebraska State Journal, Lincoln:

**BEATRICE**—Conditions without saloons are perfectly satisfactory to the business interests and citizens of Beatrice generally.

**GERING**—A. B. Wood, editor of the Gering Courier, commenting on the prohibition situation, says: "There are no business men or well known citizens who express unfavorable opinions, even among those who doubted the advisability of statutory prohibition. The comment is that the final end of John Barleycorn will come when Nebraska is also bounded on the west by dry territory as she now is on the other borders."

**YORK**—Everybody in York county is enthusiastic for state and national prohibition. It has been dry for years and as a result the county has shown great progress in material improvements and in education.

**NORFOLK**—The dry year in Norfolk has brought about considerable satisfaction among the business men and citizens. Business men agree that business has increased rather than declined and the absence of saloons has in fact become a welcome byword when the topic is under discussion. Police court records show that only half the number of arrests were made during the first dry year as compared with the same records of the last wet year. Only 55 arrests were made this year as compared with 156 during the last wet year. All of these arrests were made for disorderly conduct or drunkenness. The records show that during the first six months of the dry year the traffic of liquor had not asserted itself; that the liquors purchased for the dry period and previous to the time that the prohibitory law went into effect were exhausted in about six months and after that the arrest of bootleggers have been booked. Interviews with prominent business men and citizens who were in the early days favorable to licensed saloons show that there has been a decided change in views and that Norfolk is entirely in favor of the continuation of the prohibition law.

**KEARNEY**—Kearney has been dry three years this spring and its citizens are now so thoroughly adapted to the change that an anti-prohibition measure of any nature would be wanting for support now in this city, which formerly rolled up a heavy vote on the wet side. The number of bootlegging cases during the past year are limited to seven as against nearly twenty before the state went dry. Other than that there is a dearth of business done by the police magistrate as compared with past years, business men seem all of one accord in that there is more money, more judicious spending and a brighter air of plenty today than was ever before apparent.

**NEBRASKA CITY**—A comparative report of the police court record for the past two years shows that the number of arrests for drunkenness during the last year of the licensed saloons was 151 to 11 during the first year under prohibition. Five arrests were made during the past year for illegal possession of liquor, and the police force has been reduced. Merchants report that there are less book accounts and

that in most instances people who formerly had accounts with them are paying cash.

**SEWARD**—It is almost impossible to locate an adherent to the "wet regime" in Seward today, except possibly a portion of the ex-saloon keepers. Many of those who voted against the amendment are now enthusiastic for prohibition. The police records show that, under the prohibition law, there were only three arrests for intoxication and these took place early in the year when plenty of the firewater was stored, pending the continued drouth. During the corresponding period, the year previous, forty-seven arrests were made for drunkenness. Rooms formerly occupied by saloons filled by other lines of business and more space is eagerly sought. Banks report increased deposits, and former saloon patrons have opened up bank accounts for the first time in their lives. Retail collections are in the same favorable comparison with the other conditions, and it is unquestionably the unanimous verdict that prohibition has done what its friends claimed it would do—i. e., "prohibit."

**WEST POINT**—The institution of prohibition in this community, as judged by its results, has been an unmixed blessing to the town of West Point and Cuming county. For nearly fifty years this town of 2,000 has been known and recognized throughout the state as a stronghold of the rum power, as an oasis in the desert and pre-eminently "wet." From authentic, reliable and conservative sources it is known that the receipts of the grog-shops in this city for the last 15 years of business, averaged \$150,000 per annum, this amount being spent over the bar. The benefits of this large sum of money, now expended for the necessities of life, must be apparent to everyone. It is seen in the improved condition and appearance of former topers and their wives and children. At least forty men in this community were classed as drunkards for many years. They worked only as necessity compelled them. Their families suffered privation, but today these men, without a single exception, are comparatively prosperous and happy, their wives and children are well fed and decently clad and they are accumulating, in a greater or less degree, a surplus for use in emergencies. These are solid facts, patent to every citizen, and the change is so great, so beneficial, so apparent, that many former advocates of license have changed their views and loudly acclaim the benefits of the new law—and none more so than the former victims of the drink habit. Since the first of May, 1917, West Point had only one liquor case in the municipal court. The office of the police judge is non-productive, the one justice of the peace has nothing to do. In the opinion of many well informed persons, if a poll were taken of the advisability of returning to the old conditions, a very large majority of the citizens would vote to remain as we are.

**COLUMBUS**—Columbus had thirteen saloons. Very few drunkards have been seen on the streets since May, last, and the police judge is not earning his salt in that line, as there are at this time no complaints filed for drunks or fights or any other disturbances. Merchants say they are selling and delivering more goods to the parties who were indulging in intoxicating liquors, and who spent their hard earned money in saloons, but who are now providing much better for their families than in the past. Only one arrest has been made of parties bootlegging and the ex-saloon men are strictly obeying the law.

**FALLS CITY**—The first year of state wide prohibition has proven satisfactory to the business interests of the towns of the county. There has been no loss of trade due to the closing of the saloons and more cash has been paid for groceries by families who were troubled by the presence of saloons. The trade of Falls City has been greater and the people generally have enjoyed greater prosperity. The police court cases due to intoxication have fallen off 75 per cent. What liquor cases have caused arrests are mostly transient bootleggers.

Count Czerin knows now just how Czar Nicholas felt when he was trying to hold onto his crown with one hand and keep the duma under control with the other. The Austrian premier is trying to show the kaiser how engrossed he is in the task of winning the war while he is attempting to prove to the folks at home that he is doing his best to secure peace.