BUSINESS MEN'S OPINIONS.

Discussing the Best Means of Controlling the Liquor Traffic.

THEY SPEAK FROM EXPERIENCE

Well-known Nebraska Merchants Describe Local Conditions Under Both Dry and Wet Regimes, Affecting Retail Business and Tax Rates.

Many responsible business men throughout Nebraska have expressed their opinions on the question of the best means of controlling the liquor, traffic. Some towns have voted the saloon out of existence, while others have voted for license. Quite a number of towns have reversed their policy in the matter. In cases like this residents of those towns are in a position to form accurate judgment respecting the result of this experience, ferred a saloon strictly regulated to The Merchants' and Manufacturers association recently sent out queries to business men. The following replies have been received:

HOLSTEIN-G. L. Fischer, grain, Eays: "It is true that the question of license prevailed in our town through loss of country trade, and the establishment of dives and other clandestine means of dispensing liquor meident to a dry town. The business men also believed that the dry policy

would make them pay more taxes." STERLING-C. W. Stuve, general merchandise, says: "Our people favor license as long as the liquor men are the trade of farmers for miles around, might suffer loss of business in case locality. It was also argued that the would be increased. This sentiment barring of the saloon caused mer of course, had its effect." chants to pay highr taxes."

plements, writes: "About two-thirds recent election here I believe that the of the business men of this town are majority voted for license because the theory that the license policy draws hibition theory will not successfully for this locality than what is known bition sentiment sweeping the countries of the fact they assert everywhere—their ultrade to their stores."

that is an open question."

, UTICA-A grain merchant writes: ness would result in an increase of last election by a large majority. Most of the people of this vicinity favor of selling liquor. If we had no saloon a saloon in order to know just where the liquor is being sold."

ness men believe the policy burts license should carry." their business, since surrounding taxes was not discussed here."

HERMAN-H. H. Herzog, lumber. business man in town supported the results of a dry town." wet ticket. The question of country patronage was the principal argument put up by the wets before election."

plies: "I believe the majority of the there being more drunkenness than w business men and property owners have had under the wet policy. Un here favor the policy of license under der the dry regime we had about lif more strict obervance of the Slocumb | teen places where bad liquor was sold law. Our people are demanding bet- and we could not control the traffic at ter enforcement."

man writes: "There seems to have ter order in town. I am for the wet been enough business men here to policy and a strict enforcement of the carry the license ticket, I am sorry to Slocumb license law." say, through fear of a heavier tax in case of the adoption of the dry policy. ture dealer, writes: "Your informa-During the campaign, the merchants tion is correct. Our business men and argued that the taxes would be much taxpavers teared a loss of outside patheavier if the town should go dry."

KEARNEY-Says a leading merchant: "The result of the election on the question of license in this city. The Democrat, replies: "The chief we are inclined to think, was brought reason why Wayne voted wet at the about under the idea that the liquor last election was because of the extraffic could be better controlled with the open saloon than by supplying the the town went dry. The man who has demand for liquor through drug stores been marshal from that time to tals and bootleggers. Then again, many and who is one of the best officials business men feared the loss of trade from the foreign element in the coun- more croable with drafters during the try: further than this, the revenue one year in which the icaca was the coming to the town from licenses is posed to be dry than he had dated \$10,000 annually, which is of material several years under the license sta help to the city, as well as to the school fund?

replies: "Our business men thought somewhat disreputable, and t the license system was the best way lost many votes. I believe that In which to regulate the liquor bush town is three to one for high deer to ness. It is true that they feared they in our recent election the Annes to would have to pay too beavy a penalty league dol about all the open against In lose of outside patronage and in in | but they accoupt hed little."

terests of Silver Creek are in favor not favor a dry policy." be found anywhere"

to the question to any extent."

PLYMOUTH-A dry goods merchant writes: "This town is only and Swanton, which are both wet; therefore our business men felt that if Plymouth should go dry, their business would be injured. This commun ity does not want county option, neither does Saline county, to the north of us. The strict enforcement of the Slo cumb law would be better for every body, and our people are in favor of its better enforcement'

VALENTINE-D. M. Rice, editor Democrat, replies: "It is true that the business men took an active interest in our recent election upon the oues tion of license. During the contest the merchants argued that a dry town would produce a loss of natronage an increased tax rates. They also pro traffic in liquor through the drus stores, bootleggers, and 'blind tigers, which are peculiar to some of the dry towns."

FALLS CITY-L. J. Harris, Editor of The Journal, writes: "One reason for the result of the recent election in the active influence of business men this city was the fact that a large porand property owners, who feared the tion of the population of this county is German. The influence of the business men was for license because of the probability of loss of patronage in case the town should go dry."

KEARNEY-F. L. Whedon, Editor of The Democrat, replies: "In the recent election upon the question of license, business men here were gen erally favorable to high license and willing to run their places right. Dur- the enforcement of the law. There is ing the campaign the merchants urged | no doubt that business men took into that the dry policy would drive away consideration the probability that they since there are many Germans in this the town should go dry, and that taxes

LINCOLN-A. I. Israel, Editor of INDIANOLA-Chester W. Dow, in The Country Merchant, says: "In the prevent traffic in liquor; also because FORT CALHOUN-Fred H. Frahm the elimination of liquor licenses says: "Every business man in town is would increase the tax burden and in favor of high license. They argue more than probably decrease the volthat there is no doubt that taxes ume of outside patronage of the city's would be much higher under the dry merchants. I am also of the opinion policy. In regard to lose of trade, that many business men feared that the elimination of legal liquor busi-"High license was carried here in the lawlessness and have a demoralizing effect upon the community."

CLARKS-William Douglas, merhigh license in preference to a dry chant writes: "This town went dry town, which would bring about boot in the recent election owing to agitalegging and other clandestine methods | tion among those who pay little or no tax. The majority of our business here, liquor would be shipped in any- men believe that taxes will be much way as long as it is made and our greater upon the withdrawal of license merchants believe it is better to have money, and they know that trade will be less, as a great many of our farmers have expressed themselves to that CLARKS-Campbell brothers write: effect. It was the expressed wish of "This town is dry. Many of our busi- the best class of our taxpayers that

SUTTON-F. M. Brown, Editor of towns have saloons, and many of the The Register, replies: "I regard it as farmers are Swedish, Dutch, and Bo a fact that the license issue won be hemian. The question of increased cause our business men and taxpayer feared they would have to pay too heavy a penalty in loss of outside says: "With one exception, every patronage and in increased taxes as

SUTTON-Henry Grosshans, farm machinery, writes, "We had two years of experience under the dry policy SEWARD-H. A. Graff, clothing, re- and I regard it as very unsatisfactory all; now we have but four saloons STELLA-A prominent business which are controlled, and there is bet

> PLAINVIEW-P. F. Boyens, furnironage as a result of a dry policy, be cause our neighboring towns are wet

WAYNE-W. S. Goldie, Editor of perience of twenty years ago, where the state, said publicly that he has tenn. He has no us fur it's salesh The Anti-Salona learner tepres at a FAIRBURY-D. B. Cropsey, editor, tives put up a campaign 1 - "

BLUE HILL C. P. Card, cashier, or government alone, I do not to al., hance than any other state." says: "Our nawn is In a Flurmon com- that higher is a longifit or help to the : A real using man of McComb writes mounty, hence our movements realize peace, but speaking from the stand that he is in favor or a strict enpoint of the tuniness mun, my observe forcement of the Sheamh lifets has not

of patronage from the farmers if the drive such citizens away from a town, prohibition only takes away the revetown should go dry. Of couse, there is as they go where they can get what nue and does not stop the sale. a division of opinion, but the prevail- they want. While ! am not particuing sentiment seems to be that the larly a drinking man, when I speak of chart, w ites. "The country trainitary

of the wet policy, and they are, as a. NELIGH-J. N. Mills, or Mills & rule, as fine a class of citizens as can Berry, dry goods, says. "Our experience teaches us that we have better RED CLOUD-A leading citizen government and less discord under the place who favor high license because and other towns wet, the dry towa is of the experience this town once had left out. I do not tank statutory prounder no-license rule, when blind hibition is a temperance in ovement, cense money was had." tigers' ran unhindered, and the town! The writer has been in business in was disgraced beyond anything experi- this town since 1880 and has taken an enced under the hoense system a no active part in the liquor question I not believe the matter of partonage shad always vote for the license polfrom outside territory would enter in- icy as long as the United States continues to issue licenses."

GLENVILLE-Ernest Frisch, farm machinery, writes: "The business from eight to ten miles from DeWitt men took an active part in the recent election. Among them there is a sentiment that the adoption of a dry pol icy would be detrimental to their business because of the German element in this community. Most of the taxpayers are retired farmers of the German nationality."

VALENTINE-M. C Carroll, real estate, replies: "In the recent election most of our business men worked hard for the old Board and for license, for they were sure that if the town went dry they would lose most of their outside patronage. They also said that in that event property would be taxed to the full limit. We have two weekly papers here-The Democrat and The Republican-and they worked hard for the old Board and for high license. Most of the farmers in this neighborhood are in favor of license."

LAWRENCE-D. Livingston, editor of The Locomotive, writes: "License won here through the support of business men who desired to please a large country trade, and who also desired to benefit by the payment of liquor license money which would relieve them of that much tax. Our business men believe that the high license system pensaries. is the best way of controlling the traffic."

SCHUYLER-S. Fuhrman, dry goods writes: "My experience with the dry and wet policy in this state is that when a town goes dry the surrounding towns are generally wet, and the town loses the revenue on license. The only way to deal with the liquor traffic is to regulate the same by law, and enforce the law to the letter.'

SCHUYLER-Henry Bolton, mer chant, writes: "In this particular locality we are supposed to be governed by the Slocumb liquor law. The law, however, has not been enforced, and on our statutes."

property owners wished the license ka. To do so would be to commend the latter of the right to control the tion." system to prevail. They are people the provisions of the Slocumb high policy of the town whose expenses who favor personal liberty, regardless license, local option law-a thing they are taxed to pay. These paid inof the question of taxes. This county agents of the Anti-Saloon league could terlopers are getting voters to sign peis rich. It is a German settlement of not do without admitting there was no titions to the legislature to pass a law well-to-do and industrious people who need of their presence in Nebraska. | which would give all the voters of a have been prosperous from the beginning of the settlement of Clay County."

PENDER-Nick Fritz, farm machinborhood."

away with 'bootlegging' in dry towns | became a prohibition state in January, | well-known essays, some years ago: and places the responsibility where it | 1908. belongs. In dry towns I have noticed Thus it is seen that there are but passed the Canadian Temperance Act this nefarious clandestine traffic car- four prohibition states in the union. more commonly called the Scott Act. ried on without a chance of an officer catching the sellers, and I found it to be true that there was little chance of their hearers that nearly every state any county adopting it by a simple maenforcing the law."

VALENTINE-E. Clyde Davenport of Davenport & Co., general merchants, writes: "The result of the election was probably due to the fact that the majority of the business men are of the opinion that well-regulated \$350. saloons do no harm to a community, and the revenue derived from them is very necessary toward the support of the school and village. I think the business men were not so much afraid of the loss of outside business as they were of the increase in taxes."

M'COOK-John E. Kelley, real estate, writes: "I resided in Kansas in 1880 when the prohibition amendment carried, coming to Nebraska five years later. I have lived the last twentythree years in McCook. All of that time the city has favored licensing and regulating the traffic-the annual license fee being \$1,200. I was in Iowa both before and since the probibition law was abolished, and am free to say that I favor the Slocumb law when properly enforced over any means of regulation that I have observed. In both lowa and Kansas it has always been as easy to get liquor as in Nebraska, and much more so than it is in any Nebraska town that does not favor license.

M'COOK-P. Walsh, president Mc Cook National bank, replies: "I am unalterably opposed to prohibition soto be detrimental to business interhere that Nebraska at this time has to 1,000 inhabitants, in Boston one to ufacturers' association, which is rep-

ARAPAHOE-R. J. Finch, mer majority who support the business in conditions in this local section, I would to Arapahoe has a large loreign popul lation and the town has always had saloons until the last year. At the election this spring all hinged on the question of incense or no license and a majority of the business men scemed says. "There are many voters of this license system. When our tuwn is ary to fear a loss of business if the town continued dry; also that the taxes tall drug store, \$12 per annum. would be heavily increased if no li

OKLAHOMA TOOK IT BACK

After Adopting Prohibition at the

Polls the People Reversed the Policy. Last fall the paid agents of the Anti-Saloon league went into Oklahoma and induced the constitutional convention to adopt an article prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating beverages. The proposition was submitted to the people last fall and carried. the law going into effect at once. It was a great victory for the league.

In spite of earnest efforts to enforce the new provision, it proved a dismal failure, and the business men of the new state demanded a change. This they had a right to do under another article of the constitution, which empowered the legislature to establish state dispensaries for the sale of liquor if it proved to be impossible to enforce prohibition. The state was overrun by bootleggers and the clandestine sale of liquor was carried on in utter defiance and contempt of law.

Responding to the call of the business men the legislature provided for state dispensaries by a law which was approved by the governor late in March. Dispensaries are established in counties and towns for the sale of liquor by the state at a profit. An Omaha distiller has just sold a carload of alcohol to the state of Oklahoma to be retailed through the dis-

This is a complete reversal of the state's policy in respect to control of the liquor traffic. Judge Strang of Guthrie decided a case May 4 writ ing an opinion in which he held. "The dispensary law is an act regulating the sale of liquor, not one to prohibit." Oklahoma is the last state to repu

diate the policy of state-wide prohi-

LICENSE SYSTEM PREVAILS.

Many States Have Discarded Prohibition and Adopted License System.

Agents of the Anti-Saloon league as the dry policy. As a law-abiding try and that now is the time to get timate aim is state prohibition. They citizen of the state of Nebraska, I be- into their county option water wagon | are not content to let each town manheve in enforcing all the laws that are They do not care to admit that the age its own affairs, but send paid

sentiment in favor of a more temper- in the county as to what it must do in ate use of beverages, but that senti- respect to a matter which involves ment has been made in high license thousands of dollars in loss or gain of ery, writes: "In our recent village states and not in prohibition states. business or of license fees.

World Almanac for 1908:

Arizona-Local option, quarterly fee, United States license \$25 annually, forty-two counties Twenty-eight coun-County and territorial \$300 annually. Arkansas-Local option, fee \$800. California-Local option, fee by au-

Delaware-License by courts, fee \$200-\$300. District of Columbia-License by ex-

the majority of the owners of real estate, fee \$500. Florida-Local option, fee \$1.250. ities, fee \$750.

Illinois-Local option license by city council or village or county board, fee not less than \$500.

sion, fee \$100-\$250. Iowa- License by petition of voters, thing of the past, fee \$600. Kentucky-License by majority of BUSINESS MEN ARE ORGANIZING

voters, fee \$100-\$150. Louisiana-State and local license, \$100 up. Maryland-Local option, fee \$18

Massachusetts-Local option, fee not les of Omaha have joined an organiza less than \$1,000; number limited one tion styles the Merchants' and Man-

fully say that our people feared a loss reside, no doubt a dry policy would will not shun Nulsanian." He says and if this is not done, the county Anti-Salcon league who are scoking to of the says

county purposes.

fee \$150-\$300.

Nebraska-Local option, fee \$500-

Nevaga-State license \$50 per annum, wholesale \$100 per annum; re-

New Hampshire-License by majority of voters, fees based on population, maximum \$1,200. New Jersey-Local option, fee \$100

\$300. New Mexico-License by county commissioners, fee \$1 0-\$400. New York-Local option in towns,

fee \$150-\$1,200, according to population North Carolina-Local option, semi annual fee of \$50-\$400. Ohio-Local option, fee \$1,000. Oklahoma-State dispensary

of courts, fee \$75-\$1,000. Rhode Island-Local option, fee \$200

Pennsylvania-License under control

Oregon-Local option, fee \$400.

South Carolina-State regulation. South Dakota-License by local authorities, fee \$400-\$600. Tennessee-License issued by local

authorities, fee \$150-\$200. Texas-License issued by county clerk, fee \$300.

Utah-License granted by local authorities, fee \$400-\$1,200. Vermont-License local option act

took effect March 3, 1903. Virginia-Control of local courts, fee \$175-\$350, local option provided

Washington-License issued by local authorities, fee \$300-\$1.0 0 West Virginia-License by courts

and local authorities, fee retail, \$600; wholesale, \$750. Wisconsin-Local option, fee \$100-\$200, with power in voters to increase

from \$200-\$500 Wyoming-License issued by local authorities, fee \$100-\$300. Thus it will be seen that the preponderance of popular opinion is over

REPUDIATED COUNTY OPTION

How Many Counties in Canada Stamped Out an Unwise Law.

When the business men of Nebraska It is true that there is a growth of county a right to dictate to any town

election, it was the concensus of opin- In an article in the Review of Reviews The idea of county option was taken ion that if the town should go dry we for April occurs this statement: "Up from Canada and transplanted into would lose a good deal of trade on ac- to a year ago, of the eighteen states some of the southern states. Agents count of neighboring towns having that had tried the experiment of pro- of the Anti-Saloon league found it to license, as we have a good many sub | hibition, only three-Maine, Kansas | be an attractive method in localities stantial German tarmers in the neigh- and North Dakota-remained in the where it had not been tried. They are ranks." Incidentally it should be said careful not to say that in many Cana-GRAFTON-William G. Hainey, gen- that last fall Oklahoma adopted state dian counties it was long ago repugieral merchant, writes: "I am perfect- wide prohibition, only to discard it ated and stamped out. Here is what ly satisfied with the Slocumb law if last March, because it had failed. It Prof. Goldwin Smith of the Toronto enforced properly, because it does is necessary to say also that Georgia University wrote about it in one of his

"In 1878 the Canadian Parliament The advocates of prohibition are claim. The purport of this Act may be de Ing large gains, but they do not tell scribed as county option. It enables has enacted local option license laws jority of the electors to prohibit the for the control of the liquor traffic sale of any liquor within the county Here is a list of local option license | for local consumption under penalty of states, as published in the New York a fine of fifty dollars for the first offense, a hundred for the second, and Alabama-Local option, fee \$175- two months imprisonment for the third.

In the province of Ontario there are ties adopted the Act, most of them in 1884 and 1885. In 1888 ten counties, nine of them at once, repealed it; and in the following year the remaining Colorado-Local option, fee \$500 up. Scott Act counties also returned to Connecticut-Local option, fee \$150- license law. The majorities for repeal were overwhelming. In Ontario the Scott Act is generally regarded as impossible of resuscitation and the ad vocates of prohibition legislation are cise board on the written consent of turning their minds to other measures. This is a genuine verdict of the peo ple. The liquor trade had exhausted its power of opposition in the early Idaho-Annual license by author- part of the contest; in fact it hardly appeared in the field without doing mischief to its own cause.

Townspecple repudiated the law be cause it enabled outsiders to dabble

To Protect the Material Interests of Taxpayers Against Unwise Legislation.

Hundreds of the best business hous-Michigan-Local option, fee \$7 5- its accoved olders is to protect the and terial interests of taximyers accur-Minnesetz-License fee \$500-\$1,000 any movement known to be delined

courts may grant a license and fix a foist statutory problintion upon the tax of not less than \$200, nor more people through a subscringe which than \$400 per year for state and not they call "county aption." In other less than \$500, nor more than \$8.0 for states where they have operated they openly declared that "the object of the Montana-Local option, semi-annual, league is statutory prohibith n; that "county option is a natural step to pro-

hibition. The Merchants and Manufacturers' association stands for a strict enforcement of the Slocumb high license law, under which any village or town may, by popular vote, decide to license the sale of liquor or not. Under this law over 450 Nebraska towns have gone ory. It affords the greatest possible degree of home rule, not interfering with the right of a community to manage its own affairs. Under its provisions, outsiders cannot dictate to the people of a town or village what they must do in the matter of regulating the liquor traffic. Every state in the Union, save four, long ago adopted the license system, and nearly two dozen states have abandoned statutory prohibition in order to adopt the license system. Experience has proved that the local license system is the only practical means of regulating and controlling the sale of liquor.

The new association of business men holds to the conviction that the Slocumb high license law has been of great benefit to Nebraska since its enactment in 1887, and therfore the law must be defended from attack. They are convinced that business prosperity is possible under the license system, whereas it is easy to see that statutory prohibition injures business by causing outside capital to shun a state having that policy. They are convinced that county option means prohibition in the end, and for that reason is a menace to the business interests of the state. Their appeal is made to the merchants and taxpayers of the whole state, knowing that if the latter can be shown the true inwardness of the movement for county option, they will soon be able to effect an organization in every county strong enough to destroy the work of the imported, salaried agents of the Anti-Saloon league,

Hundreds of business men have joined the association under the following conditions:

whelmingly for local option, high li-"As business men and taxpayers we favor the movement to form an Association of Merchants and Manufacturers for the purpose of adopting measures to bring about a better enforcement of the Slocumb liquor license law throughout the state-a law makget a full understanding of so-called ing it optional with the people of a county option they will consign it to town or city to say whether or not oblivion. It is used by agents of the liquor shall be sold. We believe the Anti-Saloon league as a means to an said law has been of great benefit to my opinion is that if the Slocumb are traversing Nebraska telling the end-it is simply a method by which the state and that there can be no law were enforced it would be better people that there is a wave of probi they expect to attain prohibition. This better means for regulating the sale of intoxicants. We stand for its strict enforcement. We join this association with the understanding that no distiller, brewer, liquor dealer or saloon area of dry territory has been extend agents into Nebraska towns to array keeper is eligible to membership. Our GLENVILLE-D. K. Caldwell, bank- ed almost wholly in states having the non-tax-paying voters against local object is to protect property interests er, says: "Our business men and local option laws like that of Nebras- property owners in efforts to deprive from the ill effects of unwise legisla-

WOULD DESTROY HOME RULE

County Option is Radically Different from Nebraska Local Option.

There is a great difference between local option as defined by the Nebraska law, and county option as defined by the Anti-Saloon league. Local option guarantees home rule and prevents outsiders from dictating to townsmen as to what policy they shall pursue. On the contrary, county option would give to voters in country precincts and in villages the right to say what another town must do in respect to regulating or abolishing the liquor traffic. County option would destroy the principle of home rule, whereas local option sustains that principle. The one is antagonistic to the other.

For instance, say that the taxpayers of a town had voted for license while other towns in a county had voted themselves dry, the policy of county option, if adopted by the legislature, would enable the voters of the dry towns and country precincts to combine and force the wet town dry. In other words, outsiders could in a town regardless of the will of the resident taxpayers. The state would of course retain the power to tax the property of townsmen while at the same time depriving them of the right to control the policy of the town government which they are taxed to maintain. Voters outside the limits of the town, whether they be taxpayers or not, would, under county option, have the right to vote upon a question concerning only the people of the town, which would be radically unjust, acstructive of the principle of home rule and wholly unamerican.

There is no argument that can be offered in support of county option which cannot be met and overcome by those in defense of the right of a community to manage its own affairs.

One reason why prohibition failed in Oklahoma was because the bootleggers swarmed into the new state, en-Indiana-License by county commis- into local matters in which they had abling the negro to get all the booze no moral right to interfere. It is a he could drink. The prime object of the dispersary law is to prevent the negro from getting whisky,

Agents of the Anti-Saloon league are telling or the prohibition wave said to he sweeping the country, but they fall to say that the extension of dry territory in the north has been wholly under state laws providing for the high license, local option system.

Sentiment for statutory prohibition has made headway in the south only although two southern sintes nell liquor as Deverbous and all save Georgia have high Heunes laws. There is a he siving its attention to the constant line it is not for stafatory probibition. The