THE
BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC.

Devoted to Our Own Locality--We Labor for Its Interests.

THIRTY-SECOND YEAR. NO. 48. BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, FRIDAY APRIL 1 1910. WHOLE NUMBER, 1667

Some Facts on the Liquor Question That Will Convince You Local Option Is Failure.

It is charged by the Anti-Saloon League that the licensed saloon is responsible for most of the poverty and domestic difficulties in this country, in addition to which, the Anti-Saloon League charges that the saloon is a powerful influence against the progress of religion.

Laying aside all appeals to emotions as unworthy of debaters, when cold unanswerable facts are at hand, let us take up these charges one by one and see whether they are borne out by these facts.

The Anti-Saloon League charges all the poverty of the country to the saloon directly or indirectly. The Committee of Fifty, composed of such men as Honorable Seth Low, LL. D., New York; President Charles W. Eliott, of Harvard University; Bishop Edward G. Andrews, of the Methodist Episcopal church; Richard Watson Gilder, editor of the Century Magazine, who died the other day; Jacob H. Schiff, Charles Dudley Warner, and Hon. Carroll D. Wright, of the Clark College, Worcester, Mass., who spent several years in investigating the liquor problem, and published six volumes treating the liquor problem in its various aspects, found that of 29,923 cases reported by charitable organizations, societies and other organizations, dealing with the poor in their homes, 18.46 per cent was attributable to the personal use of liquor; 2.07 per cent to the intemperate habits of one or both parents; 0.45 per cent to the intemperance of legal guardians and 7.39 per cent to the intemperate habits of others not parents or guardians. Thus the average percentage of poverty due directly or indirectly to the use of liquor was 25.6 per cent with 6.03 of the total number of cases unaccounted for. This is the condition in the United States where the saloon evil is at its worst. The figures of the Committee of Fifty would indicate that the Anti-Saloon League is about one-fourth right.

The German Imperial Statistical Bureau, however, has found that only two and one-tenth per cent of 1,367,347 cases were pauperized by drink.

Prof. Warner of the Leland Stanford University, California, has prepared a table based on 15 separate investigations of actual cases of poverty numbering 100,000 in America, England and Germany, all the facts having been collected by trained investigators unbiased by theory. From these figures it appears that about 20 per cent of the worst cases of poverty are due to misconduct and 75 per cent to misfortune. Drink causes only 11 per cent while lack of work, or poorly paid work causes nearly 30 per cent.

Maine has been dry for sixty years. Michigan is wet. Dry Maine has 163 of every 100,000 of its people living in almshouses. Michigan has 112 out of every 100,000 of her people in almshouses. Does this agree with the Anti-Saloon League's theory that the saloons are responsible for all the poverty of the country?

With reference to the domestic relations, wherein, according to the Anti-Saloon League, drink is a chief cause of trobule, the evidence of the recent Bulletin of the United States Census Bureau on marriage and divorce is interesting. If there is any efficacy in prohibition it would certainly be demonstrated in Maine which has been "dry" by law for more than half a century, yet the United States census shows that from 1897 to 1906 there were granted 3,628 divorces for drunkenness; Kansas has been dry 30 years, but from 1897 to 1906 4,086 divorces were granted for drunkenness. These divorces were granted in "dry" states, please bear in mind, and assuming that these divorces were only the exceptions which proved the rule, you would naturally expect to find in Michigan, with its thousands of saloons a number of divorces for drunkenness perhaps one hundred fold greater in proportion to the population.

Now comes the United States Census Bureau, with its amazing evidence that in Maine 20.2 per cent of all the divorces granted from 1897 to 1906 were because of drunkenness; that in "dry" Kansas 3.5 of all the divorces granted in this period were for drunkenness, while in "wet" Michigan, not 50 per cent, as you would naturally expect, but only 2.4 per cent of all the divorces granted for drunkenness. In other words, in proportion to the population, Maine has nearly 10 times as many divorces for drunkenness as Michigan, while Kansas has 50 per cent more than Michigan. Do Uncle Sam's figures give the lie to the Anti-Saloon League's charge that the saloon's cause domestic trouble?

Rev. Purley A. Baker, who is the general superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of America, in his year-book for 1908, said "The Anti-Saloon League is the federated church in action against the saloon. Its agents are of the church and under all circumstances loyal to the church. It has no interest apart from the church." This is the Anti-Saloon League's declaration of interest in religion. The question of vital importance to those sincere and earnest Christians who desire the progress of their church is this,—does the work of the Anti-Saloon League and kindred organizations tend to the progress of the church in the saving of souls, or does it tend to retard the spread of Christianity? Let us turn again to the United States census for a reply.

From Bulletin No. 103, dealing exclusively with the statistics of religious bodies in the United States, we find that prohibition Maine in 1890 had 159,846 church communicants and in 1906 had 212,986, an increase of 33 per cent. Prohibition Kansas in 1890 had 336,575 and in 1906 had 458,190, an increase of 36 per cent. You would naturally expect that Maine and Kansas, with all the great moral forces of prohibition behind them would far outstrip wet wicked Michigan in the increase of church membership. But what is this we find, on page 84 of the same Bulletin? Michigan, a state where liquor licenses are sold and where saloons flourish, had in 1890 569,504 church members and in 1906 Michigan had 982,479, or an increase of 72 per cent. In other words the percentage of increase in church membership has been just twice as much in wet Michigan as in dry Kansas and more than twice as great as in dry Maine.

Great stress is laid by the Anti-Saloon League upon the amount of money taken away from legitimate business interests by the saloons. Maine has been a prohibition state since 1858, theoretically there are no saloonkeepers, brewery or wholesale liquor dealers in Maine, and Maine, therefore, should be the wealthiest of states. It is quite likely that the Anti-Saloon League's year-book for 1908 would not print a statement injurious to its own interests, unless it were sure of the truth of that statement. On page 62 of that year-book we find that prohibition Maine paid Uncle Sam for 869 liquor licenses. Who supports these 869 liquor dealers? Do you imagine that they are in business for their health? Do you think the business men of Maine have saved much money by the theoretical elimination of the saloons?

Kansas has been under prohibition since 1880, or nearly thirty years, but the United States Internal revenue figures show that year before last 3,354 liquor dealers paid the federal liquor license in Kansas.

Bulletin No. 104 of the United States Census Bureau, entitled mortality statistics: 1908, contains some very interesting statistics on the general death rates and causes of death in most of the states of the Union, for 1908. It is particularly interesting to Michigan citizens because of the present fight for and against prohibition in this state.

Prohibitionists and Anti-Saloon League emotionalists argue that the liquor traffic is responsible for most of the deaths from tuberculosis, cancer, pneumonia, Bright's Disease, etc., because, they say, that any use of alcohol tends to weaken the system and reduce any persons ability to fight off disease. Even cider, they say, should be shunned.

Maine has been a prohibition state for more than sixty years and, therefore, should be comparatively free from deaths from these causes. Maine's death rate, should also be very much lower than that of Michigan, which has been wet ever since the early seventies, however, here is what the United States Census Bureau has to say as to the deaths from all causes in 1908:

Maine (dry) 1,595, per 100,000 population.

Michigan (wet) 1,383, per 100,000 population.

Dry Maine's death rate therefore is 202 per 100,000 higher than of Wet Michigan.

The Bulletin further says, that in Dry Maine there were in 1908 121.7 deaths from tuberculosis per 100,000 population, while "wet" Michigan had only 85.

"Dry" Maine had 96.4 deaths per 100,000 population from cancer in 1908, while "wet" Michigan had only 72.9.

"Dry" Maine had 115 deaths per 100,000 populaton from pneumonia in 1908, while "wet" Michigan had 66.1.

"Dry" Maine had 95.3 deaths per 100,000 population from Bright's Disease in 1908, while "wet" Michigan had 63.5.

Most suicides are charged up to the evil influence of the saloon by its opponents on one theory or another. Behold the evidence of the United States Census Bureau on suicides in "dry" virtuous Maine and "wet" wicked Michigan.

Maine (dry) 15.5 suicides per 100,000 population.

Michigan (wet) 14.9 suicides per 100,000 population.

Now will you vote dry?

Lansing is about as wet a city as there is in the state, outside of Detroit, and Lansing electors are to vote on local option in April. Pontiac has been dry for two years, and will vote on local option again in 1910. If there is any merit in the arguments of the Anti-Saloon League that the saloon tends to increase the death rate, "dry" Pontiac should have a much smaller death rate than "wet" Lansing. However, the United States Census Bulletin shows a remarkable difference in the death rates in these two cities for 1908.

In "Wet" Lansing the death rate from all causes per 100,000 population was 1,225, while in "dry" Pontiac the death rate was 1,860, or practically 50 per cent higher than in Lansing in 1908.

Those physicians who have made an especial study of tuberculosis, say with one accord, that whisky drinking is a great aid to the development of consumption. Therefore, the deaths from tuberculosis in Lansing should be many more than in Pontiac, where the saloons having been voted out, there is theoretically much less whisky drinking. Nevertheless the United States Census Bureau announces that in 1908 there were in "wet" Lansing 83.1 deaths per 100,000 population from tuberculosis, while in "dry" Pontiac there were 239.5.

Does local option tend to bring about better health conditions in dry counties?

Now let us turn to the financial side of the problem. Prohibition enthusiasts may sneer at the man who figures what prohibition means in taxes but the prohibitionist won't help pay your taxes. He won't help raise your wages either. Let us see what Uncle Sam says in a recently issued Bulletin, No. 93, of the United States Census, which deals with statistics of wage earners, etc. On page 148 we find that the average weekly wage of all em-

(Continued on page 8)

"DRYS" REPLY

To the Article "Insulting Charges" Which Appeared in Last Week's Issue.

EDITOR OF THE ECCENTRIC:-

In your last issue occurred an article entitled "Insulting charges" evidently written by a "wet" that comes so far from being argument or logic and is so full of misstatements that it scarcely needs an answer, yet we will call attention to some of its statements.

The writer evidently has confused the business men of the state with the liquor dealers, for the business men have not been seeking of late to regulate the saloon; but the saloon men, to save their business that an indignant and suffering people are fast voting out of existence, have been trying to blind the eyes of the people by talking about reforming and regulating the saloons.

Their talk about "decent and orderly" saloons is sickening, for there are few if any, that are such. This is true from the very nature of their business. The goods they sell make their customers irresponsible and law breaking, forgetful of the claims of law as well as of their duties to their families. The more so called decency and better regulation thrown about the saloon increases the temptation to young men and prepares the modern drinker for the dive.

The attempt to compare the saloon and its law breaking proclivities to the fraud of our land offices is foolishness, for there is a legitimate need of a land office and one properly conducted is productive of good while the best conceivable saloon is always productive of evil.

Again railroads properly conducted are conducive to the convenience, comfort and well being of the community and should be compelled to obey law, while the saloon is conducive to none of these things but rather is debasing and demoralizing to the community and therefore should be put out of business.

The Standard Oil trust as a trust is not needed and should be abolished but oil is needed and should be produced and sold to the public in an honest and fair way and the sale will be conducive to the health, wealth and prosperity of the people, while the sale of liquor as a beverage is not and never can be.

All attempts to regulate and bring good out of a thing that is evil, is futile. As well try to regulate a mad dog or a rattle snake. There is only one way to deal with either. The best degulated, most orderly and decent saloon, if such can be conceived of, will bring forth evil, and only evil, will start men and boys on their way to fill drunkards graves.

The well regulated German saloons spoken of are demoralizing Germans until the German government itself is now awaking to the danger and the German emperor is refusing any longre to countenance drinking.

The present writer "holds no brief" for the Anti-Saloon League, but he fails to see any loss of "prestige" when each election for five years has brought added "dry" territory, it is the "wets" that are losing ground and prestige.

The writer of "Insulting Charges" does not show how a "dry" condition adds to the temptation to boys to drink from whisky bottles. Of course he forgets to tell us that many saloon keepers entice boys, even little boys, into their places with offers of free drinks to teach them the habits of drinking. Are there not secret bottles emanating from well regulated saloons? Are not the conditions existing now, bad as they are, immeasurably better than when two years ago the saloons did a thriving business. The wettest dry town is immensely better than the dryest wet town.

The writer shows his ignorance of Michigan history when he talks about Michigan once having constitutiona prohibition, for it is not true. We had a lame excuse for statutory prohibition once but it did not even prohibit the sale of wine, beer or cider and still it was so well enforced that there were more convictions during the last year of its existence than ever before. The law was repealed by the legislature in response to a threat of the liquor dealers at a convention held in the city of Detroit and not because of any influence brought to bear by legitimate business men.

Yes, if the prohibition movement continues to grow it will stop the manufactures of all liquors for all but legitimate, medicinal and mechanical purposes and the brewers and distillers will have to turn their property to other uses but we will gladly square accounts with them and pay their damages, less than one half billion dollars, if they will pay damages to their patrons in the two billion dollars they took from them last year and gave them nothing of value in return, therefore if they will pay the damage to the state arising out of the care for the criminals, paupers and insane, caused by their business, amounting each year to more than the entire value of their property.

The writer of "Insulting Charges" is fooling with the fire when he cites Maine. When Maine adopted prohibition her wealth was $210 per capita and now it is $922. More farmers in Maine own their homes than in any state east of the Mississippi river. Maine is the only state in the union that has more depositors in the saving banks than it has voters. In the number of weople who own their own homes free from debt Maine leads the world. In New York 17 out of every 100 own their homes, in Massachusetts 18, in Connecticut 19 and in Maine 49, a record that cannot be found anywhere in the world where the saloon exists. Maine's natural resourses are very limited, having practically the poorest soil of any state in the union, her timber is practically gone and yet without the saloon to rob her laboring classes they own their farms and homes and put their earnings in the savings banks beyond any other state in the union. In the scarcity of crime, insanity and pauperism she leads all the states of her section. Of the 9,350 murders in 1906 in the United States, Maine only furnished three. Maine may not be able to pay the highest price to her school teachers still she employs more teachers in proportion to her population than any state in the union. After Maine had had prohibition on her statute books for 40 years she incorporated that principle in her constitution by a majority of over 47,000. The longer she has had prohibition, the better she has been satisfied with it. The same will be true in Oakland county.

If Oakland county goes wet who will be glad? Who? Keepers of saloons and houses of ill fame, the gamblers, hold ups and thieves, the brewers, distillers and bottlers, every force for vice, graft, lawlessness and cruelty will rejoice and the wicked will triumph. In that triumph, truth, right and order will be hurt but not destroyed.

FREE! FREE! FREE!

Handsome Prizes For Every Girl Who Gets Busy In Our Great Big $400 Piano Contest.

Below we present a small picture of the beautiful $10 Gold finished Jewel Box, which the ECCENTRIC will give absolutely free to each and every young lady who brings or sends $10 or more on subscriptions or renewals to this office on or before six o'clock Saturday evening April 30 or if you prefer

we will give you a beautiful $10 Ruby Cluster Jewel Set Gold Ring. Those who only bring in $5 during this time will be given a fine $3.50 warranted ountain pen.

AN EXTRAORDINARY OFFER.

To the cue who brings in the most on subscriptions eithor new or renewals puriug this period will be awarded a very handsome $25 Gold Watch. Thus it is possible for you to win three valuable prizes in a very short time, and with very little effort.

Prizes are now exhibition at the drug store of Chas. J. Shain. Call and ask to see them.

MORETHER AND BETTER.

Besides winning these beautiful prizes, this subscription money gives you a great number of votes on the big $400 Prize piano and other final prizes, which are soon to be given to the most popular girls in section of the state.

The names of the girls nominated will appear in our next issue, other names following in the order received. Others who so desire, can enter the race. Some among the list will get the piano and the second and third prizes, which are to be named later, and all who work will get numerous other prizes. This beautiful Piano will soon be on exhibition in the new office of THE ECCENTRIC, in the new Telephone Building, on Pierce street, nearly opposite the Post Office. It is a beauty and would grace any home. Don't fail to come and examine for yourself, play on it, and ask us all about any feature of the contest you do not understand, but in the meantime be getting your friends to subscribe for THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC, and cut votes out of our ads. That's what it takes to win. If you go to sleep on the job some other young lady is going to step in, and win the prizes you might have won.

W. H. POOLE, M. D,
PRACTICE LIMITED TO
EYE, EAR, NOSE and THROAT
Office 270 Woodward Ave., Detroit.
Residence, Woodward Ave., just north of Cemetery Road, Birmingham.

WALL PAPER
New Patterns and Designs For Spring of 1910
5,000 Rolls Now In!
More Coming
Price from 4c to 25c per Roll
New Spring Line of Men's Work Shirts, 50c
F. BLAKESLEE
BIRMINGHAM

"In the Spring time the young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love,"
And you will need Dishes to commence housekeeping with.
See Those
Dinner Sets
Corn Peas Tomatoes 3 for 25c
Extra Standards
All *GOOD* grades of goods. Stock large. Prices reasonable.
Spencer & Ferguson
SHOES GROCERIES FURNISHINGS

Disinfectants
That Disinfect
Protect Your Animals
KILL Those Pests
TOBACCO DUST
FOR
Vermin on Horses Cattle Poultry or Sheep
Lee's Lice Powder
HESS & CLARK'S INSTANT LOUSE KILLER!
In packag es. Also all kinds of LIQUID DISINFECTANTS.
Druggist Jas. W. Cobb Grocer
Birmingham

H. B. Parks & Co.
Birmingham
Dealers in All Lines of

Farm Machinery
OLIVER, SYRACUSE and MOORE *PLOWS*
Weber and Columbus Wagons; Empire, Ontario and Dowagiac Drills, Binders, Mowers, Loaders, Rakes, Gasoline Engines, Appleton Huskers and Grinders, Corn Planters, Manure Spreaders, Harrows, Drags, Rollers, Etc.
Buick and International Automobiles

Handsome Presents
See Our Beautiful Display of
Diamonds Watches Jewelry Clocks Silverware and Cut Glass
We Save You 30 per cent on Woodward Ave. prices
THE QUALITY OF EVERY ARTICLE WE SELL IS FULLY GUARANTEED
THE ADOLPH ENGGASS JEWELRY CO.
Established 1865
Opposite Hudson's 22 GRATIOT AVE.
Only a few doors from Woodward Avenue
DETROIT

Do You Know
A. R. PARKS'
Bone Grinder
Is running now day and night, and that now you can buy any quantity you may need at a price that is right? MAKE HENS LAY. Ground Bone will do it.
A. R. PARKS.

JNO. D. RIKER, M. D.
Practice limited to
EYE, EAR, NOSE, THROAT
PONTIAC, MICH.

H. F. Smith
Electrician
Estimates cheerfully given on all kinds electrical work.
MOTORS WIRING FIXTURES BELLS REPAIRS
Phone No. 80
Royal Oak

MADAM STRYKER—Electrolysis manicuring, shampooing, hairdressing, electric and vibratory face massage, electric scalp treatments, hair dyeing and bleaching; toilet articles, hair manufacturing, switches puffs, pompadours and doll wigs, made from combings; chiropody, corns removed without pain, bunions and ingrowing nails treated. Davis Block, Room E. Bell Phone 320J. Corner Saginaw and Huron Streets Pontiac.

FOLEY'S HONEY AND TAR
for children; safe, sure. No opiates

For Sale Cheap
Bath Tub $6
Bath Tub $16
Several Second-hand
DOORS
Can be seen and prices given by calling on
Mitchell at Eccentric Office

FOLEY'S HONEY AND TAR
stops the cough and heals lungs