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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

# THE ILLINOIS ISSUE

The Church in Action Against the Saloon

Vol. I

Chicago, Illinois, February 23, 1906

No. 6

## FARMERS DECLARE OPPOSITION TO SALOONS

### Two Hundred Taxpayers Object to the Tyranny of Taxation Without Representation

The rising tide of public sentiment is sweeping over the land. This sentiment is against the open dram-shop. The farmer is no longer willing to keep silent. He speaks and speaks in a definite language.

The cry that the saloon makes a live town is becoming hushed. A counter declaration is heralded forth. **The saloon kills the town.**

For a few paltry dollars cities and villages have sold virtue, morality and decency. Cities have become corrupt and villages vile. To those cities and villages the farmer has been invited to trade. **For their crime he has been compelled to pay.** In addition a slur has been hurled against him, charging him with inability to resist temptation and desire for debauchery and immorality.

There is an end to this. The farmer no longer holds his peace in the face of those charges. He now demands a clean saloon-free town. It is safer for his wife, his sons and daughters. It is easier on his pocket book when he comes to pay his taxes. **Too long has he been denied his rights to speak his mind in public or at the ballot box.** Now he is to the front and will be heard. Mighty and worthy as the farmer is he will win the object of his earnest desire.

We print the following expression of sentiment which we consider to be

### A Timely Demand by a Sincere Constituency

**Saloon Objectionable Because it Produces Poor Farm Help, Lawlessness, High Taxes, Libelous Charges**

The farmers around Rossville have watched the influence of the liquor saloon and have found it against their interests. They lift up their voices in this earnest petition.

**We, the undersigned farmers living adjacent to Rossville, and who are interested in the growth of the town, as our home town, do herewith petition the merchants and citizens of that village to prevent the return of the saloon to Rossville next spring.**

Our objections to the saloon are many, but the relation of a few will suffice to show our personal interest.

In the first place we object to the saloon in Rossville for the great number of drunken men it creates, and who recklessly drive over the country roads at night, a menace to all peaceable citizens on the roads, and a source of fear to our wives and children when left at home alone.

We object to the saloon because with the great scarcity of farm labor we are often compelled to employ intemperate men, and the presence of the saloon in Rossville then becomes a matter of serious menace and great expense to us.

We object to the saloon because we believe it fosters and encourages lawlessness, and it is certainly not a pleasing sight for our wives and children when they come to town.

We object to the saloon because we believe it increases our taxes in township and county.

We object to the saloon because we know that the argument used in its favor, that it brings us to town oftener and from greater distances is a libel upon our good sense, morality and ability to resist temptation.

With no intention whatever to coerce but with a feeling that our opinion should rightly influence public sentiment in our home town we respectfully affix our signatures:

This petition was printed in the "Rossville Press" with two hundred names signed. We have not room for those names in this space or we would print them.

All honor to the Rossville farmers. Every town that defies the farmers by putting in saloons against their will should be boycotted by the farmers.

The need for a county local option law becomes more and more apparent. This move by the Rossville farmers will aid greatly in securing it.