

THE ILLINOIS ISSUE

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The Church in Action Against the Saloon

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Primary Law Declared Unconstitutional

Measure Enacted by the Legislature Last Winter Discarded by Supreme Court

The new primary law was declared unconstitutional by the supreme court of Illinois last Thursday. The governor at once called an extra session of the legislature to convene on Tuesday, April 10, for the purpose of framing a new bill. Many misgivings exist as to the possibility of making a primary law that will be wholly satisfactory to all concerned.

The Anti-Saloon League is greatly concerned in this matter. It makes all the difference in the world when it comes to electing a decent legislature whether a reasonable chance has been accorded the people at the primaries to nominate men of their choice.

Blocking the people's will at the primaries is practically blocking it all the way. The supreme purpose of the contorted freak begotten by the unholy parentage of part of the last legislature seems to have been to thwart the will and rights of the people.

Knowing that so much importance is attached to the primaries the whisky crowd will be present to do all in its power to provide loopholes in the new bill by which it may

be possible to defeat decent men. The defiled hand of the liquor dealers was seen in some parts of the discarded law and it is not a mere guess to say that this same element was to a great extent responsible for the utter disregard of fairness so glaringly apparent.

The Anti-Saloon League will watch every step and learn what factors are at work. We trust the legislature may not enact into law so reckless a measure that we may afterward be cut off from a chance to fight the enemy by the rights that the American citizen should possess.

It is expensive for the state to have a legislature spend a whole session on a measure totally perforated with imperfections. The people should see to it that a reasonable return be obtained for expenditures. The people of Illinois are entitled to their money's worth from their servants, the legislators.

Meanwhile the League is keeping up its fight. We will have a little more time which is advantageous. Truth will shine brighter the longer it is held up before the people.

Oak Park Fears Saloons

Citizens Take Steps to Make Suburb Prohibition Territory by Legal Enactment

To make Oak Park prohibition territory is the purpose of the Oak Park Improvement Association, which meets at Scoville Institute Saturday evening. The organization will also discuss elevation plans for the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad.

The village is now a "dry" district, but under the law it can be made saloon territory any time the village board decides to grant licenses, it is said. The officials have no intention of admitting saloons, but the community is growing at such a rapid rate that it is feared opinion may change. It is now proposed to make it prohibition territory by law and remove forever the saloon menace.

The association, of which Daniel G. Trench is president and Charles S. Woodard secretary, is active throughout the year in maintaining Oak Park's reputation as a desirable residence village. A new campaign against vacant lot weeds is to be started with the summer season and fought until the last days of summer.—The Post, Chicago.

Who Are the Liberty-Loving People?

"The Champion of Fair Play," the organ of the liquor dealers in Illinois, a few days ago had the following resolution: "Whereas the cause of personal liberty and the right of self-government accorded to us by the constitution of the United States are being seriously attacked by a band of irresponsible fanatics, known as the Anti-Saloon League, who by cajoleries, intimidations and threats of political extermination, known only to the wily and unscrupulous politician, in their endeavor to foster upon the state of Illinois their so-called local option law, which, when unmasked, proves to be a prohibition law, pure and simple, therefore, be it

"Resolved, that we, the members of the Illinois Bottlers' Association in convention assembled, do most heartily join with our liberty-loving organizations in opposition to this misguiding and ruinous county local option legislation, and pledge ourselves to aid in every possible manner in the defeat of such unscrupulous measures." There you have it, the cause of personal liberty and rights of self-government accorded by the constitution of the United States.

Is it not a fact that our local option law provides for the very thing herein complained of? As I understand this measure, every man has a right to go to the ballot box and by his vote say whether his county shall have saloons or not. Is any man a "liberty-loving man" who is not willing that the people of this country shall be governed in all questions by a majority vote? Yes, they say that these rights "are being seriously attacked by a band of irresponsible fanatics known as the Anti-Saloon League." "The irresponsible fanatics" here complained of are the churches of the State of Illinois which number perhaps twenty to one and pay, doubtless, four-