

Tack Them Up

The Political Economy Department of the Illinois W. C. T. U. has just issued an economic poster. It is printed on manila cardboard 14x22 inches, in large red and black letters and sets forth the latest facts and figures concerning the cost of saloons to the taxpayers. We want it tacked up in every depot, postoffice, cheese factory, auction stand and on barns and fence-posts, or wherever it can be seen of men. It will provoke discussion and reach where a lecturer cannot go. For sale at 5 cents each, by Mrs. Eva Kinney Miller, 723 Jackson St., Peoria, Ill.

Personal Property of Saloons Exempt From Taxation

It has leaked out that fixtures and other personal property used in saloons, such as in other cases would be subject to a personal property tax, are not looked after as they should be.

Take the following from a large Michigan city, Detroit, as expressed by the Detroit News:

"Of the one thousand or more saloons in Detroit only five or six are assessed under the General Property Tax Law. The liquor, beer, cigars, mahogany bar fixtures and plate-glass mirrors pay not a cent of taxes into the coffers of the city except under the license system. A few downtown saloons are assessed moderately for their elaborate equipment, but others escape."

Why this exception? Why do not saloonkeepers pay the same as a candy kitchen or a grocery store? The license fee does not cover the regular tax on stock and furniture.

Chicago and Illinois can afford to look into this matter pretty closely. In the meantime it would be well for the whisky fellows to turn the searchlight onto themselves instead of always harping on the old string that churches do not pay taxes and have therefore no right to rebuke evildoers. Do the saloonkeepers pay their taxes?

The churches like the public schools are public benefactors and the state has so regarded them. Public institutions for public good need not be taxed. This is according to law.

The saloon is a public institution for public harm. That's the difference. Then, too, it seeks to escape its just taxes on personal property. To all the other crimes committed by the un-American saloon must be added the nefarious act of tax-dodging.

Victories in Ohio

Buckeye State Gets What It Asks For in the Legislature

A letter from Superintendent Wheeler, of the Ohio Anti-Saloon League, gives the results secured in the recent legislature. The letter is as follows:

I know you will be interested to learn of the progress we have made in securing temperance legislation in the 77th General Assembly in Ohio.

The Blind Tiger and Speakeasy law was enacted, a measure for which we have fought for six years, but have made no headway. Heretofore it was considered too drastic a measure. The present law has poison in every one of the twenty-one sections for the speak-easies in the state.

In addition to this important law, we secured the passage of the Residence District Local Option law, taking the place of the Brannock law, which Governor Herrick emasculated and for

which he was defeated at the last election. It was very difficult to secure the enactment of this law, because many of Governor Herrick's friends took occasion to embarrass us in the fight as a sort of retaliation.

In addition to these bills, the Thousand-dollar tax bill was introduced, which was finally passed. The enemies of the League tried to hold the organization responsible for the passage of the bill, which could not be done. However, after these enemies had done their worst to misrepresent the League, the same senators who passed the bills above referred to, furnished the votes for the passage of the Dow tax law. The temperance people of the state are divided as to the effect of the measure. Some think it will help the cause; others think it will hinder in the long run. A number of measures of minor importance were passed, which help us indirectly in our fight. Taking it altogether we have made more progress in this session of the General Assembly than in any other since the League work began. I will send you copies of the laws in a few days, as soon as they are printed.

With best wishes to you for the League's success in your state, I am, cordially,
W. B. Wheeler, Supt.

Poor Paris

More Saloon Keepers Than Bakers and Butchers Put Together

From the "Paris Revue Bleue," translated for "Public Opinion," we learn that Paris has only 17,000 bakers and 14,500 butchers, but it has 33,000 saloons. In the whole of France 160,000 persons are employed in making bread, but 500,000 are employed in saloons. An additional fact is that one-twentieth of the voters of the country are employed in this business. All these saloons are gambling resorts. The saloons pay the city taxes. The average amount of liquor consumed in France per head is nine quarts. France, according to this authority, consumes 60,000,000 gallons of bitters and absinthe in addition to her tremendous direct liquor bill.

Would Put out Liquor Traffic

The liquor sellers of England are quoting Scripture. They protest bitterly that the church people are utterly disregarding the divine command "love thy neighbor as thyself" in opposing the liquor traffic and the men who conduct it, and acting in a way which is altogether contrary to the sublime teaching of the Founder of the Christian faith. It is true that church people are not altogether living up to those sublime teachings of which the saloonists speak. If they were they would exterminate the liquor business, root and branch, and so bless their neighbors as themselves.—Pilgrim Teacher, March, 1906.