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# THE ILLINOIS ISSUE

The Church in Action Against the Saloon

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## Agitate, Stir 'Em Up, Keep the Ball Rolling

The following clipping from the Wine and Spirit Gazette should be to our constituency the strongest possible argument as to the value and effectiveness of the Anti-Saloon League and the kind of work its men are doing. The Good Book says: "Woe unto you when all men speak well of you." Workers of the Anti-Saloon League throughout the United States stand in danger of no future woe on this account. We are not a little surprised at this sort of method adopted by our enemies to disrupt our forces and carry their point. Frankly nothing pleases us more. No organization has methods more open and above board than has the Anti-Saloon League, and we court investigation by fair and impartial critics at any time. This is the reason why our work has been so successful and continues to enjoy the increasing confidence of the public.

The Wine and Spirit Gazette delivers itself on the New York situation as follows:

The Wainwright-Tully local option bill passed the Assembly on May 2 amidst scenes which will long be memorable in the political history of this state. The odious and reprehensible methods of the advocates of the bill were mercilessly exposed, not by the opponents of the bill, but by assemblymen who voted for it. The venal and mercenary agents of the Anti-Saloon League—such men as Reid, Bennet and Russell—were pilloried in all the hideousness of their sinuous ways. The mask of Christianity was torn from them, and what remained was a lot of brow-beating and bulldozing lobbyists, who falsely claim an identification with the Church of Christ. It was shown that charity and tolerance which the Son of Man practiced and preached while on earth, was unknown to these fellows who love to prate about the church dominating New York state and not the saloon.

It is not the Church of Jesus Christ which these pseudo-Christians represent, but the Church of Satan in which gold is the all-inspiring force.

Prominent Christian divines stand aloof from this agitation. Prohibitionists from conviction have denounced the sordid and mercenary activity of these fellows. Their bandying about the name of God and hiding behind the church have provoked scandal. It is blasphemy.

There is little hope, however, that the chastening which these fellows have received publicly in the assembly of the legislature of this state will have any effect. They are not working for a fundamental truth or a principle. It is the money of well-meaning but misguided people, they are after. The more they agitate, the more abundant is the flow of gold into their pockets from those who have been deluded by their activity.

It seems the disturbance made by the paid and mercenary agents of the Anti-Saloon League has settled like a nightmare upon some of the members of the legislature. A number of the assemblymen who voted for this bastard bill openly announced that they did so against their convictions under the strain of the brow-beating and bulldozing tactics of well-meaning, "but misguided and misled" people of their own locality.

There is no moral sentiment behind this bill. The noise and hubbub made about it by the agents of the Anti-Saloon League resembles an inflated bubble which contains nothing but wind. It is sincerely to be hoped that this bubble will be pricked by the sober second thought of the people between now and election time next fall.

It is the duty of all friends of personal liberty to continue the good work that was so auspiciously begun in the assembly chamber of May 2, by rendering every possible assistance in the exposure of this fraud and humbug.

## Report of Legislative Superintendent

During the past year the law enforcement work and the legislative work have been placed in my charge.

### Law Enforcement

Our law enforcement department does not aim, as is probably well known, to do the law enforcement work for localities, but it does aim to suggest, to furnish legal aid when required, and to recommend detectives for local work. These detectives, however, are not employed by the League, but simply recommended, and paid by the local people. We have replied to innumerable requests for advice on specific points, and we find that there are more than one hundred localities where we have had more or less to do with the direction and immediate control of law enforcement work. Without going into the matter in detail, I will say that four of these municipalities alone in which we aided in the

prosecution of cases, secured fines and costs amounting to \$7,895.00.

There have been some interesting and some difficult cases with which we have had to deal, and some of them are still pending. The law enforcement work is the most difficult and aggravating branch of the League work. The difficulty in finding suitable men to do detective work has been no small item in our labors. The unwarranted expectation of the ability of outside attorneys to accomplish results in spite of hostile local officials, has also been the cause of some annoyance. We have been trying to teach in the law enforcement work constantly, that it is not the business of any outside agency to enforce law; that it is the business of officials to do it, and it is only at the last extremity that the people should take the law in their own hands and attempt to enforce it, and then largely for the