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County Option is the Thing

No wonder the liquor power is crying out just now against county option. Two thousand saloons have been banished from the state of Ohio within the past four months by means of county elections under the new law, which went into effect on the first day of last September.

To get a bird's eye view of the results of County Option in the Buckeye State, turn over to page 8 of this paper and take a look at the map.

Sixty-six elections held and only nine of them carried by the saloon! Fifty-seven counties voted "dry," and one dried up without an election, and these, added to the five previously made "dry" under older laws, give sixty-three counties of Ohio's eighty-eight in which no licensed saloon exists.

By and by we will have another object lesson in Indiana, where thirteen counties have voted under the new County Option law, and all but one (Wayne) have gone dry.

And why not? Everybody who has given the matter any thought knows the county is the only logical unit below the state, and county option is the only fair and just local option.

No man has ever attempted to, or ever can, deny the fairness and justice of voting by counties. The criminal and pauper expenses in every county, which are piled up by the saloons, are paid from funds made up by the taxpayers of the entire county. Any taxpayer anywhere in a county has an absolute, indisputable right to have a voice in deciding whether saloons shall exist in any city or village in that county.

There are other reasons, a dozen of them, which might be produced, and which we will produce from time to time, in favor of making the county the local option unit, but this taxpayer's reason is beyond dispute or cavil.

Ask any man to answer it who speaks in your presence against County Option.

Blind Tiger Law Wanted

It is hardly believable that the present Legislature of Illinois will fail to heed the insistent demand that is coming from every part of the state for an effective act auxiliary to the local option measure to secure the prompt and thorough enforcement of that law.

The well-known plan of the liquor interests to discredit the anti-saloon policy and cause its reversal through a carefully worked out system of illicit selling in anti-saloon territory, will not be countenanced by any upright citizen, no matter what may be his views as to the Local Option law itself. Every patriotic man, whether for or against the license system, must stand for the rigid enforcement of law, and especially of a law which has the double sanction of the Legislature and the people of a given locality where the law has been adopted by majority vote.

Members of the Legislature who, during their campaign for election, frankly refused to commit themselves to County Option and other measures desired by the Anti-Saloon League on behalf of the people, declared themselves strongly in favor of a measure that would provide for the use of the search warrant in procuring evidence of lawless liquor selling—the same kind of a law, in fact, that is now in force in Illinois in regard to gambling. These men insist that when the people of any community decide against saloons, every consideration of fairness and justice demands obedience to their will expressed at the polls.

It is a matter of common knowledge that, as a general rule, men who procure intoxicating liquor from an unlawful seller will not go into court and testify against him. A certain false sense of honor impels him to screen the man who took his chances of getting into jail in order to supply his wants. He will resort to all manner of evasion and quibbling and, in many cases, will commit perjury to shield the accused person.

Thus it happens that, with the brewer or distiller behind him, ready to pay his fine and do everything but go to jail for him, and with his customers