

## Testimony from Tennessee

There can no longer be any question in any mind open to conviction that closing the saloons results in a very marked improvement in the sobriety and order of a city, says the Knoxville (Tennessee) Sentinel. The figures published in the Sentinel yesterday for the first year under prohibition compared with the year previous contributed to the evidence on the subject.

The police arrests, of course, do not indicate absolutely the amount of drunkenness or misdemeanor and crime. It is supposable that the police do not arrest all who are guilty of offenses against the law. The strictness with which the laws are enforced varies. Nevertheless, it may be fairly assumed that the number of arrests in a city from year to year is about the most suggestive index to be obtained as to the order of the community.

During the year previous to the abolition of the saloons and the year subsequent to that event the police of Knoxville have been under the same chief and there is little likelihood that the degree of strictness in enforcing the laws varied to any great extent during the two periods.

### It Is a Fair Comparison

So we believe the arrests in Knoxville furnish a fair criterion as to the extent of drunkenness and crime. The following figures are, therefore, of peculiar significance:

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Total number of arrests from November 1, 1906, to |       |
| November 1, 1907 .....                            | 5,144 |
| Total number of arrests from November 1, 1907, to |       |
| November 1, 1908 .....                            | 2,602 |
| Decrease .....                                    | 2,542 |
| Total number of arrests for drunkenness November  |       |
| 1, 1906, to November 1, 1907.....                 | 2,734 |
| Total number of arrests for drunkenness, November |       |
| 1, 1907, to November 1, 1908.....                 | 1,303 |
| Decrease .....                                    | 1,431 |

Add to the above the fact that, according to the records of the Criminal Court for Knox county, the number of murders decreased from 38 to 14, and the number of all felonies decreased 27 per cent, the change in condition is more evident.

The felony cases showed a decrease from 303 to 222. The misdemeanor cases showed a decrease from 702 to 587.

### A Remarkable Showing

This, it must be granted, is a remarkable showing for the prohibition law. It ought to lead to a cessation of the oft-repeated claims that prohibition is a failure.

When we look on these figures and then consider the records of Chattanooga during the year just closed, over 5,300 arrests being recorded, against 2,602 here, the contrast is the more striking. The conditions in our sister city of about the same size, with its saloons, are evidently very similar to those which prevailed here prior to November 1, 1907. Even under the boasted excise system the criminal record of Chattanooga is

worse than was that of Knoxville with saloons and twice as bad as that of Knoxville without saloons.

The figures above ought to indicate to all the people of Knoxville that they have acted with wisdom in preventing the open sale of liquors in saloons. They have taken a forward step. The drink problem is not solved as yet, but we have advanced toward a solution.

### An Old Delusion Passing

The idea that the saloons are necessary to prosperity is happily passing away. How anyone can seriously argue that it is better for the people of Knoxville to spend a million dollars in bar rooms than in other stores, is past comprehension. Not only is there an economic waste, in the purchase, but also in the weakened abilities of those who become intemperate and are led into vice, crime or pauperism through such expenditures.

Without the saloons we may look forward to a generation of young men who have never known or seen the saloon or been subject to its temptations. How much that means to us! On this New Year's Day Knoxville should feel proud of its record.

### False Prophecies Fail

We have been accused by people of less fortunate cities of being narrow and foolish. The ruin of Knoxville was foretold. And it was predicted that we would have as much drinking, drunkenness and crime as before.

The sturdy manhood of the city has stood firm and by maintaining the sentiment for law enforcement has made the law a success. The prophets of failure have been confused.

### It Has Helped Knoxville

The Hon. James H. Welcker, in addressing the state convention of the Anti-Saloon League of Tennessee recently, gave the following figures as to the results of the Anti-Saloon policy in the important city of Knoxville in that state:

"November 1, 1906, to November 1, 1907, freight receipts were exceeded by the receipts of November 1, 1907, to November 1, 1908, by \$5,162.66, this being the only city in the state showing an increase during the recent panic.

"February, 1908, over February, 1907, approximately \$6,000 outgoing freights, the best results shown by any station on the entire Southern Railway system.

"Appropriations by the City Council, 1908, over 1907, \$56,500; five and one-half miles of streets built."

## Busse Wins Praise

Mayor Busse has been praised by the Cook County Retail Liquor Dealers' Association for closing two disreputable saloons on Wells street near the river and refusing to restore their licenses on any terms.

There are probably a thousand saloons in Chicago which, from time to time, shelter and protect criminals and afford them convenient places to plot their crimes and elude their pursuers. Mayor Busse has closed two of them.

Great is Busse!