

## St. Louis Dry Three Days

Under the liquor laws operative in the state of Missouri the saloons of the large cities are controlled by excise commissioners, one for each city. The law empowers these excise commissioners to regulate the hours during which liquor shall be sold, to revoke and issue licenses and to formulate regulations for places where liquor is sold, such, for instance, as to debar music, the display of "works of art," and the selling of intoxicants to women.

The law also requires that saloons shall be closed on election days, on days when political party primaries are held and on Sunday.

### Dry for Three Days

In pursuance of this statutory regulation, says the Woman's National Daily, the St. Louis excise commissioner recently ordered the saloons of that city closed from Thursday midnight until the regular hour for opening at 5 a. m. Monday. This was because the Democratic city primaries were to be held Friday and the Republican primaries were to be held Saturday. Sunday was a regular closing day anyway. In consequence, not only of this law, but its enforcement, St. Louis was practically "dry" for 77 hours.

Never before in the history of the city, so far as anyone remembers, has prohibition been in force for such a long period. It may therefore be conceded that this temporary prohibition furnished a good test, both of the possibility of preventing the sale of liquor, when the authorities are determined to enforce the law, and of the benefits to be derived from closing the saloons.

### How It Worked

What, then are the facts? From midnight Thursday until midnight Friday 11 arrests were made for drunkenness, and it is conceded that the police were unusually active because Thursday was a primary election day and the force was under strict orders to bring in everyone who was found to be under the influence of liquor. From Friday midnight to Saturday midnight there were 11 more arrests for drunkenness. From Saturday midnight to 5 a. m. Monday, there were two arrests for drunkenness, making a total of 24 arrests for this cause in the 77 hours.

This is undoubtedly the smallest number of cases of drunkenness reported in St. Louis during any 77-hour period. The significance of the figures is shown when comparison is made with the previous week. From Thursday to Friday midnight of the preceding week, there were 66 cases of drunkenness and from Friday to Saturday midnight there were 116 such cases. In 48 hours, therefore, during the week previous, the arrests for drunkenness totaled 182 against 24 for 77 hours during the "lid" week.

### Easily Accounted For

The 24 cases of drunkenness that were found are easily accounted for. One of them originated in East St. Louis, across the river, and the other 23 came from what are known as "lid clubs," organizations which have as their sole object the circumvention of the law on days when the law requires saloons to be closed. These clubs have

never been subject to regulation, and while the 2,200 saloons of the city (one to every 400 residents) are closed, they do a thriving business.

St. Louis' excise commissioner has never been quoted as favoring liquor prohibition, although he has been a constant advocate of the most strict regulation. Concerning the results of the 77 hours of enforced prohibition, he says:

"Well, what do you want me to say? Facts are facts; you can't get around them, can you? There is no doubt that closing the saloons has been morally a good thing. The police records for the past two days show it. There have been fewer arrests for drunkenness, naturally, BUT ON TOP OF THIS THERE HAVE BEEN NO SHOOTING SCRAPES, NO PEOPLE CUTTING ONE ANOTHER—IN FACT, FEWER ARRESTS FOR CRIMES OF ANY SORT. THE PROPOSITION IS ITS OWN ARGUMENT."

And even St. Louis survived this violent shock to "personal liberty."

## Cleaning Up Egypt

Law enforcement goes merrily on in Southern Illinois. In addition to the half dozen illicit liquor sellers in Jackson county who marched up to the clerk's desk at Murphysboro, pleaded guilty and surrendered their government "licenses," a quartet of bootleggers were recently convicted at Benton, in Franklin county, and a number of others are awaiting trial.

State's Attorney Hickman, assisted by Messrs. Strickland, Hart, Layman and others, is doing good work down there. The Benton Republican says: "This is about the first time the bootleggers have been up against the real thing good and strong."

At Pinckneyville a number of persons pleaded guilty to selling intoxicating liquors, surrendered their government revenue stamp, removed all bar fixtures and furniture, took down all signs and blinds and the town is cleaned up generally.

## Publisher's Announcement

(From the Tulsa World, Oklahoma.)

Thoroughly conscientious in its efforts to conserve the moral and material welfare of the community, and unwilling to, in any manner, throw anything in the pathway of a moral uplift, the Daily World has cancelled all of its advertising contracts with whisky houses and hereafter will accept no such advertising patronage on any terms.

THE WORLD PUBLISHING COMPANY.

## License for Bribery

One argument against local option is the cost to the county of the trials, says the Rockford Republic. More than one thousand men have been called into the box at San Francisco in the Calhoun bribery case—1,265 to be exact—and dismissed, drawing their pay for the time retained in court. Isn't that a strong argument that bribery is too expensive to control and should therefore be licensed?