

## Pigs in a License City

The Decatur Daily Review cannot be accused of being a prohibition or anti-saloon organ. In fact, its nearest approach to that side of the liquor question has been a sort of neutrality which it has endeavored, with only moderate success, to maintain.

Therefore in the following editorial comments on the drink situation in Springfield it cannot be charged with fanaticism or undue prejudice against the drink traffic.

The report from Springfield last week, says the Review, was that license had been renewed to 213 saloons. There had been 217 saloons in the place and it was thought that many would be closed, for it was sure the business was overcrowded and that most of the proprietors were not making money. However, when the showdown time came only four proprietors pulled out.

It is a wonder to all that Springfield can support the number of drinking places it has. The business, according to report, is by no means confined to the 213 places that have taken out license.

It is told that in Springfield are at least 400 places where a drink of liquor can be bought, and of course all of them get some patronage. Saloon men in that place remark that in many drug stores even a mixed drink can be had, and of course it is a simpler matter to connect with a straight. Outside the drug stores that sell liquor and the saloons, there are enough other places where drinks can be had as a matter of course to raise the number of drink parlors to 400.

Of course the places that sell without license make it hard on the saloon men who are in the business in regular fashion and are paying handsomely for the privilege. Some saloon men have tried in a quiet way to get the illicit competition eliminated, but they have not had much encouragement.

It was the general feeling of dissatisfaction with conditions on the part of the saloon men that gave rise to the rumor that many licenses would be surrendered. But that rumor did not materialize.

And still the wonder remains that a place the size of Springfield will support more than 200 saloons, each paying a license of \$500, when there are nearly 200 other places in which a drink can be and is bought. The thirst of that town must be something tremendous and persistent.

It is hard to realize that in this day, with all the progress that has been made in temperance in the last quarter century, enough liquor is consumed in a city the size of Springfield to support 213 saloons and the other drink places mentioned. Certainly they must be doing more drinking in Springfield, per stomach, than in any other place in Illinois.

## No Drunken Passengers

The Illinois Traction System is unfortunate in connecting many wet towns with anti-saloon communities, and the result is that the company often hauls drunks and others who create disturbances.

The company has made life rather unpleasant for these offenders, but now a system of wholesale prosecution has been prepared for with Senator Burton of Carlinville at the head as chief counsel.

The management promises that cars shall be as peaceful "as a Sunday School." This will be good news for the many who had almost quit riding in the cars on account of these unpleasant features.

## Beware of the Boycott

An attempt is being made by the liquor people to have a local option election in Jacksonville this fall, two years from the election at which the precinct was made anti-saloon territory.

Those who refuse to sign the petition are threatened by the liquor interests with the boycott. The Courier of Jacksonville reminds these people that the boycott is a dangerous weapon for the man who uses it.

The boycott game was started in Springfield during the local option campaign a year ago last spring, says the Courier, and it was dropped as would be a red hot iron, once its possible consequences were realized in their fullness.

An ice dealer who favored the saloon objected to an employee in Springfield's greatest mercantile establishment who was wearing a local option button. The proprietor gave the employee choice of dismissal or removing the offending emblem. The former was chosen.

The lady who owned the building heard of the incident and notified the proprietor of the big store that he would be obliged to vacate the building as soon as his lease expired, which was within a few months. Thunderstruck, the storekeeper sought the lady and made his peace by restoring the employee to his place and making all possible amends for the wrong done to him.

But the matter had become more or less current news and resulted in not only the big store losing some of its best patronage of many of the better class of citizens of the capital city. The big store proprietor and the manager of the ice company will both testify that the boycott is a dangerous thing to monkey with. Once started, it is difficult to manage, and is likely to kick backward.

Any person doubting this Springfield story, says the Courier, may ask the proprietor of Springfield's biggest mercantile establishment—the one located in the splendid building at the southeast corner of the court house square.

## Saloons and Workmen

Formerly what was known as a "dead line" was drawn by the authorities having the issuing of liquor licenses in a city where is located one of the great plants of the American Steel and Wire Company, so that there was no saloon within a considerable distance of the works. The noon hour hardly afforded time for the workmen to get to even the nearest saloon and return to work before the whistle blew.

A few years ago the "dead line" was broken, says the Iron Age, and the saloons were established close to the gates of the plant. The decrease in productive capacity was noticeable, and at the same time the number of accidents increased materially.

After several years of this condition a local upheaval placed the community under prohibition, incidentally ridding the neighborhood in question of its drinking places. An increase in efficiency then followed, accompanied by a falling off in the percentage of accidents.

Intemperance is the cause of a large part of the evils, crimes, and sorrows of mankind, and no right-minded person ought to participate in a custom so prolific of human misery.

No man has the right to help the liquor interests make money by means that unmake American homes and American manhood.