

Judge for Yourself

While the local option campaign was on in Genoa Junction, Wisconsin, the Times of that village printed, in its issue of March 26, the following letter from E. H. Hoyt of DeKalb, Illinois, local representative of brewery interests:

Gentlemen: Your letter at hand and contents noted. Would say that I am in a town that went dry and would further say that business has been cut off in all branches. The moral part is no better; if anything it is worse. The valuation of property has decreased about 20 per cent. A year ago there were no empty houses and now there are plenty of them with rent up as high as ever. There has been an increase of taxes and the city is out of funds and had to be bonded to raise the money to meet the running expenses. The younger people go away to get liquor. It is only necessary for them to go two and one-half miles and then return drunk, then the supposition is that the liquor was secured in town. Many bring it home with them. The people here are all getting sick of local option with the exception of a few cranks that aren't in business and don't pay taxes who holler their heads off for local option. I think this is all the information that I can give you.

Yours truly,

E. H. HOYT.

An Unbiased Statement.

In the DeKalb Advertiser of Friday, July 16, is a letter from Finn Mura, the well-known Normal School graduate, lecturer and scholar, who has been traveling over this part of Illinois, and writes of the situation as he finds it. He makes no reference to the Hoyt letter and presumably knew nothing of it. Mr. Mura says:

I spent several weeks traveling in northern Illinois and took advantage of my opportunity to discuss the effects of prohibition with representative business men in the larger cities, such as DeKalb, Rochelle and Rockford, where prohibition has been in force for over a year. With very few exceptions the business men are very enthusiastic over the results. In DeKalb I talked with more than half a dozen representative men and they were unanimous, with the exception of a barber, in their expression regarding the wholesome effects prohibition is having on the business prosperity of the city.

Some of the laboring men I talked with said that work was never more plentiful in DeKalb nor wages better than at the present time. I asked one business man how the closing of the saloon had affected his business, and he replied: "I don't notice much difference, only that I had several bad debts against drinking men, but after the saloon had been closed for six months every one of these fellows came in and settled up."

What a Manufacturer Says.

I had a pleasant interview with Jacob Haish, the barb wire millionaire of DeKalb, who at the present time conducts a large industry employing hundreds of men, and this is what he told me:

"Before the saloons were closed almost every Monday there would be vacant places here and there throughout my factory, because the men had been on a drunk, and often on Tuesday morning some of the men would not amount to much. The men not only lost their time, but I lost through the inefficiency of the men, caused by drink. Now since the saloons are closed all this is a thing of the past. It rarely happens that a man is missing on Monday morning.

"When we had saloons here, on Monday the saloon-keepers would come to our bank with the checks with which we had paid our men on the Saturday night before. Now the women come on Monday and get their husband's checks cashed and naturally use the money to buy the necessities for their families."

And this is the testimony wherever prohibition has been given a fair trial. Abolishing the saloon from a

village or city never hurts legitimate business, but helps it, and always improves the moral tone of the community.

You can't go to Rockford and tell the business men that the abolishing of the saloon hurts business. Business in Rockford has never been more brisk than it is today. Incidentally I asked a lady there what the taxes were on such a home as they have. She didn't remember, but knew they were less than last year. "What, I said, "less under prohibition than when you had saloons?"

"Yes," she said, "it is so, but I hadn't thought about it."

It is a gratification to see a practical demonstration in Illinois and other states of the fact that even large cities can be run, and business flourish without degrading saloons as a sources of revenue.

Will any man who is really anxious to be on the right side of this question read those two letters and then vote to license saloons in his town?

Dry Policy Pays Well

"The number of arrests has decreased from 50 to 75 per cent in all the cities I have visited where saloons have been closed," writes Archie Bell, staff correspondent, in the Cleveland (O.) News.

"In some instances the percentage ran as high as 90 per cent, and police courts have become almost obsolete so far as exercising their former functions is concerned.

"Manufacturers without exception have told me their men are better off since the 'dry' election.

"The merchants say the laboring people are buying more groceries and articles for the home than formerly.

"Bankers declare the ordinary man is putting more money on deposit than ever before.

"The claim that as much liquor is sold as formerly is a bald fake.

"Zanesville, once an unholy terror of a city, with a population of 24,856 and eighty-four saloons, as well as a remarkable police record, is now orderly, contented and dry as dust."

Praise for Catholics

The speeches at the great Catholic total abstinence meeting at the Chicago Auditorium last Wednesday night were magnificent, writes a Chicago protestant woman to the editor of the Fulton Democrat. Certainly no room was left for any member of that church to feel that he can be a good Catholic and keep a saloon or drink even moderately. Father Mueller of Ohio, a German, declared that a moderate drinker is a moderate drunkard; that a man whose system thirsts for even one drink a day is a victim of chronic alcoholism.

I never heard a more earnest paper on "The Observance of Sunday" than was read by Bishop Canevin of Pittsburg. Chicago's Sunday saloons and worldly amusements were emphatically condemned. At almost every reference to the heinousness of the saloon the great audience broke into prolonged applause.

The parade preceding the meeting moved up Michigan avenue and was witnessed by thousands. We protestants were as proud of it as if it had been our own. God bless the Catholic Total Abstinence Union of America.