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No Such Word as "Fail"

"There are, indeed, but very few who know how to be idle and innocent, or have a relish of any pleasures that are not criminal; every diversion they take is at the expense of some one virtue or another, and their very first step out of business is into vice or folly."

Men have not changed very much in the two hundred years since the above was written by Joseph Addison. Pastors and churches are now on vacation; courts are not in session; beer gardens are flourishing, and many people, because they see evidence of drinking in the outskirts of cities and villages and in parks and groves, feel that the lid is off and that everything is wide open, and, to some extent, they imagine that the forces of righteousness are inadequate to enforce the law.

No doubt there is more beer drinking in the summer than in the colder months of the year, and as men and boys gather in the open air where they can be seen taking with them a keg of beer, the impression obtains that there is more drinking than there is.

In one place recently visited, where the people were discouraged and said that everything was wide open, it was found that while they had five licensed saloons before the local option law went into effect, every one of these places that had been occupied by a saloon before was occupied by a legitimate business, and there was not a single joint in which liquor was being sold.

But because they see evidences of drinking in the outskirts of the city, people get the impression that things are in a bad way and that there is as much liquor drunk as when they had saloons. One person said that liquor was being shipped in by the carload. A careful investigation of conditions there under license and since local option was adopted disclosed the absurdity of this statement. After making a liberal allowance for the bootlegging, where liquor is carried in in suitcases, it was found that less than one-tenth as much liquor is being shipped in now as under license.

Friends of the anti-saloon movement should not become the dupes of the enemy. Whisky men say that as much liquor is being sold under local option as under license, and when anti-saloon men join them in the dismal chorus, it does not take long for a sufficient number to change their opinion upon the license question, so that when an opportunity is given the vote is reversed and saloons are voted back again.

In no city where the least attempt is made to enforce the law are conditions nearly so bad as when saloons existed, and friends of this movement should under no circumstances join the liquor men in saying that conditions are worse than they were nor as bad as they were under license, and that we might as well have saloons. That is precisely what they are working to bring about. First they try to make conditions worse than they were before. Failing in that they try to make people think they are worse. If they succeed in that they win.

When the courts convene in September and begin grinding out their cases and men are fined and sent to jail, all over this state, for violating the law, a rapid change of sentiment will take place upon the question of law enforcement. This paper will have something to say on this subject nearly every week from now on to encourage the people and show them that the law can be enforced and is being enforced.

In the bright lexicon of the Anti-Saloon League there's no such word as "fail."

Read Judge Dickson's Story

The Illinois Issue seldom gives as much space to one article as it gives this week to Judge Dickson's contribution to the latest number of the Circle Magazine. But it is worth the space, even in a paper that has so little space to spare as has this one.

Judge Dickson's story is so intensely true—notwithstanding that it has a semi-fictitious form—and it is so full of encouragement for all who are perplexed over the difficult problem of law enforcement, that it should have the widest possible circulation in these critical days when the enforcement of the local option law in all communities where it has been adopted means so much to its friends and indeed to the communities themselves.

The key note of this narrative is that whatever should be done can be done. Pluck, determination and intelligence will find a way. No case is hopeless and most cases are not half so difficult as they appear.