

while people are afraid to risk the social glass even in their places of business, which are under the ban.

The new laws were framed by a former chief justice of Alabama, Samuel D. Weakley, one of the ablest lawyers in the South. He "worked the rabbit's foot on 'em," figuratively speaking, by the use of such verbiage as he found in the laws of other states which had stood the most rigid tests before the higher courts, and so far as possible followed the verbiage of the federal statutes. He stakes his reputation that they cannot be successfully attacked in the higher courts.

Blocks Their Entire Game.

The milk in the cocoanut is found in two provisions, one making the maximum of alcohol in beverages that can be sold one-half of 1 per cent, and defining places where liquors and beers cannot be sold or exchanged or given away, and the other making the possession of a federal license prima facie evidence of guilt and throwing the burden of proof on the accused.

This reverses in a sense the existing system of legal jurisprudence and makes escape exceedingly difficult.

The new laws prohibit the sale or giving away of liquors at all clubs, and prevent the congregation of parties at private homes for the purpose of drinking. Places of business, including private offices, cannot store liquors to be sold or given away, and any place under suspicion can be raided as a common nuisance and closed under an injunction gotten out by any citizen, unless proof of innocence is forthcoming.

Worse and Worse.

Neither railroads nor express companies are allowed to deliver liquors at homes, and foreign corporations doing business in the state cannot engage in a traffic which is outlawed for domestic concerns on penalty of having their license revoked.

Police powers are extended three miles beyond corporate limits; officers are given the broadest latitude for raiding; sheriffs and other authorities who fail to do their duty are subject to impeachment and punishment; all clubs are required to reorganize within sixty days, to frame new constitutions and by-laws preventing the sale or giving away of liquors on their premises, and to furnish copies of the same, with full lists of their members, to probate judges for filing, under penalty of having their charters revoked and their individual members punished. The possession of a federal license requires the holder to prove innocence or go to jail.

Give Up and Quit.

Already hundreds of federal licenses in the state have been voluntarily surrendered to sheriffs and other local authorities. Sheriffs are required to publish once a month in their county newspapers, in large black-faced type, lists of all parties holding federal licenses, and the cost of the same is to be paid for out of the general funds of the counties.

No billboards are allowed in the state containing advertisements of liquors or beers. Penalties for violation of the laws are from \$50 to \$500 fine, with from two to six months' imprisonment, at the discretion of the court, for the first offense and for each subsequent offense a similar fine, with from three to six months' imprisonment at hard labor for the county.

A careful study of the new laws shows that they are the most strenuous ever known in this country. It is claimed by leading lawyers that they are models of strength as concerns their power to resist attacks on technical grounds, and they have so far almost entirely abolished the liquor traffic in every shape and form in the state.

Those Mattoon Lies

Mattoon has been worked very hard by the liquor people as an illustration of the disaster involved in closing the saloons, and circulars have been scattered far and wide telling a doleful tale of the shutting off of the electric lights and leaving the town in darkness because the cutting off of the saloon revenue left no funds in the treasury to pay for lights.

A well known citizen of that town, whose name may be had by anyone doubting the authenticity of this statement, writes that the shutting off of the lights was done by order of the mayor, whose friendship for the saloon people is a matter of common knowledge, and he issued this order without authority from the city council, and without even consulting the committee on Light. He claimed that there were no funds on hand to operate the municipal lighting plant.

As soon as the plant was shut down, such a protest was made by the citizens that the mayor made a so-called "investigation" and found that a so-called "mistake" had been made in his calculations, and that there was still \$800 in the funds, sufficient to keep the lights going until the taxes should begin to come in. The city council also began to take a hand; and the lights were soon turned on.

As a matter of fact, the city was without lights for three or four nights, but the move proved to be such a boomerang for the mayor, that he was glad to abandon it.

This correspondent writes that in spite of the hard times, and in spite of the fact that the shops, employing a large portion of the working people, have been running on part time for nearly two years, Mattoon is still in a prosperous condition, the bank deposits for 1908 showing an increase of \$175,000, and collections being very much better than before. It is true the city has been afflicted with city officials who have not been in sympathy with the anti-saloon policy and the local option law has not been enforced as well as it would have been with better men in office. It is said that the grand jury is now investigating certain matters that may produce a panic among the members of the gang that is responsible for the spirit of lawlessness that has prevailed much of the time.

The city finances are in as good condition now as they were when the city was getting \$20,000 a year from saloons.

It is exasperating to the better class of Mattoon people to have stories sent out reflecting on conditions in the city when these conditions are due to the very men who are sending out the stories. And this exasperation is intensified by editorials appearing in one of the city papers which seems to be in full sympathy with the whisky crowd.

All that Mattoon needs to make the anti-saloon policy now in force there a permanent feature of its government, is to have honest officials who will earnestly endeavor to enforce all laws without fear or favor. There is no trouble with prohibition. The trouble is with the public officials of Mattoon.

Winning in Idaho

In a recent Record-Herald letter from Boise, Idaho, William E. Curtis says:

"Governor Brady thinks that the prohibition sentiment is growing rapidly in this state and it is already "dry" except in six or eight counties in the mining districts, where the officials will not submit the question to the people. There has been a local option law on the statute books for several years, and it is practically prohibition, because everywhere that a vote has been taken the anti-saloon people have won."