

## Illinois Should Have the Legislation She Wants

"Only votes count!" These are the days to remember this axiom. You are concerned about certain definite temperance legislation the fate of which will rest with the coming Forty-Eighth General Assembly. When the battle is on in the Legislature between the champions of the saloon and the representatives of the people there will be no need for reminding ourselves that "only votes count." Whichever side in the Legislature musters the longest column upon the roll call sheet, wins. Majorities rule in contests like these. Every one interested in the fate of pending legislation realizes this fact when the issue is before the General Assembly. Every one interested ought to remember it before the battle is carried to Legislative Halls. "Only votes count." If these words would strike us with the same force now as they do when the roll is to be called in House or Senate, we would win, for we would realize that now, not then, is the time to get the votes of the Forty-Eighth General Assembly for our propositions.

### The State Undoubtedly Wants County Option.

The next General Assembly convenes in 1913. It ought to give the state a County local option law. It ought to enact certain other laws including an effective Law Enforcement measure and a Residence District option law. There is little question but that the majority of the citizens of Illinois are favorable to these propositions, and Illinois ought to have the legislation she wants. It is recalled that when local option has been under consideration in certain past General Assemblies, telegrams and letters urging favorable action have poured in upon doubtful and hostile members by the thousands. The liquor forces called this "manufactured sentiment." It was not. These messages came from citizens of a state where in seventy of her counties a majority vote has been given against the licensing of saloons. (This vote was revealed at the Township local option elections held in 1908. The unit of vote was the township, and consequently many of the counties remained in the license column through the vote of a wet township, notwithstanding that the majority of the voters of the county were against the retention of the saloon.) These messages came from earnest men and women who have grown weary of the saloon's arrogance and heartsick over its awful cost to the state. They were demanding the right of the voter to render judgment at the polls on this iniquity. The liquor forces feared this sentiment then, and they fear it now. They know if left to the mercy of the voters of our counties, the saloons will be outlawed in the majority of them. There is but little question but that the state of Illinois is ready for County local option and we repeat that the state ought to have the legislation she wants.

### The Time for Action.

This coming ninth day of April, the citizens who are anxious that County local option may become law, will have an excellent opportunity to answer that slur of the liquor lobbyists made in previous contests that this demand for County option is "manufactured sentiment." April ninth is primary election day, and the kind of Legislature we will have in 1913 depends much upon the kind and amount of work we are willing to do now in preparing for that day's battle. Unless men favorable to temperance legislation are nominated on that day they cannot be elected at the following November elections. The Anti-Saloon League has a well-defined plan of campaign. If the temperance people of the State really desire the League to make a successful fight for County local option in the Legislature of 1913, they are urged to enter into and take a part in

this campaign now. Write to the State Superintendent of the League, addressing the Chicago office, 1200 Security Building, indicating your willingness to help, and you will be given full information as to how you may assist in your own community in winning the victory.

### Victory or Defeat Lies with the People.

It is self-evident and plain beyond the need of explanation that the kind of campaign the Anti-Saloon League shall be able to make, will depend on the kind of backing it gets from the temperance people of the state. Weak support will mean a weak campaign. Strong support will mean a strong campaign. The League must not be held responsible for failure unless it is given a volume of support that will warrant success. The fight can be won and County option can be secured. If it is not secured, it will not be the fault of the Anti-Saloon League. It will be the fault of the rank and file who failed to enlist when called upon. If it is secured, it will be because the temperance people of the State of Illinois rose to the occasion and put into the fight the amount of energy, time and money necessary to win. And so, in the last analysis, victory or defeat lies with the people themselves.

### The Important Work of Organization.

The all important work at the present time is the work of organization. It is imperative that each county be thoroughly organized in harmony with the plan agreed upon by the State League. This will insure concerted action on the part of our entire temperance force throughout the state, and as a result will undoubtedly give us the victory. At the risk of being criticised for undue repetition of the story in these columns, we again offer for careful consideration, George R. Stuart's splendid illustration of what organization will do. Read it and resolve to have a part in perfecting the Anti-Saloon League organization, if you have not already entered into the campaign.

### Geo. R. Stuart's Illustration of What Organization Will Do.

I was raised on the farm. Raised pretty often, sometimes with a plow line, sometimes with a hame string. I thank God for my raising. And when I reached the executive age, I came to the age when I wanted to execute—every boy comes to an age when he wants to do something if it is nothing more than to blow up a paper sack full of wind and smash it with his hand. I wanted a gun, but they wouldn't let me have one. So I got a shingle, sharpened one end of it and made a paddle; and I walked into an old red clover field. The field was in full blossom and it looked as if there was a bumble bee on almost every blossom. I can almost see that old clover field to-night. I can almost hear the buzzing of the bumble bee through the distant years. I can almost smell the perfume of the clover.

"How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood,  
When fond recollections present them to view;  
The orchards, the meadow, the deep tangled wildwood,  
And e'en the sweet clover with its bright crimson hue."

I walked up to an old bumble bee and said, "Well, I am going to fix you." Zim! knocked him to earth. I didn't want to crush him with my heel, because I was barefooted and knew he had a business end. I walked up to another bumble bee with my shingle and, zim! I got another one of them, and, zim! I got another, and, zim! I got another; and I kept that up until I was satisfied. I waved my hand over the field and said, "I am, boss of the whole bumble bee situation."

But ten days after that, I saw one old bumble bee flying around a rotten snag. I said, "I licked a field full of you fellows the other day, and I was the boss of the whole field." Well, I went for that fellow and you ought to have seen the bees come out of that snag. I made a straight track for home with bees after me. I wasn't the boss of that field. They hit me in the eye; they hit me here and