

In Spite of Their Vote

A reader of the Issue is perplexed over the result of the vote on the license question in Los Angeles, Cal., last Tuesday. He refers us to the report of this election as given by the Chicago Tribune of December 7. The Tribune gives the women full credit for defeating the "no license" proposition at this election, stating that they cast more than half of the votes. It has been the prevailing opinion among most people that women are naturally opposed to the licensing of saloons, and no doubt a good many people, since the Los Angeles election, have been wondering if they have been wrong in theory concerning this proposition. We are not at all familiar with the facts in the case of last Tuesday's vote in California, so do not venture an explanation. A few observations, however, would not be amiss.

The Tribune, in this same California dispatch, also credits the women with the defeat of several other propositions and the success of those that were carried. We understand that the prohibition law was defeated by a vote of about two to one, and it is unfair to single out the vote of the women as the determining factor. It is just as reasonable for the friends of "no license" to suggest that the license vote would have been much heavier had not the women had a voice in protesting against the saloon. Undoubtedly the greatest sufferers from the saloon are the women and children of our land, and we have faith enough in the good sense of our women to believe that when the opportunity is given them, they will, in the majority of cases, vote to abolish that which they must know to be an obstacle to their happiness and the mortal enemy of the home. It is not guess work to say that the leading opponents to woman suffrage are the liquor forces. This has been demonstrated in our own state. There must be a reason. It is manifestly unfair to declare woman suffrage a failure as an aid in overthrowing the liquor traffic, judged simply by the results of one election. As touching this particular Los Angeles election, we offer the following resolutions adopted by the Headquarters Committee of the Anti-Saloon League, November 11, 1911. It will be seen by this that the vote was ill-advised in the judgment of the leaders of a great host of temperance people of that state.

An Inopportune Time to Vote On License

"The Headquarters Committee of the Anti-Saloon League of Southern California, in response to many inquiries, announces that the League had no part in causing the No-License proposition to be placed upon the ballot for the coming municipal election on December 5th, and regrets exceedingly the action which accomplished that result.

"The Committee is unanimous and emphatic in its judgment that the movement at this time is inopportune and unwise. The liquor men joined in the movement to place this question on the ballot at a time when the Anti-Saloon forces were engaged in many strenuous campaigns under the Local Option Law, and were therefore unprepared for a vigorous campaign in the city and unable actively to engage in it.

"If the movement is unsuccessful it will be harmful to the No-License cause, but the smaller the majority against the proposed ordinance the less harmful will the movement be. Therefore, every voter who favors No-License should vote for the proposed ordinance. It was carefully prepared by an able attorney who heartily favors its provisions, and this Committee though unable to conduct a campaign for its adoption hopes it will be approved at the polls by every voter who desires the banishment from Los Angeles of the beverage liquor traffic. Every vote for its adoption will help to prevent the liquor men from securing an advantage over the better classes by having this campaign at this inopportune time.

HEADQUARTERS COMMITTEE OF THE ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

By Herbert J. Weaver, Chairman pro tem.
J. L. Parks, Secretary."

It is the hope of the Committee that this circular will cause the pastors of the city to urge their people to vote for the ordinance.

The Brewers Roiled

During the Brewers' Convention in Chicago recently the Chicago Christian Endeavor Union issued a circular in which among other things they called attention to Kaiser William's speech made to naval cadets at the dedication of the naval academy at Murwik in November, 1910, in which the Kaiser very strongly advised the students against the use of alcohol and urged them to join the Good Templar lodges. The circular also referred to the great progress made by Germany in its anti-liquor propaganda—that scientists were diligently studying the evil effects of alcohol upon the human system and that Germans in increasing numbers were joining the ranks of total abstainers.

The statements in this circular letter were given considerable space in the Chicago newspapers—The Chicago Record-Herald devoting a whole column on the first page to the story.

It evidently peeved the brewers. The Christian Endeavorers were waiting with "loaded guns" for a reply from the brewers. None came by mail or in print. Hence, there was no chance given the Endeavorers to cite further facts and figures regarding the situation in Germany and get them published in the newspapers. However, after the convention closed the news was brought to headquarters that the brewers had replied by placing a mammoth sign conspicuously in the entrance to the Coliseum where the Brewers' Exposition was being held with the following information painted in large letters:

"The leaders of the Christian Endeavor Union of Chicago must consider the American public blind, pretending that the German Emperor William II. admonished his subjects to become abstainers from beer. He admonished moderate use of alcohol.

"One might suspect that the leaders of the Christian Endeavor Union preach about questions they did not themselves study carefully.

"No German Emperor means beer when he says 'alcohol.' Alcohol does not mean beer nor wine, nor does the word 'liquor' mean such with Germans. How careless the Christian Endeavor Union of Chicago is with their statements can easily be proved by the fact that Prince Max Egon von Furstenburg, the Emperor's most intimate friend, is a brewer, and that on the label of each bottle of his beer the following advertisement is printed 'Favorite table beer of his Majesty the German Emperor.' The people of Chicago may be convinced that the Emperor is energetic enough to stop such labelling if he objected to beer, but he does not object.

"Either the leaders of the Christian Endeavor Union of Chicago are very careless as to their statements or they try to work the public by tales they themselves know to be untrue.

"One of the Bible's commandments is 'Thou shalt not lie.'"

This "explanation" reminds us of what a national temperance leader said: "Nothing has ever got under the skin of the brewers and irritated them so much as the German Emperor's speech and the results of scientific investigation in Germany."

Another leader said "The German Emperor's speech is the greatest contribution of the century to the temperance cause."

In leaflet form it makes good campaign literature.