

What the No-Saloon Policy Has Done for Another Tennessee City

MURFREESBORO, TENN., May 14—(Special correspondence)—The census of 1900 gave Murfreesboro, a population of 3,999, one less than 4,000. A careful census that has just been completed, makes the present population 6,500. Along with the increase in population, the town has grown in commercial and mercantile strength, and the civic improvement in the past five years has been far greater than in fifty years in the previous history of this place.

Attribute this to any cause you may, there can be no denial of the fact that the banishment of the saloons from Murfreesboro has been by far the greatest contributing cause to the present advanced position.

Every argument that has been advanced for the sustenance of the saloons falls flat when the record of this place is considered.

Those who favor the retention of the saloons argue that it hurts business to abolish the liquor traffic. Since the saloons went out of Murfreesboro, five years ago, all lines of business have expanded greatly, and enterprises have been established that make it no longer necessary for the youth of the town to seek other fields for profitable employment.

The man who campaigns for the saloons says that to banish them from a community will bring about such conditions that business houses will be left vacant, but the history of Murfreesboro since it went in the dry column shows that business houses have been so greatly in demand that new blocks have been built up to accommodate the demands in other lines of business.

The argument that the abolishment of saloons does not decrease crime has been rendered absurd by conditions here. Law and order are so well regarded under present conditions that crime has been reduced to a minimum, and drunkenness, rowdiness and ruffianism have been banished forever from this community.

The advocates of the saloon will have to cite some other place in telling that just as much whisky is drunk without the saloons as with them, for a drunken man is now a "scarce article" in this little city, and bootlegging, that is said to be one of the greatest banes of dry towns, is a small operation and carried on occasionally by a few negroes.

Another great argument used for the retention of the saloon is that taxes go up when saloons go out. That has not been the case here. There has been no increase in taxes since the saloons were banished, except a small levy of eight cents, that was made to secure funds to erect a school building, which the growing population made necessary. The debt contracted for this purpose has already been wiped out and at the same time, improvements by the city government have gone on steadily. All people here agree that it was a Godsend to banish the sale of liquor from Murfreesboro and under no circumstance would any part of its population move to have the sale of liquor reestablished.

Ten Months of No Saloons

CLARKSBURG, TENN., May 15—(Special correspondence)—Clarksburg got rid of its saloons on July 1, 1907, and therefore finished ten months of Prohibition on May 1 of this year.

During the ten months, July 1, 1906, to May 1, 1907, with saloons, there were 809 arrests in this city. During the ten months, July 1, 1907, to May 1, 1908, with no saloons, there were only 356 arrests.

Prohibition does not prohibit, of course—yet why have the brewers and distillers laid off 4,000 men since so many counties in Illinois went dry? —The Chicago Tribune.

in partnership with the saloon. Its citizens are subject to the temptation of the thousands of saloons of Chicago, only twenty minutes' ride away. It must protect itself from the crime that Chicago's saloons produce. In short, it is able to provide for itself by its local Prohibition policy only a small part of the benefits of real Prohibition.

Yet a study of the facts of the municipal life of Evanston as compared with similar facts regarding the other municipalities of the same group, is highly instructive.

We may first make the comparison that is shown in Table I, comparing Evanston with Mattoon, the city whose mayor by his action has placed it in the limelight of public observation, and Rock Island, the city which is nearest to Evanston in point of population among the cities of Illinois. Table I presents the showing at a glance, the figures being taken from Census Bulletin No. 45 and referring to the year 1903. Mattoon had nineteen saloons; Rock Island has ninety-one; Evanston none. Mattoon received \$23,737 of saloon revenue; Rock Island received \$45,750; Evanston received nothing. But in its expenditures for public welfare along every line, Evanston wholly outstripped the two other cities, while in value of public property she also excelled them and in city debt only equaled Mattoon and was far below Rock Island. And yet in tax rate Evanston was burdened with but a little more than half of the tax of Mattoon and fell appreciably below the tax rate of Rock Island.

The table shows another important fact—that while Mattoon had 276 convictions for drunk-

ness and Rock Island 189 arrests for the same offense (both of those cities being administered by governments friendly to and dependent upon the saloon and in all probability making arrests of only a small percentage of the number of cases of actual intoxication), Evanston had only seventy arrests for drunkenness, although it is a matter of common knowledge that, with the "blue-stocking" atmosphere of that town, a man found publicly intoxicated is absolutely certain of immediate arrest.

sume therefor no larger responsibility for public debt, while bearing the burden of a tax rate only a trifle more than half that which Mattoon has been imposing upon its citizens in the license days. A wider study of the subject may be made by examining the table which stands at the top of page one. In this table are grouped the important financial facts concerning the municipal affairs of all the twenty-three cities of Illinois that fall in the group of cities having a population between 8,000 and 25,000. The figures are taken, as in the cases already considered, from Bulletin No. 45 of the United States Census and apply to the year 1903.

The table shows with regard to each city, the population, the number of saloons, the amount of saloon revenue, the amount paid for public safety, that is to say, for the support of police, fire and health departments and for courts, the number of public school teachers employed, the total paid for education, including the cost of maintaining libraries, the per capita expenditure for schools, the number of miles of paved streets in the city, the number of miles of sewers, the per capita cost of all municipal expenses, the value of municipal public property, the per capita debt of the city and the tax rate upon the basis of \$1,000 of actual property value.

The table, of course, shows that Evanston has no saloons and receives no saloon revenue, but that Evanston pays for the protection of her people more money than any other city of the group, save two, both of which have a larger population; that Evanston has more miles of paved streets than any of the other cities, save one, more miles of sewers than any other city of the group; employs more public school teachers than any other city of the group; pays for public education a sum far and away beyond any other city of the group; has public property of greater value than that owned by any other city of the group, while its tax rate is below the average of the group, the average tax rate of the twenty-three cities being \$12.15 per thousand of actual property value, compared with \$11.48, the tax rate of Evanston.

And still another valuable table may be compiled, regarding the results of the saloon in arrests in the city under consideration. This is shown in table III.

Here are shown in the first column the totals of arrests in the cities under consideration, all causes included. In the case of Mattoon the figures are for convictions rather than for arrests. In the second column appear the number of arrests for drunkenness; in the third column the number of arrests for disturbing the peace, and in the fourth the number of arrests for assault and battery. These three offenses are commonly included in police estimates under the one general head of "drink crimes." From the table it will be seen that Evanston has less arrests for drunkenness than any other city of the group and a smaller total of arrests for drunkenness, disturbing the peace and assault and battery than any other city, excepting Alton, which has but little more than two-thirds of the population of Evanston and has substantially the same proportion of such arrests, though a materially larger number of arrests for drunkenness.

These tables answer conclusively the question whether it is possible to run a municipality without license revenue and cast a strong light upon the value of the Prohibition policy.

Not the Lincoln Style

[The Hon. Seaborn Wright of Georgia.]

It is well that men of the type of Lincoln headed the Republican party in the sixties, or negro slavery would never have been abolished, for if modern Republican leaders had been in the saddle, we would have had negro slavery, with national "high license and strict regulations," paying an immense revenue to the federal government.

TABLE III

CITY	Total Number of Arrests for all Causes.	Arrests for Drunkenness.	Arrests for Disturbing the Peace	Arrests for Assault and Battery.
Alton.....	(1) 224	91	32	10
Belleville.....	779	151	81	65
Bloomington.....	972	266	130	78
Cairo.....	1,439	480	296	17
Champaign.....	945	435	52	2
Danville.....	2,485	1,599	522	15
Decatur.....	1,058	403	62	69
Elgin.....	391	157	131	18
Evanston.....	471	70	65	61
Freeport.....	427	176	61	56
Galesburg.....	1,067	460	37	16
Jacksonville.....	1,032	416	20	82
Kankakee.....	535	262	113	11
Kewanee.....	273	176	7	8
LaSalle.....	332	165	30	21
Lincoln.....	454	230	35	75
Mattoon.....	(2) 352	(2) 276	(2) 17	(2) 10
Moline.....	705	421	189	42
Ottawa.....	209	171	10
Pekin.....	275	117	65	20
Rock Island.....	758	189	333	57
Streator.....	412	226	30	26
Waukegan.....	329	200	34	18

1. For 11 months.
2. Convictions.

ness and Rock Island 189 arrests for the same offense (both of those cities being administered by governments friendly to and dependent upon the saloon and in all probability making arrests of only a small percentage of the number of cases of actual intoxication), Evanston had only seventy arrests for drunkenness, although it is a matter of common knowledge that, with the "blue-stocking" atmosphere of that town, a man found publicly intoxicated is absolutely certain of immediate arrest.

In other words, the late mayor of Mattoon might have studied conditions in Evanston and have learned therefrom that by living in that no-saloon town a citizen could enjoy a public expenditure for schools more than double that of Mattoon, a total municipal expenditure of almost twice that maintained in Mattoon and as