

Annual Report of the State Superintendent to the Board of Directors of the Anti-Saloon League of Illinois, June 25

One year ago I became state superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of Illinois. In this past year I have endeavored to carry out the policies that I have believed in ever since I became connected with the Illinois League, and which I announced in my report to this body on the 5th of May, 1911, as legislative superintendent of the League.

In that report I said:

The one thing that appears to me of supreme importance in view of all these things is the necessity of organizing our fighting force and there must be League organization so comprehensive that it neglects no legislative district, no county or precinct in the state, so thorough that it reaches in military fashion from the state headquarters of the Anti-Saloon League to every individual in the remotest school district.

Organization Necessary.

The past year has been a constructive one in legislative matters. It has been a period of foundation laying. Thoroughly convinced that if we were to be masters of the situation we must more thoroughly organize our temperance army, on the first day of June, 1911, we began preparations for the legislative primary of April 9, 1912. The regular field force of the Anti-Saloon League went into the various counties of the state on a mission of organization and a campaign of concrete, definite, hard and fast organization was kept up from that time until the primary, and is even now still in progress.

Primary statistics of the state of Illinois are absolute proof that the temperance forces are in the majority. The only thing that has prevented their achievement of a sweeping victory before this time is their failure to mass their own strength at the proper time and place. This we are doing and have met with remarkable success within the past year.

Finances.

Realizing fully that an organization campaign covering the state with a million and a quarter of voters, with more than four thousand voting precincts and probably fifteen thousand school districts could not be carried on without far more money than the League had ever before had to spend in a legislative contest, the first task undertaken was the raising of a campaign fund.

The latter part of last August we laid our plans for the raising of a \$30,000 campaign fund on the plan of securing one hundred subscribers at \$100 each, two hundred at \$25 each, one thousand at \$10 each, and one thousand at \$5 each. The field force of the League responded loyally to the call for work upon this fund. Through the months of August, September, October and November and in fact down almost until the primary, practically the entire force of the League joined loyally in the raising of this fund. It was completed about the first of last March, and was the saving of the legislative campaign. The state superin-

tendent was able by pleas through the mail to secure more than ten thousand dollars of this fund on \$5 and \$10 subscriptions. Never had anything of these proportions been before attempted or accomplished, and this undertaking carried so successfully to completion made it possible for the League to carry on an unprecedented primary campaign and win it.

Volume of Work Done.

The work of organization was carried along simultaneously with the work of raising the money. When the money came, special workers were employed until the working force of the League for the campaign numbered during the closing days of the campaign more than one hundred and forty. For ninety days prior to the campaign sixty men were at work in the critical senatorial districts of the state traveling from one country precinct to another securing precinct and school district organizations. And for thirty days before the primary more than ninety men were employed. This hard work upon this colossal scale was made possible only by the special fund of which I have already spoken.

The concrete results of the organization work were a thousand church committees appointed, eleven hundred township and precinct organizations, between three and four thousand church committee men selected, and approximately eight thousand school district and precinct organization men selected and appointed. This organization was the backbone of the legislative primary campaign of the League. The church committees were called upon first of all to poll the church vote and then later to distribute the instructions of the League to the church voters, and later still on primary day to see to it that the church vote was cast. The precinct and school district organizations, an army of eight thousand men, were instructed in the same manner, first to poll the school district vote, and then to instruct it and finally to get it to the polls on primary day. Probably to the League as much as to any other cause is due the fact that the percentage of vote cast at the primary was raised from 44 per centum in 1910 to practically 75 per centum in 1912.

We have always contended that if the full vote could be secured at the primary the temperance forces of the state would win a victory, and we did. The net results of this legislative campaign are as follows:

Results.

The liquor-endorsed candidate for governor was overwhelmingly defeated at the primary.

A majority of county option men were nominated for the senate, and a county option majority is practically secured in the next senate of our legislature.

A gain of sixteen county option men as compared with the primary of 1910 is the result in the house of representatives. This brings us within