

Synopsis of the Maine Liquor Law.

We find the following admirable synopsis in the *Connecticut Journal*, and take pleasure in transferring it to our columns, thanking Bro. Halp for it.

Sec. 1.
The manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors are entirely prohibited, except as allowed in the next section.

Town Agent.

Sec. 2, 3, 7.

1. The civil authorities of a town or city may appoint annually an agent to sell liquors only for medicinal and mechanical purposes.

2. Instead of the profits of sale, he is to have an annual salary.

3. He may hold his office for one year, subject at all times to a dismissal.

4. He must give bonds with two good sureties to the amount of 600 dollars, that he will conform to the regulations prescribed.

5. If he violates the law, he shall be turned out of office, and his bonds sued in the name and at the expense of the city or town.

Penalties for the Illegal Sale.

Sec. 4, 5, 6.

1. For the first offense ten dollars and costs, and imprisonment till paid.

2. For the second offense, twenty, &c.

3. For the third and each succeeding offense twenty dollars, and imprisonment from three to six months. If unable to pay, he shall not have the benefit of chapter 175 of the Revised Statutes, (viz., of being released from prison after 30 days on giving his note for the fine and costs,) until he has been imprisoned two or four months.

4. The prosecutions for the offense may be tried before any magistrate in the country.

5. The fines shall go for the use of poor.

6. The prosecutor may be a witness in the trial.

7. If the prosecution be begun under the approval of a selectman or alderman, the defendant shall not recover costs, though acquitted.

8. Appeals from a conviction rendered, shall be allowed only on the following conditions—

(a) The appellant must first give a bond of one hundred dollars, with two sureties, to sustain his appeal, pay fines, &c.

(b) He must also give another bond of two hundred dollars, with two sureties, not to violate the law while the appeal is pending. And if the bonds are not given in 24 hours after conviction, the appeal is not to be allowed.

(c) He must pay the fees of the jury who are to try him, in advance.

(d) If the appeal is finally decided against him, he must submit to the double amount of fines, penalties, and imprisonment imposed by the first conviction.

Manufacturers and Common Sellers.

Sec. 8.

Any person convicted of being a manufacturer or common seller of intoxicating drinks, shall forfeit—

For the first offense one hundred dollars and costs, and in default of payment, sixty days imprisonment.

For the second offense two hundred dollars and costs, or four months imprisonment.

For the third and every succeeding offense, both a fine of two hundred dollars and also four months imprisonment.

SEIZURES OF LIQUORS.**Liquors kept for Sale.**

Sec. 11, 12, 13.

1. Any three voters in a town or city may go before a magistrate and make oaths that they believe liquors

are kept for sale, contrary to law, in any store, shop, &c.

2. The magistrates shall [not may] issue a search warrant for them.

3. The sheriff or constable shall search the premises, and if any liquors are found, shall take them to a place of security. He shall not however search any dwelling-house, unless a shop is kept in it, or unless one of the complainants shall testify to some act of sale in it, within one month preceding.

4. He shall also summon the owner or keeper of the liquors, if he be known, to appear forthwith before the magistrate.

5. The owner or keeper must then prove positively—

(a) That said liquors are of foreign production.

(b) That they have been imported according to the laws of the United States.

(c) That they are the original packages, [casks, bottles, &c.,] and are not less in quantity than the United States Law prescribes. But in order to prove this he shall not adduce the custom house certificates of importation, nor the marks on the casks or packages, [all these being notoriously often forged.]

6. If he can not prove all these, or if he fails to appear, then

(a) The liquor shall be destroyed.

(b) The owner or keeper shall be fined twenty dollars and costs, or in case of non-payment be imprisoned thirty days.

7. If the owner or keeper of the liquor be unknown, the liquors shall be publicly advertised, two weeks after which, if no Town Agent proves that they are his, according to section 2, they shall be destroyed.

8. Appeals from the Magistrate's order for the destruction of liquors, shall not be allowed till the appellant has given a bond of two hundred dollars, with two securities, to prosecute his appeal, pay fines, &c.

9. If the appeal shall be decided against him, and the quantity of liquor exceeds 5 gallons, he shall be judged a common seller of intoxicating liquors, and incur the penalties prescribed for that offense. The liquor shall also be destroyed.

10. Chemists, artists and manufacturers who use liquors in their business, only are exempt from prosecution.

Liquors Sold or Kept for Sale on Public Occasions.

Secs. 14, 15.

1. Liquors sold or kept, in any tent, shanty, &c., at a cattle show or military muster, or any public occasion, may be searched for and seized by the authorities without warrant, and the keepers arrested; the former destroyed, and the latter imprisoned thirty days.

2. If the keeper appeal, he must first give bond of one hundred dollars, with two securities, to prosecute, &c. If finally convicted on the appeal, he shall suffer the former sentence of imprisonment for thirty days and pay a fine of twenty dollars.

Liquor Contracts Void.

Sec. 16.

All bargains, notes, book accounts, deeds and mortgages, &c., in respect to liquors illegally sold, are void, and incapable of enforcements in the courts.

Miscellaneous Particulars.

1. No liquor seller can sit on the jury in any trial under this act. **Sec. 9.**

2. Prosecutions under this act shall be tried in the courts before any other case, except where criminals are under arrest waiting trial. **Sec. 10.**

3. Neither the court nor the prosecuting officer shall have power to discontinue a suit once begun, or postpone the trial, from one court to another. **Secs. 8 and 10.**

4. In any case appealed, if it be in the form of a criminal prosecution, the

State's Attorney shall conduct the case and receive the costs which come to the State, in addition to the regular salary, and the cost shall in no case be remitted or reduced in amount. [This provision makes it the interest of the Attorney to do his duty faithfully.]

5. The law is made applicable to all the cities and plantations, as well as to the various towns of the State.

Vermont Agencies.

A Vermont correspondent of the Tribune gives the following amusing account of Vermont agencies for selling liquor as a medicine:

If more proof were needed to show how thoroughly our law has done its work in this village, it can be easily obtained by spending a few hours in the store of our agent, who is commissioned to sell for medicinal and mechanical purposes. He is a shrewd man, and, as the sailors say, has his "weather-eye open." It is now a difficult matter to deceive him, for he has studied well the ropes in the ship he is appointed to sail. Since the law has been so judiciously and yet vigorously executed, a hundred cases of sickness occur where there was not apparently one before. And it is amusing to listen to the stories, and witness the ingenuity of hundreds who come after liquor, but who go away with thirsty stomachs and empty bottles. As a general rule, when strangers call, the agent requires a certificate from a physician.

"Mr. D., I wish you would put a pint of your best brandy in this bottle," said a well-dressed young man, placing the bottle on the counter and some camphor gum beside it. "I want it to mix with this camphor. The doctor thinks it will be good for me, as I'm somewhat out of health this spring."

"Certainly," replied the agent, while an arch smile was playing about the corner of his mouth. The liquor was drawn and put into the bottle. The agent is a polite man, and thought he would save the young gentleman the trouble of mixing the camphor with it, by doing it himself. He very politely and kindly pulverized the gum and put it into the bottle, while the young gentleman silently looked on with a face very much elongated.

"There!" continued the agent.— "This is fourth proof brandy, and will soon cut the camphor."

The young man paid a half dollar for the brandy, put the bottle in his pocket and silently walked out, cursing in his heart the officious kindness of the agent. The thing was done up so smoothly and so kindly, that the thirsty young man could not say a word, but his face looked unutterable things.

Women come with the "roots and herbs" in their bottles, all ready to be soaked in liquor, but a physician's certificate has a more potent charm with the agent than bottles filled with herbs. Sometimes they bring their children with sore heads, and point to them as inducements to obtain the liquor, but the agent thinks pure cold water is the best for such ailments.

"Will ye be so kind as to let me have a pint of new rum, God bless ye," said an elderly woman, "my poor husband hasn't had a drop for three weeks." "Let him go without just three weeks longer, and he will not want it at all," replied the agent. "I can't let you have any."

A rough looking customer came in and wanted a quart of alcohol. The agent promptly drew it, but said when he took the pay and handed the bottle to the man, "You must be careful how you use this article, for it is mighty strong."

"I suppose it is like new rum," gruffly replied the man.

"Very far from it," answered the

agent, smiling. "It cuts like a knife, and takes off the skin wherever it goes."

"Then I will thank you to exchange it for gin," said the man.

The agent declined, but finally took back the liquor, paid him the money, and the man went away with an empty jug and a flea in his ear. Another came limping in, and wanted two quarts of new rum to bathe his swollen foot, which he offered to unstocking and show, but the agent had no particular wish to see a swollen foot.—

The man said it cost him two York shillings a week to bathe that foot, and didn't know how he could get along without bathing it in new rum.

A physician happened to be present, who resides here now, but who has practiced many years in your city. The physician told him, that all the good quality in the rum was the water in it, and advised him to go home, wet some towels in water, put them on his foot and keep them there until they became dry, and then exchange them for wet ones; also to keep his foot still a day or two, and he would warrant the man that the swelling would go down. The man was very reluctant to believe such a simple remedy would do any good, but he went away very thirsty, and with no musical jingling of liquor in his jug. The above cases occurred in a short time, and hundreds of others might be mentioned. By adopting such a course, the agent is not troubled with so many calls as he otherwise would be. Apparently there is not a tittle of the sickness in town there was a few days ago. If calling for liquor be a proof of sickness, then the people of Burlington and vicinity are very much more healthy than they were two weeks ago. A marked change for the better has taken place.

"The web of our life is of mingled yarn, good and ill together; our virtues would be proud, if our faults whipped them not; and our crimes would despair, if they were not cherished by our virtues."

Woman's Rights.

The late attempt of a few females, to hitch their peculiar hobbies to the temperance cause meets with but little favor, except from a few of the extremely radical, who are everything by turns, but nothing long, and who look upon this movement as they do upon almost every other—a means of acquiring notoriety.

It is pleasing to know, that the numerous female temperance societies, whose ramifications extend through almost every town and village in the Union, and whose praise is in the mouth of every order-loving person for their great and noble exertions during the last ten years, have taken no part in this movement, and we have reason to think, disclaim all connection with those self-delegated Amazons, who would effectually cripple, or totally destroy, a great moral movement, to advance what they are pleased to call Woman's Rights.

The ladies composing the several temperance societies, so long and widely known, owe it to themselves and the cause they have diligently labored to promote, instantly to repudiate the claims of Abbey Foster Kelly, Lucy Stone or Susan B. Anthony to speak for them.

The New-York and North-American Grand Union of the Daughters of Temperance, the great Albany demonstration in January last, closed their session one day previous to the Woman's Rights meeting, and returned to their homes, lest they might be supposed as countenancing or favoring this ill-judged movement.—*N. Y. Organ.*

"I'll pay your bill on sight," as the blind man said to a doctor who had in vain attempted to cure him of his blindness.