

ILLINOIS ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE, 1898--1923

BY DR. W.A.SMITH

FOREWORD

All great movements in their early stages, move slowly. The Supreme Power, directing the affairs of men and presiding over the destinies of nations, as the long and broad sweep of history through the ages proves, acts by centuries and millenniads. No reform goes uninterruptedly forward. It advances, then recedes, but never retreats back quite to its former position. Thus, in the long run, the general march of great events is ever onward and upward toward loftier levels and higher ideals.

So has it been with the temperance reform. The struggle for the suppression of the accursed liquor traffic has been a long ^{and} hard fight. But the end is not yet. It must continue till the last brewery, the last distillery, the last saloon, and the last "blind tiger" is trampled out of existence under the heel of an indignant humanity and an aroused public sentiment that is practically omnipotent. The supremely blessed status for ourselves and the whole world must come, for even "the gates of hell,"--those satanic seats of authority and power--"shall not prevail against it." The rum traffic looms large among the "gates of hell." It is a basic monstrosity. It is more. It is the acme of evil, the climax of iniquity, the mother of abominations, and the sum of villainies. The generations yet unborn over all the earth will be amazed that we endured this damnable curse as long as we did. This arch-anarchist of the ages is doomed. It must go to stay away, and in its final and universal exit it must submit to the only terms of General Ulysses S. Grant at Fort Donelson in the civil war, "UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER."

The Anti-Saloon League of Illinois, after doing business in a partial and irregular way for a short time following its inception, was born in the way of a more formal organization July 12, 1898, when Dr. Howard H. Russell, father and founder of the Anti-Saloon League of America, appointed Rev. M.W.Ewers as the first State Superintendent, which appointment was sanctioned by the Illinois League. This was a little more than five years after the genesis of the National League in Oberlin, Ohio, June 4, 1893. The pre-natal event which had much to do with its coming into existence in this State, was the Act on the scientific instruction concerning alcohol in the Public Schools of this State, passed and made compulsory by the Legislature after a campaign of agitation, and signed by Governor John R. Tanner, June 9, 1897, at the solicitation, and in the presence of, a special committee representing the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, its chief sponsors. The Legislature had adjourned, and the Governor's son, "Mack.", had repeatedly declared that his father did not intend to sign that Bill. The women became alarmed, and sent the committee, composed of Doctors T.D.Logan and W.A.Smith, of Springfield, two of the omni-denominational committee who had co-operated with the women, the one representing the Presbyterianism, and the other the Methodism of the State, to interview the Governor, and induce him, if possible, to sign it. He received them, and they answered and overcame his objections to the Bill, and prevailed. They thanked him for the hearing, and he said: "I'm going to sign it, and you may stay and see me do it." At the request of the ladies, the pen with which he affixed his signature was presented to them as a souvenir. This agitation, education and legislation, with the aid of other agencies, paved the way for an advance along all temperance lines, including the work of the Anti-Saloon League and the ultimate goal of National Constitutional Prohibition, which, at its worst, is vastly superior to license, or other plan, at its best.

For several years, at first, the annual conventions of the League were held in the Capital City with an attendance of only six members of the organization present from all over the State. Five of the six were Methodists, C.W.Gulick, of Champaign, being the leader, and the other man was G.B.Griffin, of Charleston, a Presbyterian. Very soon other churches enlisted in the cause, and the League is now backed by practically all the Protestant bodies of the State, who keep their representatives, elected annually, on the Board, admit League speakers into their pulpits, and contribute liberally toward its support.

Springfield was the Headquarters of the League for five years, or until November, 1903, when the Executive Office was moved to Chicago, where it has been ever since, first in the Merchant's Loan and Trust Building, later in larger quarters in the First National Bank Building, then to more spacious rooms therein, and next to #1200 Security Building, the present Headquarters. The Springfield office is maintained as Legislative Headquarters, and Head of the Central, or Springfield District.

Preparations for the re-organization of the League on a more extended scale as a direct church federation were begun in 1901, and culminated in 1905. Several denominational bodies officially expressed their approval the former year, and favored the passage of a Local Option Bill. In 1902 nearly all the church bodies were reached in their annual Assemblies, and they strongly endorsed the movement by appropriate official action. Thus the campaign of 1903 had the moral support of the churches behind it, and carried the proposed Bill a long way ahead. The plan also, of making the State Board more officially representative of the churches and allied organizations, rather than a voluntary, self-perpetuating body, was approved. In March, 1904, the League's objective from the beginning, of a single, unified business system, was brought into full operation. At the regular annual meeting in May, 1905, the Board accepted

the plan agreed upon in April, 1904, by the special representatives of the denominational bodies appointed for the purpose of drafting a plan, adopted an elaborate constitution, and as direct representatives of the church bodies, assumed entire control of the movement, and henceforth directed its general policy, with the purpose of carrying out the original program of the League along the lines of Agitation, Legislation, and Law-Enforcement, the dominant phases of the fight. The Board of Directors was to ~~consist~~^{be} composed of one incumbent for every 25,000 lay members, or major fraction thereof, later changed to 20,000, for each church organization, but with the understanding that no sect, or other ecclesiastical or temperance body, however small, approving the League, should be without at least one representative on the State Board. Bodies having more than one member on the Board were to divide them as equally as possible between ministers and laymen. The Board provided for the election of fifteen members at large, in addition to the regular Trustees, to serve for three years, one third of whom were to be elected at each annual meeting of the Board. This number was afterward increased to twenty one, and then to thirty one, including the State Superintendent, ex-officio, A Headquarters Committee was provided for, to hold regular meetings, and to have charge of the work in the interim between the annual sessions of the Board, composed at first of five members, later enlarged to seven, and then to nine incumbents. The constitution has been changed or amended from time to time.

Rev. M.H.Ewers was re-elected State Superintendent, July 12, 1899, for one year thereafter, but he resigned December 28, 1899, his resignation to take effect January 1, 1900. C.R.Carlos, who had been his Assistant for a time, and afterward acted as Treasurer, was chosen as his successor. But he resigned November 13, 1900, and beginning the same day, William H. Anderson came into power, and by re-elections was continued

as State Superintendent, with a remarkable career, till January, 1906. Rev. J.K. Shields followed Anderson, making an enviable record, and remained as Head of the League till June, 1911, when he surrendered the reins to Ernest A. Scrogin, who had been Legislative Superintendent, as well as Superintendent of ^{the} Springfield District, and after a short, but successful term, Scrogin resigned September 1, 1912, his loss to the League work being greatly regretted. Rev. F. Scott M'Bride then came to the helm, and has skilfully ^{piloted} ~~steered~~ the Prohibition ship to date, early in 1923. Other Assistants to the Superintendents have been E.G. Saunderson, George D. Conger, E.E.M'Laughlin, R.O. Everhart, and Alice Odell, the present incumbent.

Dr. P.S. Henson, Chicago, was the first President of the State Board. Then came, in regular succession, Dr. Horace Reed, Samuel T. Brush, A. T. Capps, A.J. Scrogin, and W.W. Bennett, the present President. Vice-Presidents have been P.S. Henson, C.E. Dunn, Ole Oleson, Bishops T.F.M' Dowell and Thomas Nicholson, W.B. Otwell, A.H. Mills, J. B. Lennon, A.J. Scrogin, A.T. Capps, and Christie Galeener. Secretaries of the Board as follows: S.S. Jones, F.L. Kahle, W.B. Willard, Chris. Galeener, Philip Yarrow, and John R. Golden. Additional Treasurers, E.R. Hieronymus, the first Springfield banker to recognize and support the League, and its very warm friend to date, J.V. Farwell, W.W. Bennett, and T.J. Bolger. Business Managers and Acting Treasurers, J.C. Bentall, Chas. Schmidli, O.W. Bofinger, and E.W. Swing, long a faithful official. A.W. Gillett, after acting as a helper, served as the Head of the Law Enforcement Department for ~~many~~ a number of years, while Miss Anna Alkire, on the office force from the first, is still retained in Chicago as a very efficient member of the force, occupying a very important position, having charge of the League collections; and Mrs. Florence O'Brien, a fine stenographer, has been in the Springfield office since 1907. S.T. Brush carried for years a heavy

financial burden of \$10,000 for the League, unsecured and without interest. Great credit is due him. Others deserve commendable mention.

State
William H. Anderson served as Attorney for the League from January 1, 1900, to August 1, 1904, acting in both capacities after he was made State Superintendent. Then followed J.F. Burke, E.A. Scrogin, H.L. Sheldon, Captain F.B. Ebbert, and J.H. Collier. W.A. Smith was Chairman of the Headquarters Committee for six years, in Springfield and Chicago, and has helped secure the State Superintendents. Dr. M.P. Boynton, who has been at the fore in League work, not only in Chicago, but for the entire State almost from the first, has been its capable Secretary for more than a dozen years, and with marked fitness and ability still fills that important position. These two men have been members of that Committee longer than any other men in the State. Other Chairmen have been R.M. Little, G.B. Safford, Bishop G.M. Matthews, T.J. Bolger, and J.D. Metzger. Other Secretaries, C.J. Appel, G.H. Shorney, G.B. Safford, and T.S. Johnston.

THE EMANCIPATOR, a monthly paper, was the first organ published in the interest of the League, the first issue bearing date, January, 1900. Then it was published as the Illinois Department of the American Issue of Ohio, a weekly organ, then as the Illinois Issue, and shortly after National Headquarters had been established at Westerville, Ohio, it was issued as the Illinois Edition of the American Issue, which form and relation it has sustained ever since. Editors have been C.R. Carlos, Wm. H. Anderson, Sam. Fickel, F. Scott M'Bride, W.F. Hewitson, and O.G. Christgau, the present able editor and efficient Head of the Literature and Publicity Department. Mrs. Lena B. Mathes is Superintendent of the Woman's Department, and Miss Margaret Wintringer, Assistant. Jas. H. Danskin, long leader in the League work, and recent Head of the distributed Alton-East Saint Louis District, is now Field Attorney for the State League. E.J. Davis, veteran worker, is Superintendent, Chicago Law Enforcement Department. Superintendents of the various Districts now are as follows:

Northern, Geo. M'Ginnis; Northeastern, Herbert M. Rood; Chicago South-west Side, John W. Langley; Chicago North Side, C.E. Peterson; Chicago South Side, J.L. Little; Chicago Northwest Side, A.H. Post; Western, G.W. James; Eastern, H.R. Johnson; Central, Geo. H. Yule; Southern, Leo Howard with E.E. M'Laughlin, Assistant; Scandinavian Work, Carl J. Anderson.

These have been dry leaders in the State Senate: Michael Cleary, W.S. Jewell, J.A. Wheeler, ^{and C.L. Wood} ~~and C.L. Wood~~ in the House of Representatives, George H. Wilson, Thomas E. Lyon, ^{and Homer J. Tice} ~~and Homer J. Tice~~, ^{and Lyon and Wilson} ~~Lyon and Wilson~~ are members of the State Board of Trustees of the Illinois League, while Wilson is ~~also~~ a member of the State Headquarters Committee.

Many others have been officially connected with the League in various capacities, besides, in many cases having membership on the State Board, namely, as members of the Headquarters Committee, as Superintendents of the various Districts, and as Field-Secretaries, including several officials already named. To go into detail would unduly burden the record. Such are, A.B. Farwell, M.M. Parkhurst, E.E. Barclay, G.W. Danbury, William Burgess, A.A. Scruggs, John Wright, R.H. Curtis, J.C. Ewing, J.B. Jones, S.S. Smith, C.C. Jessee, Chas. Fitzhenry, Vachel Lindsay, ^{Ma Smith} ~~xxxxxxx~~ E.B. Rogers, C.L. Morgan, Edson Reifsnider, A.P. Fors, C.A. Rosander, J.R. Golden, P.A. Hultgren, G.D. Conger, Fletcher Dobyns, W.S. Marquis, C.E. Coleman, A.H. Harnly, John Hauberg, J.W. Perry, J.F. Cuneen, Sam. Fickel, S.S. Wirsching, B.E. Shawhan, J.A. Sanford, G.D. Childs, E.F. Collier, A.R. Van Fossen, E.K. Grose, W.E. Ballew, S.M. Spurgeon, J.W. Langley, J.H. Faville, W.J. Moore, Fred. Nordquist, J.W. M'Clannahan, Parker Shields, Andrew Forsythe, D.L. M'Bride, John Goltra, ~~C.K. Stark~~, E.D. Redington, A.H. Post, S.A. D. Rogers, Mesdames W.C.H. Keough, and G.M. Mathes, W.D. White, J.M. Daniel, F.R. Margetts, H.H. Rood, E.L. Wade, Theodore Clark, C.F. Reed, E.W. Ward, J.L. Watson, P.J. Rinehart, W.M. Hailey, C.B. Roberts, A.C. Glasgow, C.O. Bayhe, E.R. Brown, C.A. Parmenter, T.E. Owen, J.T. Iliff, T.C. Cady, L.R. Horton, F.R. Boyd, J.M. Phelps, E.W. Ewing, M.W. Montague, D.B. Johnson, D.I. Rousch, R.D. M'Donald, G.E. Hallaway, W.H. Quillen, J.M. ^(M) Judy, C.E. Peterson, J.A. Little, H.H. Johnson, Ralph Owen, C.W. Ivie, D.A. Shufck, J.L. Hudson, and others rendering but brief service. *J. E. Artz.*

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Several members of our force have gone to be Superintendents of the League in other States, W.H.Anderson, J.F.Burke, E.E.M'Laughlin, G. D. Conger, J.K.Shields, G.B.Safford, L.R.Horton, Parker Shields, who left the headship of the Central District, Feb. 1, 1921, where he made a name for himself and gave wider scope to the cause, to get under the State League of Tennessee; and R.O.Everhart, as editor of the New York edition of the American Issue. While J.K.Shields was State Superintendent here, twelve President Taft appointed him as one of the United States representatives to the Inter-National Anti-Alcoholic Conference at the Hague. M.H.Ewers, as our State Superintendent, worked practically alone for some time, but later was assisted by C.R.Carlos. Both were handicapped by a lack of funds, incomplete organization and inexperience in the new-tried venture and accomplished but little. William H.Anderson found a loosely-built movement, that was almost without movement, inherited some very serious conditions, assuming a big debt that seemed an insuperable obstacle; yet he got the League on its feet for the first time in its history, carried its crushing burdens and made it a power in the State. These qualities of initiative and leadership created a demand for his services elsewhere, and Dr. Anderson is now in the Superintendency of the League in the Empire State. He wrote "The Church in Action Against the Saloon," a booklet which was at once accepted and used by the founder of the League as the best thing of its kind and which later, revised and amplified by him with the assistance of the constructive criticism and suggestion of all the National leaders of the League, stood till the adoption of National Prohibition as the accepted statement of League principles and methods. He made the original draft of what became the Local Option Law of Illinois, and presented it to the Legislature of 1901. Some sort of a Bill was introduced in 1899, but it was incomplete and did not get anywhere, though those in charge did perhaps all that anybody could have

done at that time and under those unfavorable conditions. The later Bill was so fashioned as to guard military territory. The first real impression was made on the Legislature of 1903. In 1905 the effect of the concerted discussion in the churches, ~~sent~~ launched by Mr. Anderson, and which became a regular ~~and~~ annual ^{and powerful} feature afterward, not only in our own Illinois, but in many of our other State Commonwealths, so aroused the Senate that they appropriated the Anderson Bill as published in the Issue, placed a referendum on it, introduced it, and referred it to the old, License committee, to head off the fight to refer it to some other committee not hostile to it. A Senator named Anderson from Rockford, introduced it to create the impression, evidently, that it was the real W. H. Anderson Bill. No fight was made on the referendum, and they put it through. In the House, in a night session, in a test vote, it was reported defeated. The next day the record showed it beaten by only one vote. The same measure went over in 1907, except the County feature was eliminated. It was re-drawn by Robert M. Murdy, of the firm of Church and M. Murdy, the best legal authority on the liquor question in the State, with the preparatory work and the co-operation of Anderson, a graduate of one of the leading Law Schools of the country, and other lawyers besides Anderson. In the Spring of 1907, the day before its introduction in the Senate, a special meeting of the League's Headquarters Committee was held in the Capital City. They remained in session until midnight in an effort to reach the wisest decision. J. K. Shields, State Superintendent, now at the head of the New Jersey League, naturally wanted the larger, or County unit. We all wanted it, but we had counted noses and found we could not get it. So we concluded to make the concession of dropping to Township Option, including city and village Option, and we said to Mr. Shields, "If we ask for County Option, they will turn us down. Then they will probably say, 'Let us just finish the whole business,' and we shall

get nothing." We closed with a season of prayer, all around, asking for Divine direction as to the best program. It was a most solemn occasion. Another short session was held the next morning, for a final round-up. The Committee was more pronounced than ever in maintaining ^{their} ~~its~~ stand. Then Shields and his Assistant, E.A.Scrogin, went to the leaders in both Hosues and said, "Our Headquarters Committee is in session in this city. They authorize us to say to you that they will drop to Township Option, including city and village Option, as the larger unit, but will not yield another inch. Take this Bill and pass it just as it is, or take the responsibility of turning it down." They knew what that meant, as they had already some striking evidence of the power of the League, and they began at once to get busy, whipping their men into line. It was then introduced into the Senate and speedily passed by that body, and later, after a hard battle in the House, it won out with more than the constitutional majority required. The next year E.A.Scrogin said to W.A.Smith, "That was the wisest action that could have been taken at that time, for the State was not yet ripe for County Option, and the former will pave the way for the latter." He was a true prophet. After the 1908 election, more than 1000 Townships were dry under that new law, and over 1000 saloons closed their doors. Later, over half the Counties were dry, and many others nearly so. Jacksonville was the first city of considerable size to vote out the saloons, Rockford was the first big city to win out, and later, Decatur, Galesburg, Freeport, Elgin, Danville, Bloomington, Waukegan, the Capital City and some others fell into line. The votes of the women put Springfield dry. The 19th Amendment was neither incidental nor accidental; it was ^{Truly} ~~Pro~~vidential. Our Divine Lord was in it.

Dr. F.Scott M'Bride has been in command very much longer than any other of our State Superintendents, and has led the dry forces to a maximum of large and blessed results, including some signal victories, especially the ratification by Illinois of the National Constitutional Prohibition

~~Amendment~~ Amendment, our stupendous achievement. He is deservedly considered a sagacious, strategic leader. Other worth while doings under his administration must be enumerated and remembered. A limited woman's suffrage Act was passed in 1913, giving women the elective franchise on about everything, even votes for officials, except for officers named in the State constitution, who could not be included without a constitutional Amendment, or a new constitution. This greatly aided the dry cause, and helped win subsequent victories, though they could not vote for Legislative candidates. But their influence was great. Seventeen of the Illinois Congressmen in the Lower House voted to pass the proposed 18th Amendment down to the States, and only seven voted against it; thus ^{Illinois} furnish-
~~ed~~ more than her share of the necessary two thirds vote for such submission. Eighteen of her Representatives, and both her United States ⁽¹⁴⁰⁰⁾ Senators are now dry--a high record. In May, 1918, over 1400 Townships, out of a possible maximum of 1616, though 17 Counties are not under Township organization, and 54 of the 102 Counties were dry under the Township Law. There were 917 dry cities and villages as against 243 wet ones. Other legislation created dry zones around the University of Illinois, the Soldier's Home at Quincy, prohibited drinking and drunkenness on railway and interurban trains and in all State Parks and public places.

The odds were against us in the ratification fight. The cumulative, or plumping system of voting for Legislative Representatives, which no other State in the Union has, gave the wets a great advantage, and enabled Chicago and Cook County, as wets, to dominate the State. This cumulative method has lost our cause in each legislative session from 18 to 24 votes in the Lower House, running back over a number of sessions, and has largely accounted for the closeness of the vote in the House. In the legislative campaign of 1918 a great fight was put up to secure a Legislature that would ratify the Eighteenth Amendment. Dry workers were sent

into all the Counties of the State, and the churches so nobly backed up the campaign that solid dry delegations for the House were nominated and elected in fifteen Senatorial, or Legislative Districts, where the wets could not elect even one member by giving three votes each for him---a great victory--and those 45 dry votes overcame the wet majority of about 45 in Cook County, and enabled the drys to ratify, in the Senate January 8, 1919, the first day of the Legislative session, after a two thirds vote to suspend the rule, by a vote of 30 to 16; and on January 14, the third Legislative day of the session, the first chance for a vote under the rules, the House finished the job by a vote of 84 for, to 64 against --another signal triumph. As a result, Illinois was the first big State, and the first wet State to ratify. She did it as number 26, two days before Nebraska, as number 36, completed the action on the 16th, and made that the biggest day in our history, at least since the signing of the Declaration of Independence nearly a century and a half ago, We are too near the great, epochal event to properly measure its massive magnitude, and estimate its priceless value. But we have already ^alearned that the wettest dry city is very much drier than the driest wet city. It will grow greater with the years. No wonder leaders in both church and state are now calling it "Our Greatest Achievement."

On May 1, 1919, our Blind Tiger Bill, known as the law-enforcement Bill, in harmony with the Volstead Act, was passed by the Senate by the decisive vote of 29 to 11, after a hard battle, in which the wets exerted every possible resistance; the House passed it by a vote of 80 to 67, after three hours debate, following one of the fiercest battles in all our Legislative history. Thus the proud State of Lincoln, and Douglas, and Grant, and Logan, and Miss Frances Willard, secured one of the best laws of that character in all the States. This greatly enhanced the enforcement of all Prohibitory laws and regulations, and incidentally of all

other laws. And yet, excellent as is this law, experience proved that it was not sufficiently comprehensive, and other legislation was needed to supplement this in closing up some loop holes, and adding some ^{very} essential new features. On that issue the next Legislature was chosen in 1920. A tremendous campaign was waged by the Anti-Saloon League. Enough dry men were named at the Primaries and chosen at the Elections to win out. As a result, both Houses of the Legislature had dry organizations. The dries for the first time elected a House Speaker ~~who~~ was originally, and still was a rock-bound dry member. This would have been impossible without the League campaign. The greater result, for which the League was responsible, was the enactment of the "Illinois Prohibition Act," as the new law is known. The wets put up the stiffest fight along all lines of which they were capable. It was the hardest battle for Prohibition to date in all Illinois history. But the dries won, in the Senate by 30 to 12, and in the House by 81 to 62. This affirmative vote was about the same as that by which we gained Township Option fourteen years earlier, demonstrating beyond question the imperative necessity for the continued existence and activity of the Anti-Saloon League. The Governor signed the Bill with the pen of the State Superintendent, F. Scott M'Bride, who was the leader in framing the Bill, with the co-operation of his League Attorney, J. H. Collier, and in adroitly and persistently pushing it through the Legislature, as the climax of remedial legislation in Illinois for the enforcement of National Constitutional Prohibition. As an outcome of all prior proceedings, the last advance was made in our election November 7, 1922, when we held our own and got more of our own to hold. In the election of Congressmen at large where two of the candidates were running ~~avowedly~~ for beer and light wine, and the other two were standing openly against any weakening of the dry legislation at Washington, Ex-Governor Richard Yates and Henry R. Rathbone, the dry candidates were

chosen by a majority exceeding 250,000. That was our answer to the illegal, unconstitutional referendum on the beer and wine measure. The people were intelligent enough to recognize the move as wet propaganda, and as a sinister nullification proposal, and to see with Chief Justice Taft that "The makeshift of beer and wine would make the 18th Amendment a laughing-stock." "He laughs best who laughs last." We ~~are~~ winners.

STATUS

Take a look at existing conditions. Our up-to-date laws especially emphasize the duty of every State and Local official, including County Boards, as the true local unit, to rigidly enforce the laws. This is the true theory. On assuming office such agents of the people take a solemn oath to see that all laws are enforced, including Prohibition laws. They draw salaries for that purpose. The people are taxed to pay those salaries, and they have an inalienable right to demand that all officers make good, or suffer the consequences of failure or refusal to do so. "We, the people," must govern in this Republic, "of the people, for the people, and by the people," that this "land of the free and home of the brave," may not "perish from the earth." This unites them with National authorities in the concurrent action of State and Federal governments. To this end, only men, or women, who stand unqualifiedly for the enforcement of dry laws, should be elected to all our official positions, and as our Primaries are now held in April, the agitation should begin early and continue late, before every Primary, that dry candidates, particularly those endorsed by our League, may be chosen for all enforcement offices, as well as for our law-makers in our State Legislature and the National Congress, and subsequently elected. The new County organization plan, recently adopted by our State League, greatly facilitates our law enforcement work. Make the best use of it. The formula of the National League, adopted at Washington, D.C., in December, 1921, is similar to those of Illinois and New York. Eternal vigilance is the price,

not only of liberty in a general sense, but also of that high, specific quality that belongs to the enforcement of our Prohibitory laws. We can, we must, we will make good. Our coin motto runs, "In God We Trust," but "We must keep our powder dry," as Cromwell counseled. Our Anti-Saloon League is the only hope of the churches and of all the higher forces of our Christian civilization in waging the fight to a triumphant finish, making America a noble example for all the nations of the earth in crushing this deadliest foe of God and man, and the leader in lifting the entire ^{human} ~~human~~ race to sublimer heights of dignity and power.

FRUITION

Conclusion

And now, as a ~~finish~~ ^{conclusion}, it may be well to supplement the story of the past, and the naming of present conditions, by a prophetic reference to such probable progress as is very sure to be fulfilled and become history in the near, or distant future. After three decades of life and organized effort on the part of the Anti-Saloon League of America, and a quarter of a century of similar history since the Anti-Saloon League of education, Illinois was born, in agitation, ^{education,} legislation, organization and terrific contests in contending for the larger units, County Option, adequate State wide dry laws, and National Constitutional Prohibition, full and final victory is in sight for Illinois, America, and the whole wide world. The militant forces of the conquering, general church, under the leadership of the Anti-Saloon League, which has the only plan that led to federated church action, casting aside all dividing lines and furnishing the sinews of war, has outlawed the diabolical liquor traffic. It was a colossal job, but it is now aggressive on the bigger task of downing the outlaw, which is gigantic in its character, for the iniquity is entrenched by centuries of lawlessness and crime, and cannot be expected to surrender in a day, or a year. When the 18th Amendment became operative there were 175,000 saloons in this country, and conservatively count-

ing only 30 feet frontage for each one of them, that would represent and unbroken line of saloon fronts 1000 miles long, reaching all the way from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi river. Do you expect them to surrender without a struggle? But despite defiant antagonism and anarchistic opposition and misrepresentation, in the final crisis and larger accomplishment, the people, if truly patriotic, will ultimately win, for God and right are on their side, and "right the day must win," Or, as our greatest American, Abraham Lincoln, more correctly expressed it, "They are on God's side," and He is always on the side of right, and is a majority on any question, including law enforcement and constitutional liberty everywhere and evermore. Irresistible, therefore, must be the power of the best people, led by our League. Every true patriot will stand and fight for Prohibition now, even though not a Prohibitionist, not because it is Prohibition, but because it is a part of the fundamental law of the land, which is vastly larger than Prohibition, and if he arrays himself against that, he is a base traitor to his State and Country. He must see that constitutional government is at stake, and if that part of the constitution goes, the whole instrument must go, for violation of the Prohibition law creates a contempt for all law, and plunges us into hopeless anarchy. All this led Lincoln to say, "Let every American, every lover of liberty, every well-wisher to his posterity, swear by the blood of the Revolution, never to violate, in the least particular, the laws of his country, and never to tolerate their violation by others." That is true Americanism. And on Washington's birthday, he was big enough to be such a towering statesman in 1842. Before the Washingtonian Society he spoke in Springfield, and his address is in the files of the Sangamon Journal to-day, He said in part, "When there shall be neither a slave nor a drunkard on earth, how proud the title of that land that may claim to be the birthplace and the cradle of both those revolutions. How nobly distinguished that people who

shall have planted and nurtured to maturity the political and moral freedom of their species." Again, on the afternoon of the day before he was assassinated that night, he said to his friend, Merwin, "With the help of the people we have cleaned up a colossal job. Slavery is abolished. After reconstruction the next great question will be the overthrow and abolition of the liquor traffic. x x x My head, my heart, my hand, and my purse will go into that work. Less than a quarter of a century ago"--referring to his 1842 address--"I predicted that the time would come when there would be neither a slave nor a drunkard in the land. I have lived to see, thank God, one of these prophecies fulfilled. I hope to see the other realized." That night the assassin's bullet struck him down, and he was not permitted to live to see his heart's deep desire. But that proud distinction to which he so ardently referred, belongs, to-day, to these United States of America, the conquering nation that is leading the van in that ^{intrepid} ~~valley~~ advance toward the crowning triumph of all lands, of which our own unsurpassed, if not unequalled, commonwealth of Illinois, the immortal Lincoln's noble State, forms so essential and conspicuous a part, for

"Not without thy wondrous story, Illinois, Illinois,
Can be writ the nation's glory, Illinois, Illinois."