

Reference File,

No. ^{W. H. A.} ~~14~~ 118 *a*

Annual Meeting of the Board of
Anti-Saloon League.

July 2, 1903.

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Anti-Saloon League was held in the League Office at Springfield, Ill., the meeting being called to order by the President Horace Reed of Decatur. J. E. Lynn of Springfield was appointed Secretary pro tem.

There were present: Horace Reed, E. B. Rogers, T. D. Logan, E. E. Ulrich, Jr., C. B. Taylor, Sam T. Brush, W. B. Otwell, Superintendent W. H. Anderson and J. E. Lynn.

Prayer was offered by T. D. Logan.

The Superintendent presented an exhaustive and encouraging annual report, which on motion was received and placed on file.

The annual report of the State Treasurer, B. R. Hieronymus, was read by the Secretary and on motion was accepted.

The Auditing Committee made the following report which was adopted.

We, the members of the Auditing Committee of the Illinois Anti-Saloon League herewith beg leave to report that we have carefully gone over the financial work of the League for the past two years, beginning May 1, 1901 and ending May, 1, 1903 and find the report of the Treasurer true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Signed) E. E. Ulrich, Jr.
J. E. Lynn

It was voted that the suggestion made in the Superintendent's report relative to the forming of a commission from the various denominations be adopted.

It was voted to elect Anna M. Alkire Assistant State Treasurer at salary of \$12.00 per week.

It was voted that the matter of subscription to the National work be referred to the Headquarters Committee.

It was voted that the matter of employment of an Assistant Superintendent be left with the Superintendent with power to act.

It was moved that the acting Secretary send to Senator F. W. Parker a suitable message of commendation upon his heroic services on behalf of the Anti-Saloon League Bill in the Senate.

It was voted to adopt the recommendation contained in the Superintendent's report relative to the continued attitude of the league toward the Local Option Bill.

It was voted that the League acknowledge as a true bill the indebtedness to the Superintendent on salary account of the past two years, and that it be the policy of the Board to liquidate the same as soon as other obligations will allow.

The following resolution was adopted:

We thoroughly appreciate and cordially approve the business-like management of the affairs of the League of our State Superintendent W. H. Anderson. And we desire especially to commend his skillful and tactful management of the late campaign in the interest of the Anti-Saloon Local Option Bill before the last legislature and pledge him, hereby, our continued support on the principles established in that unequal but successful contest.

The following officers were elected:

President	Horace Reed, D.D.,	Decatur.
Vice Presidents	C. E. Dunn, D.D.,	Freeport.
	Sam T. Brush,	Carbondale.
	Rev. J. E. Lynn,	Springfield.
Secretary	Rev. M. P. Boynton,	Chicago.
Treasurer	B. R. Hieronymus,	Springfield.
Adding Committee	E. R. Ulrich, Jr.,	
	J. E. Lynn.	

Superintendent and General Attorney W. H. Anderson,
at same salary.

The following were elected to the Board:

Rev. W. P. Throgmorton, D.D., of Duquoin to take the
place of ~~W. Sanford Gee who has removed from the State,~~ and
George W. Smith of Carbondale.

Voted to declare elected to the Board the man whom the
Superintendent may after consultation, select ^{from} ~~for~~ Southern Illinois.

Adjourned.


Secy pro tem

Reference File,

W. H. A.,
No. V

To the Constituency of the Anti-Saloon League of Illinois:--

My resignation as Superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of this state, to take effect January 1st, which has been announced, has been in the hands of the National Superintendent for several months.

Today completes for me five years of service as Superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of Illinois. I neither sought nor avoided the position and accepted it temporarily to preserve the continuity of the League's existence in the state. I intended at the earliest possible moment to return to the duties of an attorney in connection with the movement and had no thought of undertaking the responsibility of re-organizing the state work into harmony with the original League conception and justifying its right to exist. Later it seemed my duty to continue until the permanence of the work was established beyond question.

One who at the age of twenty-six, because nobody else will have it, undertakes, without experience tending to qualify or precedents to guide him, a task so unpopular and so certain to encounter bitter and even violent prejudices of the most diverse sort, is entitled to some mistakes as a working margin. But my mistakes have been made in an effort to advance the cause and not to serve myself. Underlying them is the fact that when the union of the churches in the League, to which every effort has been directed from the beginning, became an accomplished fact, I turned over to their representatives absolute actual control, even of the tenure of my position, thus putting it within the power of the united church to rectify possible mistakes and modify, when desirable, policies, methods and plans.

The first cycle in the development of the Anti-Saloon League in this state is fully complete. The church and moral forces of the state are officially federated to a degree not known elsewhere in Christendom. The church is aroused, organized, encouraged. The issue between the united church and the organized saloon is so sharply defined that the church could not escape it if she would. With this accomplished the passage of a local option bill is a mere incident requiring only time for its orderly working out. With consecrated practical leadership failure is impossible. For the astonishing progress made great credit is due the men who have at various times been members of our steadily increasing field force for their sacrifice and faithful work and to those early members of the Board of Directors who so courageously stood by a forlorn hope. For such personal share as I may have in it, I desire reverently to acknowledge my absolute indebtedness to a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God.

I regret not to have had time to leave the League out of debt. Five years ago it was without assets, an unpromising experiment without standing or backing. Now it has assets much in excess of indebtedness and is organized, equipped and established in the confidence of the public, with support assured and control vested in a Board composed of representatives of the church whose president

combines business judgment and ripe experience with a purpose and the ability to conserve its material interests. I believed the people would rather even pay a debt for demonstrated success than a larger sum over a longer period of years for financial conservatism without results. It cost in Ohio, a smaller state, with a sentiment strong enough to give birth to the League, and a township law to start with, approximately \$150,000 to carry a local option bill within one vote of success. It cost in Illinois an aggregate of less than \$75,000, including indebtedness.

It would have been pleasant to remain for the rejoicing over the passage of the local option bill, the declaration of independence of the tempted manhood, suffering womanhood and blighted childhood of our state, for whose sakes I have given the past five years; but, resting in the consciousness that the issue is ~~safe~~ safe with Him, in obedience to Whose call I took up the task, I am content to have been the means in His hands of making the passage of this and other needed legislation possible, and of demonstrating its possibility by carrying so sweeping a measure, in the second campaign, within one vote of victory in a legislature organized against us.

In planning the last legislative campaign it seemed clear that if we would prevent a reaction of sentiment and a sag in the work, three things must be done in the recent session:

1. Arouse the church to a realization of the magnitude of both issue and opportunity involved.
2. Prove to the politicians that the church is aroused and in earnest.
3. Convince the church by demonstration of her power in specific instance that she can win ultimately on so righteous a proposition against any political combination.

Two courses were open: First, to ask the passage of the bill as a favor. This would secure the good will (and contempt) of the opposition,--but no legislation. Second, to take steps to compel its passage. This was unpleasant, even unpopular, but gave a chance of immediate results and insured ultimate victory.

That the management of a movement which has created so much interest, aroused so much opposition and compelled so much progress would be criticized was inevitable. It was clear that to do the things which the welfare of the cause required to be done would raise a presumption against the superintendent and the wisdom of his policy in the minds of many natural friends of the movement, and especially of those who rely, directly or indirectly, for their information or opinions, upon hostile, timid or ultra-conservative

legislators and politicians, and would put me at the mercy of any of the numerous conditions which may arise when a movement of this sort acquires respectability, gains influence and begins to bask in public approval. Having no right to expect to fare better than other pioneers of reform, I gladly made the sacrifice. But life is too short and time too precious to waste any of it in defending either one's self or his policy, except where a great cause itself is involved. I can fight the saloon with a clean conscience and a whole heart. I will not quarrel with any other enemy of the saloon for place in the fight against it. The same considerations which led me to put my very life into bringing about union and cooperation of the temperance forces in the state would preclude my remaining to be a cause of division. Besides, men who unflinchingly discharge obvious duties are seldom at a loss for a choice of satisfactory fields in which to work.

I have tried from the beginning so to build the work that no individual would be indispensable to its continued existence. The time has come when it seems that it may, under existing conditions, be easier and therefore for the interests of the work, for another to build upon the foundation which has been laid. This much of a statement seems due the many friends, hundreds of active pastors and thousands of loyal supporters, without whose co-operation success would have been impossible, that they may know that I am not a "quitter" and have not deserted in the face of the enemy to accept a more desirable position.

Being relieved, however, of further responsibility in connection with the work in this state, I believe that my own interests and my future usefulness to this cause to which I have consecrated the remainder of my life, if so long be necessary, will be best served by engaging in the work in another field, and with the approval of the National Superintendent and the concurrence of my associates upon the National Committee, I have accepted the invitation of Dr. Howard H. Russell, the founder of the League movement, to become Associate Superintendent with him in the management of the work in the "Empire State" and to have for the present immediate charge and direction of the re-organization work in the districts within Western and Northern New York, with headquarters at Buffalo.

With gratitude to Almighty God for his manifest leading during these trying years, with appreciation beyond the power of words to express, of the many kindnesses shown and the hearty and generous support accorded me by the entire constituency of the movement, and with the firm conviction that this movement, a union of moral forces for practical work for a definite object, the church in action against the saloon, was ordained of God as the ultimate solution of the saloon problem, I pray His richest blessings upon you and the work in this state.

November 14, 1905

ILLINOIS

William H. Anderson, Superintendent.

The past year was a continuation of the "Struggle for Local Option in Illinois". A perfected comprehensive local option bill providing for the creation of "anti-Saloon territory" in counties, townships, cities, villages, wards and precincts and combinations of adjoining precincts was carried through the Senate and within one vote of victory in the House, in a legislature organized against us.

This phenomenal progress which has practically insured the passage of a bill at the next session of the Legislature is due primarily to a concerted demonstration made by over two thousand churches on the first Sunday after the introduction of the bill.

The Ohio victory has encouraged our friends and opened the eyes of the politicians. Notwithstanding the fact that the retail liquor dealers have decided to raise a fund of over one hundred thousand dollars to combat local option, the prospects of nomination at the primaries next April of a legislature favorable to local option are most excellent.

As this is the present superintendent's last report for Illinois, a summary of results may not be out of place.

First and most important, as all other matters grow out of it and are made possible by it, is the federation of the churches until now every leading denominational body recognizes the League as the "official agency of the federated church in the promotion of church temperance work and legislation", and its management has been actually vested in the representatives of the churches.

The working force has been increased from one to ten: the clerical force the same. Five years ago there were no assets. Now assets are far in excess of liabilities. Support is assured, the revenue has been increased from less than \$2500 the first year to \$40,000, and is now in excess of necessary expenses; and the new president of the State Board has undertaken to carry the indebtedness incurred in this expansion until it can be paid off in the regular course of business. The state has been organized, the people encouraged, the possibility of success demonstrated, the permanency of the work assured, and the League established in the respect and confidence of the public until it is a recognized factor in the civic life of the state.

The development of the church federation idea has made it unnecessary to go outside of the state for leadership. ✓ The new superintendent, Rev. James K. Shields, has won his spurs and demonstrated his capacity for leadership by his masterly handling of the federated church forces in his own legislative district, and we know he is worthy of, and feel sure that he will receive, the same loyal support from the pastors and people of the state which ~~has made~~ the truly remarkable results of the past five years possible.