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meals spoken of as something so unwholesome that to prevent the action every other consideration may be well put aside! Brewing was originally not merely a home industry in every country mansion and farmhouse, but also a leading female craft. It is shown to have been so by the feminine termination of the word "brewster," which is so far more commonly found in old literature than the masculine "brewer." Indeed, everybody named Brewster must infer that he or she is descended from an ancestress who was a famous maker of malt liquor—for there is no greater mistake than to suppose that the industrial money-getting work of women is a thing of to-day; the women of early times almost, or quite, monopolised several trades that men and machinery have now fleeced from women, and brewing is one of them.

THE PROHIBITION FARCE.

Whenever an American state adopts a policy of prohibition, as many have done at some time or another, the cold water party rejoice with exceeding great joy, and hail the event as a glorious victory over the trade. In the current issue of the "Alliance News," we are told that "North Carolina has been added to the prohibition states of the South by a decisive majority."

This decision is part of a national movement. Then comes a remarkable admission—"This has occurred before, and is more or less periodical in its manifestations. There is no adequate explanation of these movements. They can be best likened to the rising of a tide, and there will be a recession." Of course there will. By skilful manipulation at the elections the Prohibition party obtained a majority and pass a prohibition law, but in nine cases out of ten the people tire of the restraint, and, as the result is invariably a terrible increase in drunkenness, the law is sooner or later repealed. The phase of the question is admirably dealt with in an official return just issued from the New York Statistical Bur-

eau. From an exhaustive review of the history of prohibition in the States we learn that between 1845 and 1860 there were a series of spasmodic efforts to "put down the saloons," and during that period eighteen states passed prohibitory laws. These included all New England states, and all of them have repealed those laws with the solitary exception of Maine. Vermont tested prohibition from 1852 to 1903, and was then forced to abandon it, after 51 years' trial. New Hampshire gave it up in the same year, after 43 years' trial. Massachusetts had sixteen years' experience of prohibition—from 1852 to 1868—and then gave it up in disgust. Rhode Island tried it twice—from 1852 to 1863, and from 1886 to 1889—and then abandoned the fallacious scheme; the second time only three years were needed to demonstrate its futility. Connecticut had eighteen years of it—from 1854 to 1872—and then the act was repealed, while an attempt to reimpose the law in 1887 was defeated by a big majority. Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Nebraska, Illinois, and South Dakota have all, at one time or another, tried prohibition, and have all given it up as impracticable. Commenting on this portion of the report, the "New York World" says:—"Prohibition is inimical to the principle of personal liberty and popular government. It promotes immorality, perjury, and political blackmail. . . . All attempts at enforcing such a law have lowered the standard of morality and begotten corruption."

We have not space to give in full the statistics of the percentage of drunkenness to population in each state. Suffice it to say that it is much higher in the "dry" states than in the "wet"—about 24.80 per cent. higher, on an average. It is the "dry" states that are responsible for the fact that while in 1899 the drink bill of the United States of America was £194,700,000, in 1904 it had increased to £255,500,000. In the latter year the amount spent on drink in this country was £108,900,000, a fact which may interest Dr. Dawson Burns to reflect

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The Success of No-License.

JUDGED BY ACTUAL RESULTS.

The "No-License Handbook" is responsible for the statement that the returns of the Ashburton Police Court furnish an unanswerable argument in favour of No-License. In the same work it is further stated that the growth of the town since 1902 has been steady and uninterrupted, and that Ashburton is in as sound a position commercially to-day as at any period in its history. How far from the real truth these statements are will be apparent from a comparison of 1902—the last complete year of license—with last year.

CRIME IN ASHBURTON.

In 1902 the total charges laid in the Police Court numbered 309; last year they had increased to 316. In 1902 the offences relating to liquor were 93; in 1907 they numbered 103, made up as follows:—

Drunkenness	44
Selling liquor without a license	22
Prohibited persons procuring liquor	5
Disorderly conduct while drunk	1
Keeping liquor for sale	4
Failing to notify vendor under Licensing Act	2
Failing to notify clerk of Court	6
Failure to label package of liquor	4
Failing to give name and address when ordering liquor	3
Procuring liquor for prohibited person	3
Found in premises when sly-grog search-warrant executed	9
Total	103

Thus the only unanswerable argument that Ashburton can furnish in favour of No-License is an increase in crime and in offences relating to drink.

THE PROSPERITY OF THE TOWN.

In the five years since No-license the population of Ashburton has increased from 2500 to 2563, which of itself is eloquent testimony to the utter stagnation of the town. Business is very bad, over 40 establishments having changed hands since 1903, and fully a dozen businesses are now in the market. At least six prominent Prohibitionist tradesmen have shown themselves so satisfied with business under the regime they advocated that they have removed themselves and their businesses to places where licenses exist. No less than eleven shops have been burnt out in the last eighteen months, and the town is so prosperous that in many cases no effort has been made to rebuild. The debts sued for in the Magistrate's Court have increased in amount from £3115 in 1902 to £4633 in 1907, an increase of 49 per cent., which disposes of the frequently expressed opinion that people pay their debts better under No-license. It is said that a large proportion of business people are satisfied, but actions speak louder than words, and at the Court-house polling-booth, in the centre of the business population, the votes cast in 1905 were:

For restoration	618
Against restoration	335
Majority for restoration	283

A QUESTION FOR TEMPERANCE REFORMERS.

It is evident that, judged by the very test proposed by the Prohibitionists themselves, No-license is a failure in Ashburton. There is no decrease in crime, as shown by the Police Court records; on the contrary, there is a slight increase. Instead of increasing prosperity, so lavishly promised, we find complete stagnation. Instead of business people enlarging their premises, we find them falling over each other in their hurry to escape from the town. Instead of the workers having a plentiful supply of cash, we find small debts harder than ever to collect. On the top of all these failures, we have the horrors of sly-grog, with its train of ruined homes.

In the face of these facts, is it not time for those temperance reformers who believe in coercion as a remedy to ask themselves whether these results are in spite of, or because of, the law they defend?