

becomes detrimental as well to the whole trade of that section to which it applies.

At the present time when the country is burdened and weighed down by excessive taxation; when all trades are groaning under the results of this class legislation in regard to our national currency, and the people are crying, especially in our own State, "Reform," "Reform," which is but the cry for retrenchment and economy, and a reduction of our State taxes, a measure is presented, which has for its object the breaking up of the business of one particular class of our people, and which will result, as we intend to prove, in the raising of the taxes fully fifty per cent., and at the same time materially affecting the traffic and profits, not alone of our dealers in staple commodities, but of our farmers, the true producers of wealth, the abiding wealth of our State, and giving to other Commonwealths the bulk of our trade rightfully belonging to us.

It will be only one step more toward communism. Then again the Constitution of our Nation and State guarantees equal rights and protection to all men.

Is the passage of measures looking to the advancement of class legislation and in direct conflict with the business and home interests, as well as the pleasures of another large class of our citizens, true protection and equal rights? **Emphatically, No!**

The present Local Option bill before your Honorable Body is one that its projectors clearly do not understand in its fullest import, as is clearly shown by the reports which have emanated from their central body in this State, known as the State Temperance Alliance. They say: "Baltimore liquor dealers have but a limited support outside of Maryland, while the liquor dealers of New York and Philadelphia sell to all portions of the country."

This is not true, and it is a libel on our merchants who have invested to-day more than twenty millions of dollars in this industry, besides having an equal amount invested in private property, from which the State receives its due proportion of taxes, and whose sales extend to every State in the Union; our own State consuming but one-twelfth of the liquor manufactured and sold here by the trade.

Baltimore and Philadelphia are the acknowledged markets for fine whiskies.

The passage of this law will compel these citizens to seek homes elsewhere, either in the District of Columbia, or Delaware, Pennsylvania and other adjacent States. Can our State bear this loss?