

Who are the people that are pressing this measure? Not men of means, and our heaviest tax-payers, but men who have grown old in, or suddenly become imbued with this fanaticism.

We, as loyal citizens and tax-payers of this Commonwealth, do hereby enter our most solemn protest against this infringement on our rights, and will, with your kind permission, briefly lay before you for your consideration a few of the reasons why this Local Option measure should not become a law.

We propose to deal with the question from a financial and a moral stand-point.

The amount of taxable capital invested by dealers in the City and State approximates \$12,000,000; the breweries in the State are worth \$8,000,000; our hotels, whose liquor trade amounts to \$500,000 per annum, and without which would not prove remunerative, and would have to be abandoned, represent an interest of \$5,000,000; saloons represent another \$5,000,000; the grocery trade depends to-day, to a very great extent, on the sale of wines and liquors; their sales aggregating over \$2,000,000 annually, and those to be affected representing a taxable basis of \$20,000,000.

The various other industries, using liquors in their manufactures, including the drug and canned goods trades and the tobacco manufactures, with the warehousemen's investments whose property is very largely used for the storage of liquors, will feel the pull at their purse-strings, while they swell the figures \$10,000,000 more. The malsters have \$2,500,000 invested.

Thus in dealing with those directly to be affected, we find a basis for taxation of over \$60,000,000, netting the State at the present rate of taxation, (17½ cents on the \$100,) over \$100,000, which will prove a loss to the State's exchequer, besides \$150,000 at present derived from license fees, making the loss over \$250,000, which alone would raise our State taxes 6 cents on the \$100, without taking into consideration the decline of that class of property now occupied by the liquor men, and the loss from trade in general, which you readily observe would bring the tax to 25 cents on the \$100.

We would also add that over 20,000 legal voters and tax-payers, many with families dependent upon them for support, are engaged in the business, who would be thrown out of employment, and add to the number of idle men throughout the State—idle—for the reason that the number of unemployed is large to day, and although willing to work, are unable to find any employment.