

In Boston, Massachusetts, during the existence of the Prohibitory Law, 2,700 secret drinking places were reported, and when the law was repealed and licenses granted 2,400 only were taken out, showing that with a free liquor law less drinking was done than during the prevalence of stringent measures, while fewer drunken men were to be seen on their streets.

We are informed that in Local Option Districts in this State, there are more Government licenses taken out by dealers than before the passage of their Local Laws, to enable them to sell liquors without interference from the United States Government.

Only last week our neighboring State of Pennsylvania saw the fallacy and injustice of the passage of the prohibition bill and promptly voted it down.

A few words as regards the other bills before your Honorable Body, and we submit the whole matter to your good judgment and impartial consideration, feeling assured that with the facts presented, you cannot fail to see the evil effects of the passage of this Prohibitory Law and other measures affecting the liquor traders' interest in the State. Ours is not a State like Virginia, well nigh crushed by a large State debt, and which has been on the threshold of repudiation, compelling a resort to the bell punch to save her honor. We stand second to none in the healthy condition of our Treasury, and the introduction here of a criminal hatching machine, for such the bell punch will prove itself, making a premium on dishonesty, is an outrage on the pride, the dignity, and the integrity of our people. We do not object to a more stringent retail license law, as that we believe will protect the better class of trade, and at the same time increase the revenue of the State, but we do object to the imposition of a tax on the manufactures, and on the sales of the wholesale dealers, as it will debar us from competing with dealers of our neighboring States, and it will result in the crushing out of every distillery and brewery in the State, driving trade from our midst, owing to manufacturers and dealers from abroad, not burdened with an onerous tax, underselling us.

Again is presented one of the fallacious arguments of the opposition; "The license revenue is not needed by the State of Maryland." Our reply we take from Comptroller Woolford's report of 1874: "That should Local Option prevail it would be necessary to raise the sum by direct and increased taxation with an extra Session of the Legislature."

We reiterate in conclusion, that class legislation is oppressive, obnoxious and in defiance of the constitutional rights of