
FORTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 34.

STATE OF MAINE.

The Committee on Coast and Frontier Defences, to which was referred the Liquor Commissioners Report, have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to Report that we have examined the same, and do not propose any alteration of the present law, we therefore order the printing of three hundred and fifty copies of the preamble to said Report, together with the name of each town, and the gross amount in dollars and cents furnished the same, together with the recapitulation, the amount of commissions and expenses.

Per order.

PARTMON HOUGHTON, }
JOSIAH MERROW, } *Committee.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 15, 1868. }

Read and accepted. Sent up for concurrence.

S. J. CHADBOURNE, *Clerk.*

IN SENATE, February 17, 1868.

Read and concurred.

THOMAS P. CLEAVES, *Secretary.*

REPORT.

*To the Hon. Governor and the
Executive Council of Maine:*

The period has arrived in which it becomes my duty to make my
SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The business of the State Commission has had my constant superintendence and been conducted with results not materially different from preceding years. As the liquors furnished to the Town Agencies are intended principally for medicinal use, they are purchased with special reference to that object; and in their selection the advice of eminent chemists and physicians has been called to my aid. The analysis of these liquors has been made generally at the office of Dr. Goodale, State Assayer. In his absence samples have been analyzed by Dr. Jackson of Boston, Dr. Hamlin of Bangor and Professor Brackett of Bowdoin College.

Dr. Goodale has given the analysis and medicinal use of liquors his critical attention and study. During the year he has visited the wine districts of California, and also the leading places in Europe, from which the wines and distilled spirits, imported into this country, are principally brought. And I am allowed to state that in his opinion the brandies and other imported liquors analyzed by him for the State Commissioner compare well in all respects with those found in European markets and at the Paris Exposition, which were there carefully examined, both by himself and Prof. Brackett, who accompanied him.

The purity of the articles furnished to the agencies from this office is not only certified by those who have assayed them, but their good quality is admitted by all reliable judges who have examined them; and I have received frequent assurances from members of municipal boards and agents that they give very general satisfaction.

Liquors have varied in price but little during the year, especially those of good quality, on which it was clear the duties had been

paid. Liquors of imperfect manufacture and contraband articles, in large amount, have been thrown upon the market and have often been purchased at a very low price by those disposed to deal in them. And though our agencies are generally well conducted, as I believe, and have the confidence of the community in which they are located, yet there are instances of their gross perversion by the purchase and sale of such liquors, and in several towns, shops have been opened for the sale of liquors, under the name and pretence of a regular agency, but with obvious intention of violating the law. It is due to the State Constable, Hon. Mr. Nye, to acknowledge the promptness and efficiency with which he has endeavored to have these impositions and abuses corrected.

It will be noticed that the number of agencies in this State and the sales at this office, have both considerably increased during the year. The additional restraint on the illegal traffic, I think it must be admitted, has been the principal cause which has led to these results.

No town is now allowed to have but a single agency. It has been frequently suggested that in our cities and larger towns in which there are several villages or centers of business, the people would be much better accommodated if there could be an additional number. The law, it is believed, might be so amended, as to allow of this, where judged necessary by the municipal board, without any detriment to the cause of temperance, and the inducement to patronize those engaged in the illegal sale would be very much lessened and the temptation to continue such sale proportionably reduced.

The business of the State Commission the past year, though the expenses have been much larger than usual, has afforded a fair remuneration. Heretofore the net profit has not been what is generally realized in other departments of trade, where so large an amount of capital, labor and expenses are required. The commission charged to the towns on the prime cost of goods is seven per cent. for small or broken packages, but on whole or original packages which include the largest portion of my sales, only six per cent. is charged. From all bills paid within ten days, one per cent. is deducted and the expense of remittance by express is allowed, so that I actually receive but about five per cent. on gross sales.

The method adopted in conducting the business here involves a large amount of labor. An invoice of sales, kept expressly for

the purpose, gives in the case of each separate purchase the exact amount of loss or deficiency in measure, occasioned by leakage, evaporation and other causes. Every package bought is marked and numbered. The number is written on the bill and invoice, and on the sample to be assayed, and on the certificate of results of analyses. When the package is sold or any part of it, the corresponding number is set against the entry in the sale book, by which it can be shown at any time where every lot and package purchased by me has been distributed. Whenever desirable, packages from the same purchase, having the same number and sold to different agencies can be compared with each other or with the original sample retained at the office of the assayer, so that if an error or any adulteration takes place, it could be readily discovered. And the municipal boards and agents have been frequently invited to examine my stock—certificates of analysis—invoices and books at any time when it might suit their convenience or pleasure to do it.

In the opinion of physicians generally, various liquors are necessary for medicinal use, and as this commission is the legitimate source of supply in this State, of pure and reliable articles, it holds an important relation to the public welfare. I therefore suggest whether it is not advisable that provision be made for an annual or more frequent examination of its affairs by a committee from the executive board. Such a provision would obviously contribute to a judicious conduct of its business and tend to preserve the commission in the public confidence.

An account of sales for the year ending November 30, 1867, is here given.

Respectfully submitted,

EATON SHAW, *Commissioner.*

PORTLAND, December, 1867.

*Statement of Sales to Cities and Towns for the year ending Nov.
30, 1867.*

Town of Abbot,	\$454 86	Town of Lexington,	\$122 23
“ Anson,	1,028 35	“ Limerick,	346 66
“ Auburn,	4,064 80	City of Lewiston,	9,502 45
“ Andover,	1,085 96	Town of Lisbon,	890 68
“ Avon,	1,006 36	“ Lovell,	77 95
“ Albion,	403 23	“ Livermore,	220 55
“ Athens,	1,341 67	Plant. of Milton,	102 74
“ Bingham,	544 24	Town of Monmouth,	1,213 84
City of Bath,	4,786 24	“ Madison,	985 52
Town of Bowdoinham,	674 77	“ Mt. Vernon,	875 49
“ Bowdoin,	1,027 22	“ Mercer,	604 41
“ Bucksport,	1,264 39	Plant. of Monhegan,	13 74
City of Belfast,	7,028 92	Town of Minot,	349 29
Town of Belgrade,	797 06	“ Machias,	1,644 48
“ Buckfield,	1,167 86	“ Norridgewock,	850 29
“ Brunswick,	2,915 54	“ Norway,	1,613 19
“ Bethel,	2,423 00	“ New Gloucester,	642 34
City of Bangor,	2,370 84	“ New Portland,	500 83
Town of Burnham,	858 90	“ Newport,	664 22
“ Bradford,	540 59	“ New Sharon,	1,067 14
“ Belmont,	1,033 97	“ Oxford,	876 33
“ Corinna,	785 30	“ Orono,	267 08
“ Camden,	982 36	“ Paris,	854 45
“ Columbia Falls,	128 77	“ Poland,	373 84
City of Calais,	323 69	City of Portland,	9,858 49
Town of Cornville,	526 76	Town of Pittsfield,	870 70
“ Canton,	553 93	“ Porter,	803 36
“ Cherryfield,	882 30	“ Phillips,	1,244 58
Plant. of Clinton Gore,	8 18	“ Palmyra,	684 79
Town of Clinton,	219 84	“ Palermo,	712 78
“ Cornish,	965 43	“ Pembroke,	241 09
“ Chesterville,	610 71	“ Rumford,	199 97
“ Canaan,	2,157 51	City of Rockland,	407 11
“ Dover,	1,121 77	Town of Readfield,	2,690 64
“ Damariscotta,	2,590 26	“ Richmond,	811 56
“ Danville,	10 57	“ Rome,	712 50
“ Dexter,	764 90	“ Saco,	1,000 77
“ Dixfield,	659 80	“ Sumner,	947 63
“ East Livermore,	2,002 24	“ Skowhegan,	3,740 62
“ Ellsworth,	1,689 26	“ Strong,	589 25
Plant. of Eustis,	227 93	“ St. Albans,	526 11
Town of Edgecomb,	149 79	“ Starks,	525 30
“ Eufield,	203 35	“ Smithfield,	254 80
“ Fairfield,	2,329 74	“ South Berwick,	1,199 54
“ Freeport,	591 59	“ Steuben,	207 14
“ Foxcroft,	241 25	“ Sherman,	92 62
“ Farmington,	2,103 94	“ Troy,	554 40
“ Fayette,	382 54	“ Turner,	680 84
“ Greenwood,	850 46	“ Vienna,	447 75
“ Gorham,	378 93	“ Vassalborough,	759 67
“ Greene,	643 91	“ Woodstock,	519 15
City of Gardiner,	3,919 77	“ Webster,	514 33
Town of Gratton,	109 69	“ Wiscasset,	1,575 87
“ Harmony,	892 00	“ Wilton,	1,542 90
City of Hallowell,	1,302 16	“ Waterville,	2,839 62
Town of Hebron,	281 92	“ Wayne,	790 07
“ Hartland,	636 22	“ Whitneyville,	333 66
“ Jonesborough,	275 14	“ Waldoborough,	735 37
“ Kingfield,	405 70	“ Wellington,	560 68
“ Kittery,	473 63	“ Winterport,	335 88
“ Leeds,	406 00	“ Winthrop,	419 60
“ Lincoln,	1,173 58		

LIQUOR COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

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RECAPITULATION.

Whole amount of sales for the year ending November 30, 1867, including commissions,	\$137,382 39
Whole amount of commissions,	7,936 84

OFFICE EXPENSES.

Rent, clerk hire, license, insurance and taxes,	\$2,788 11
Analyses, freight, and visiting agencies,	1,459 41
Stationery, post office and revenue stamps, fuel and other incidentals,	558 42
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	4,805 94
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	\$3,130 90