

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FORTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 52.

STATE OF MAINE.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Augusta, January 13, 1869. }

To the President of the Senate and

Speaker of the House of Representatives:

I have the honor herewith to lay before the Legislature the State Liquor Commissioner's Report for the year ending November 30th, 1868.

Very respectfully,

Your ob't serv't,

FRANKLIN M. DREW,

Secretary of State.

STATE LIQUOR COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

*To the Honorable Governor and the
Executive Council of Maine :*

In obedience to the law I present my Annual Report for the year ending November 30th, 1868.

Changes in the revenue laws and other causes have affected the business of the State Commission to a considerable extent in the course of the year, rendering it necessary to have additional clerical help, and adding in other respects to current expenses. The business however, has been prosecuted in the same unobtrusive manner as in preceding years, and a stock of pure analyzed liquors, suitable for medicinal and manufacturing purposes, has been kept on hand, from which all legitimate orders have been filled.

Samples of the liquors purchased by me are submitted for examination to Prof. Goodale of Bowdoin College, State Assayer, and I seldom have complaints of their quality. The quantity supplied to the town agencies in this State, it will be noticed, was nearly the same as in the preceding year, though the cost value was considerably less. This result is attributable chiefly to the large reduction in the tax on domestic distilled spirits.

In various towns, I am informed, there are places where liquors are sold in large quantities under the name of town agencies, which have no account nor connection with this office. What those who are carrying on this trade seem to wish, is just to be let alone.

Previous to the reduction of the tax on distilled liquors, those of illicit manufacture, especially inferior grades, were sold extensively throughout the State, and often much below the cost of good articles on which the tax had been paid. The low price at which they were offered led to their purchase and sale at agencies in different towns. And it has been stated on good authority that in a number of towns forfeited liquors have been taken to the agency

and put on sale. I have examined numerous samples seized at the common shops, and have taken special pains to ascertain the quality of these liquors and those generally sold in the State in violation of law, and have found them in most cases to be spurious or of imperfect manufacture, and entirely unsuitable for medicinal purposes. That liquors of such grade, obtained from whatever source, should be taken to the agencies and mixed up with those purchased at this office and sold for medicinal use, tends directly to bring both the agencies and State commission into *discredit*, and is an *abuse* for which, it seems to me, there should be an *effectual remedy*. It cannot be doubted that the public welfare would be promoted were all forfeited liquors required to be destroyed, unless, when having some alcoholic value, legal provision be made for their disposal to some distiller to be redistilled or made into alcohol. And I may be allowed to suggest also, whether the interests of the State would not be essentially advanced were provision made for the appointment of a board of supervisors or officers under some designation, whose duty should be to see that the agencies and State commission are properly conducted, and to aid the local police whenever necessary in enforcing the laws against crime generally, and especially those relating to the sale of intoxicating liquors.

The account of sales given below show what agencies have been wholly or in part supplied from the State Liquor Commission during the year. The commission charged, which appears in the general schedule, is included in the footing of gross amount of sales, and averages $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on cost. To the towns whose bills have been paid within ten days a discount of 1 per cent. has been allowed, and a special tax of 1 per cent. on monthly sales is also paid to the collector of internal revenue.

About fifteen hundred dollars has been expended during the year in visiting the agencies with a view to promote a good understanding with those having them in charge, and with the hope of correcting the irregularities into which a considerable number had been led. These items added to the usual current expenses, when deducted from the amount of commissions charged, leaves a sum quite too small as a remuneration for doing a business of such extent and responsibility. It becomes necessary, under existing circumstances, to charge a commission of 7 per cent., but

were the liquors sold at all the agencies purchased at this office
the per cent. charged on cost might be reduced.

Respectfully submitted,

EATON SHAW,

State Liquor Commissioner.

PORTLAND, December, 1868.

LIQUOR COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

Sales for the year ending November 30, 1868.

Town of Abbott,	\$210 56	Town of Lexington,	\$70 27
“ Albion,	613 39	“ Limerick,	85 64
“ Andover,	498 79	“ Lisbon,	516 75
“ Appleton,	188 64	“ Livermore,	550 17
“ Anson,	970 14	“ Machias,	2,077 79
“ Athens,	1,424 13	“ Madison,	845 92
“ Avon,	148 89	“ Mercer,	424 74
“ Auburn,	3,528 72	“ Mexico,	316 25
City of Bath,	4,644 14	“ Minot,	329 81
“ Belfast,	436 86	“ Monmouth,	707 34
Town of Belgrade,	938 69	“ Mt. Vernon,	877 10
“ Belmont,	122 60	“ New Gloucester,	698 09
“ Bethel,	2,545 58	“ Newport,	228 38
“ Buckfield,	40 66	“ New Sharon,	773 18
“ Bingham,	762 05	“ New Portland,	396 90
“ Bowdoin,	630 73	“ Norridgewock,	917 09
“ Bowdoinham,	481 31	“ Norway,	1,596 88
“ Bradford,	147 12	“ Orono,	742 17
“ Brunswick,	2,344 78	“ Oxford,	701 36
“ Burnham,	711 05	“ Palermo,	503 92
“ Bucksport,	901 95	“ Palmyra,	590 79
“ Canaan,	799 85	City of Portland,	7,539 19
City of Calais,	133 53	Town of Paris,	1,628 06
Town of Carratunk,	457 79	“ Peru,	156 93
“ Cherryfield,	589 12	“ Phillips,	1,563 23
“ Canton,	1,460 76	“ Poland,	683 83
“ Chesterville,	620 39	“ Porter,	563 65
“ Corinna,	342 38	“ Pittsfield,	628 09
“ Columbia,	172 70	“ Readfield,	2,032 98
“ Columbia Falls,	239 39	City of Rockland,	218 05
“ Cornish,	203 20	Town of Rome,	697 31
“ Cornville,	165 05	“ Richmond,	1,272 94
“ Damariscotta,	461 42	City of Saco,	407 17
“ Dexter,	842 05	Town of Sherman,	168 49
“ Dixfield,	420 76	“ Smithfield,	305 85
“ Dover,	1,221 68	“ Skowhegan,	3,028 74
“ East Livermore,	1,958 90	“ Solon,	263 86
“ East Machias,	108 63	“ South Berwick,	111 79
“ Edgecomb,	107 97	“ St. Albans,	448 28
“ Farmington,	1,538 06	“ Starks,	662 45
“ Fairfield,	2,567 34	“ Strong,	347 89
“ Fayette,	231 67	“ Sumner,	379 94
“ Franklin,	129 25	“ Turner,	751 98
“ Frankfort,	477 52	“ Vassalborough,	1,348 15
“ Freeport,	343 67	“ Vienna,	584 20
“ Foxcroft,	488 64	“ Waldoborough,	3,083 05
City of Gardiner,	2,776 75	“ Waterville,	918 53
Town of Greene,	623 73	“ Wayne,	1,038 94
“ Greenwood,	626 59	“ Webster,	328 94
City of Hallowell,	926 50	“ Weld,	265 82
Town of Hanover,	107 62	“ Wellington,	675 13
“ Harmony,	705 36	“ Wells,	178 32
“ Harrington,	341 46	“ Whitefield,	647 13
“ Hartland,	26 75	“ Whitneyville,	538 21
“ Hebron,	257 45	“ Woodstock,	435 78
“ Kingfield,	434 60	“ Wilton,	1,590 15
“ Kittery,	400 62	“ Winthrop,	952 69
City of Lewiston,	7,190 74	“ Wiscasset,	3,459 74
“ Leeds,	324 61		

Total amount of Sales, \$106,861.30.

Total amount of Commissions, \$6,481.32.



STATE OF MAINE.

The Joint Select Committee on Prohibitory Liquor Law and State Constabulary to which was referred report of State Liquor Commissioner, have had the same under consideration and ask leave to report that the same be printed for the use of the Legislature.

Per order.

M. T. LUDDEN, *Chairman.*

IN SENATE, March 4, 1869.

Read and accepted. Sent down for concurrence.

THOMAS P. CLEAVES, *Secretary.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
March 5, 1869. }

Read and concurred.

S. J. CHADBOURNE, *Clerk.*