

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1865.

AUGUSTA:

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1865.

FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 3.

REPORT OF STATE LIQUOR COMMISSIONER.

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

This is my

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT.

In representing the affairs of this office, it is gratifying to be able to state that, in many respects, they were never in a more satisfactory condition. Since my last report there has been a legitimate increase of patronage, and sales, in cost value, have more than doubled.

The liquors furnished to the city and town agencies, so far as I have been able to learn, are as judiciously disposed of as could be expected, and give general satisfaction.

The business of the office, on account of greatly advanced prices, has increased very largely the weight of its pecuniary responsibility, requiring no inconsiderable amount of capital to carry it on. Mercantile business is now very generally conducted on a cash basis; and could the towns be induced to adopt the rule of paying down for their purchases it would afford decided relief. Some towns are uniformly prompt, and pay for their goods on delivery, or within thirty days. A large number, however, require time, and the average amount of outstanding dues is more than fifteen thousand dollars; and to keep a suitable variety, an equal amount is needed in stock on hand.

In the selection and purchase of liquors for our agencies, experience and careful discrimination are requisite; for all liquors that will bear analysis, or are free from foreign and deleterious in-

redients, are by no means suitable for the purposes contemplated. At most agencies, the demand is for the older and better grades; but no little embarrassment is still experienced by the agents from the extensive outside sale of diluted spurious liquors, mostly brought into the State from abroad. These articles can be afforded at a much lower rate than such as are of standard proof, and suitable for agency use. And as all cannot appreciate the difference in their quality, the patronage of several agencies became so diminished as to lead to their being closed. Some, however, have been reopened, so urgent became the solicitation for pure and sound articles.

In some localities agencies have been perverted by illegal purchases and the introduction of liquors entirely unfit to be put on sale. I have endeavored to have these abuses corrected, and when they have come to my knowledge, the agencies have been visited and such liquors have been removed. Our territory is widely extended, and some agencies are remote from the State Office. To visit them is attended with great expense, but so far as the income of the Commission would allow, it has been done, and evidently with beneficial results. To prevent abuses and promote a good understanding between the State and town agencies an efficient agent is constantly needed in the field, and it is my intention to keep such an agent employed; and I hope to secure a more general coöperation of the municipal boards in carrying out the objects of the law.

While spiritous liquors are so extensively recommended in medical practice, and held to be indispensable in various departments of art, public sentiment requires some provision for a supply of such as are suitable for these purposes.

A careful observation justifies the opinion that the mode by which such supply is now furnished in this State is wisely arranged, and that, with a few modifications of the law, no mode more feasible or less liable to abuse could well be devised. But agencies, to command the confidence of those who have real occasion to patronize them, to preserve them from perversion and falling into disrepute, men of integrity and sound discretion should be appointed as agents, who will conduct them as the law prescribes.

So generally adulterated are the liquors kept at the common places of sale, which are rapidly increasing in number, that our agencies would be scarcely less needful were all prohibitory enactments repealed. And to enforce a law of absolute prohibition

without some arrangement of the kind must be considered utterly impracticable and a hopeless task, unless, in the advancement of science, a substitute for alcohol shall be discovered.

That the sale of intoxicating liquors should be put under strict police regulations is evidently the opinion of a large majority of the intelligent, humane and considerate among us, and they would no doubt rejoice to see every shop, bar and saloon closed up, where intoxicating beverages are furnished and drunkards made.

But would they have the public welfare promoted and intemperance, with its attendant, appalling evils abated, they must see to it that the municipal officers in every city and town have positive instruction to faithfully enforce the law of prohibition, and that these officers are fully sustained and upheld in its execution.

Annexed is a detailed statement of account of sales.

Respectfully submitted,

EATON SHAW, *Commissioner.*

PORTLAND, December, 1864.

Statement of Sales to Cities and Towns for year ending November 30, 1864.

Town of Albion,	\$522 26	Town of Lisbon,	\$995 70
“ Andover,	617 70	“ Livermore,	130 98
“ Athens,	1,027 00	“ Machias,	1,316 30
“ Auburn,	3,208 73	“ Mercer,	235 31
City of Bangor,	4,304 19	“ Minot,	674 34
“ Bath,	4,251 06	Plant. of Monhegan,	22 34
Town of Bethel,	1,065 99	Town of Monmouth,	914 49
“ Belgrade,	20 07	“ Mt. Vernon,	90 65
City of Biddeford,	311 32	“ New Sharon,	795 65
Town of Bowdoin,	189 90	“ New Gloucester,	80 51
“ Bowdoinham,	454 11	“ Newport,	429 41
“ Brunswick,	2,030 32	“ Norridgewock,	974 05
“ Buckfield,	856 37	“ Norway,	1,352 22
“ Bucksport,	388 74	“ Oldtown,	754 63
“ Canaan,	848 31	“ Oxford,	520 40
“ Canton,	1,246 05	“ Palmyra,	1,027 36
“ Cornville,	386 96	“ Paris,	136 47
“ China,	182 21	“ Phillips,	1,214 99
“ Danville,	1,051 55	“ Poland,	545 51
“ Dexter,	476 91	City of Portland,	911 29
“ Dover,	231 90	Town of Readfield,	1,442 12
“ Eastport,	1,304 81	City of Rockland,	766 90
“ East Livermore,	1,629 21	Town of Rome,	214 41
“ Embden,	503 26	“ Richmond,	420 99
“ Farmington,	1,139 31	“ Rumford,	994 01
“ Fayette,	686 05	“ Saco,	1,389 34
“ Fort Fairfield,	783 91	“ Salem,	427 03
“ Freeport,	411 32	“ Smithfield,	397 80
City of Gardiner,	2,168 15	“ Skowhegan,	4,196 04
Town of Gorham,	349 62	“ Solon,	710 99
“ Greene,	44 80	“ Starks,	237 31
“ Greenwood,	1,439 14	“ St. Albans,	496 41
“ Harmony,	316 44	“ Steuben,	289 21
“ Hallowell,	1,085 70	“ Strong,	602 01
“ Hebron,	381 98	“ Turner,	1,790 21
“ Jay,	520 21	“ Vienna,	528 35
“ Kennebunk,	142 73	“ Waterville,	880 38
“ Kingfield,	732 41	“ Wayne,	1,197 54
City of Lewiston,	2,160 29	“ Webster,	1,088 16
Town of Leeds,	484 11	“ Woodstock,	587 31
“ Limington,	271 93	“ Wilton,	1,429 23
“ Lincoln,	1,489 40	“ Wiscasset,	1,399 38
“ Litchfield,	39 34		

RECAPITULATION.

Whole amount of sales from November 30, 1863, to December 1, 1864, including charges for trucking and packages, and commissions,	\$76,363 60
Whole amount of commissions,	3,953 92

OFFICE EXPENSES.

Rent, taxes, license and insurance,	\$508 06
Clerk hire and visiting agencies,	1,478 93
Stationery, including post and revenue stamps,	195 21
Analyses, fuel, and other incidental expenses,	265 51

\$2,447 71

Interest on capital employed, above what may be collected from cities and towns who require time on their purchase, cannot be ascertained till the year's accounts are settled.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, January 18, 1865.

On motion of Mr. MILLIKEN,

Ordered, That the Committee to whom was referred the Report of the State Liquor Commissioner, be directed to order the usual number of said Report printed, or as much thereof as they think proper.

Read and passed, and sent down for concurrence.

THOMAS P. CLEAVES, *Secretary*.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, January 19, 1865.

Read and passed, in concurrence.

HORACE STILSON, *Clerk*.

The Joint Special Committee on the State Liquor Commissioner's Report, who were directed to "order the printing of the usual number of copies of so much of said Report as they may think proper," hereby order the printing of three hundred and fifty copies of the same, together with a statement of the gross amount of sales to each city and town for the year ending November, 1864.

Per order.

S. W. LARRABEE.