

and no kind of compensation was paid, whether for breweries, distilleries, or saloons.

It is important to realise that the prohibition movement in America was of gradual growth, and was not thrust on the country suddenly, in a wave of war-time excitement. It had been tried in many States, most of them agricultural, and had been found to improve the material conditions of life and the happiness of the people. The story of Kansas, which went dry in 1880, is well told by William Allen White, her leading journalist.* “For two decades the prohibition problem engaged Kansas. It was a hard fight, but it never wavered. The Puritans won. The Law and Order League in every town and county worked day and night. It required laws which permitted search and seizure, which prohibited doctors from prescribing liquor, and druggists from keeping it in stock, laws which permitted the confiscation of liquor-running automobiles, and which made the second offence of the liquor-seller a felony, sending him to the penitentiary for it—but in the end prohibition won.”

The material condition of Kansas, which, it must be admitted, was partly due to other causes than prohibition, is thus described by Mr. White.† “Ten years ago the figures indicated that the county in the United States with the largest assessed valuation was Marion County, Kansas, a county in Central Kansas, not materially different from any other county. Marion County happened to have a larger *per capita* of bank deposits than any other American County. Its average of *per capita* wealth and *per capita* bank deposits was not much higher than the Kansas average.

* Cf. *The Times*, June 30, 1923.

† *Ibid.*