

**SOBER BY ACT
OF PARLIAMENT**

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Sober by act of parliament by Fred A. Mackenzie

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FRED A. MACKENZIE

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FRED A. MCKENZIE



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1896

TO
THE MEMORY OF
MY FATHER,
WHO,
THOUGH PASSED FROM HUMAN KEN,
HAS LEFT BEHIND
A PRECIOUS REMEMBRANCE OF LOVING KINDNESS AND
UNFAILING SYMPATHY,
This Book is Dedicated.

P R E F A C E.

IT is a truism that men of all shades of opinion are desirous to promote sobriety. It is the *raison d'être* of the teetotaler and the declared aim of the publican. The advocate of prohibition and the man who would make the trade in drink as free as the sale of bread both profess to be actuated by a desire to extirpate inebriety. Can legislation aid us in accomplishing this end, and if so in what way and to what extent? This volume is an attempt to partly answer the question, not by means of elaborate theories or finely drawn inferences, but by a statement of the actual results obtained from liquor laws in various parts of the world.

Whatever shortcomings may be found in the following pages, I have done my best to ensure their honesty and fairness. I have written with a brief for no particular policy, but with a sincere desire to learn, free from the blinding mists of partisan prejudice, the truth about all. My conclusions may appear to some mistaken, and my treatment inadequate, but I have never suppressed

facts that told against my own opinions, arranged statistics to suit myself, or consciously placed incidents in a disproportionate light. The subject is altogether too serious, and involves issues too grave, to allow one to indulge in one-sided statements, garbled facts, or lying statistics.

As far as possible, the facts and figures given are taken from official sources. I must acknowledge my indebtedness to many correspondents in America, in Australia, and on the Continent of Europe, as well as at home, who have helped me by collecting statistics and supplying information. Without their aid my investigations would have been far more difficult than they have proved. I am also greatly obliged to the Editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette* for permission to reproduce portions of several articles of mine on "Liquor Laws," which appeared in his journal and in a *Pall Mall Gazette* "Extra" during 1893.

FRED A. MCKENZIE.

46 OXBERRY AVENUE,
FULHAM.

CONTENTS.

PART I.—AMERICA.

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. THE STATE AS SALOON KEEPER - - - - -	9
II. RUM AND POLITICS - - - - -	21
III. FORTY YEARS OF PROHIBITION - - - - -	32
IV. PROHIBITION IN KANSAS - - - - -	45
V. THE LAW THAT FAILED - - - - -	53
VI. HIGH LICENCE IN PENNSYLVANIA - - - - -	67

PART II.—GREATER BRITAIN.

I. PROHIBITION AND LOCAL OPTION IN CANADA - - -	75
II. LOCAL CONTROL IN NEW ZEALAND - - - - -	92
III. LICENSING IN AUSTRALIA - - - - -	104

PART III.—THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE.

I. THE STATE AS DISTILLER - - - - -	112
II. THE GOTHENBURG SYSTEM - - - - -	122

PART IV.—ENGLAND.

I. THE GROWTH OF THE LICENSING SYSTEM - - -	133
II. PROPOSED REFORMS - - - - -	147
III. THE PROBLEMS OF REFORM - - - - -	169
IV. THE PATH OF PROGRESS - - - - -	191

APPENDICES.

I. THE CONDITION OF WORKING MEN IN MAINE - - -	199
II. THE GIN ACT, 1736 - - - - -	200

