

J. A. HARVEY, from the Committee on Suppression of Intemperance, submitted the following report:

MR. SPEAKER :

Your Committee on Suppression of Intemperance, to whom was referred house file No. 198, a bill for an act providing for an increase of the county poor fund, beg leave to report that they have had the same under consideration and have instructed me to report the same back to the house with the recommendation that it do pass.

J. A. HARVEY, *Chairman.*

Ordered passed on file.

HOUSE FILE NO. 198.]

[BY GAY.

A BILL

FOR AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE OF THE COUNTY POOR FUND.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa,* All moneys collected by license for the sale of all spirituous, vinous or malt liquors under the laws of this state shall be paid into the county poor fund for the support of the poor: and all acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

MINORITY REPORT ON HOUSE FILE NO. 198.

MR. SPEAKER:

The minority of your Committee on the Suppression of Intemperance, to whom was referred house file No. 198, beg leave to report that, having considered the same, they cannot concur with the report of the majority of the committee thereupon, but report the same back to the house with the recommendation that it do not pass, for the following reasons:

House file No. 198 involves an entire change in the method of providing revenue for the poor fund. At present the poor from all over the county naturally gather into the city. They increase the expense of maintaining order and peace, which expense is directly paid by the city and cannot transferred to the county. Liquor licenses go now into the general fund of the cities. The regulation proposed by this bill will deprive the general fund of a great deal of revenue which must be made up by additional taxation, and practically will impose the support of the entire poor of the majority of the counties upon the taxpayers of the cities. A more unjust measure to already highly taxed cities could not be devised. And for what purpose? None, except to give the air of truth to the proverbial falsehood that "all poverty and crime have their origin in the use of liquor, beer and wine."

MOSES BLOOM.

ERNST MUELLER.

MINORITY REPORT ON HOUSE FILE NO. 199.

MR. SPEAKER:

The minority of your Committee on the Suppression of Intemperance, to whom house file No. 199 was referred, beg leave to report that, having considered the same, they cannot concur in the favorable report thereupon made to you by a majority of the committee.

The committee's substitute for house file No. 199, while appearing to confer upon municipalities certain powers, is really devised to take power from electors which should be exercised at the ballot-box only, and confer it upon non-electors, to be exercised by petition. A rule so dangerous cannot be lightly adopted, and should not be hastily considered by this house. In this case the regulation is proposed in order to give non-electors control of the question of prohibiting the sale of wine and beer, but in the future it may be extended so as to include the whole range of interests confided to our municipal governments, and the electors will find it vain to choose their servants, who, when chosen, become the servile vehicle of the wishes of non-electors, expressed by petition. Thus the elective franchise, the bulwark of our free institutions, will become a mockery, and finally, falling into indifference, will be disused entirely, and our form of government will begin to decay at its most sensitive center—local government. We are aware that prejudice demands, in dealing with the liquor question, a suspension or reversal of all the well settled rules of law and common sense; but, we submit, this bill is so wide, dangerous, and threatening a departure, that it must appeal to the commonest and most ordinary conception, as well as to the most refined appreciation, of the value of our institutions and the duties of citizenship, and cause in each a feeling of revolt against such folly, in the name of philanthropy and reform.

For the foregoing reasons, the minority of your committee report the said and other bills back with the recommendation that they do not pass. And we suggest another and more important reason than all the foregoing, namely, that it is unjust and unnecessary to incumber the statutes of the state with these prohibitory laws, whilst the proposed prohibitory amendment adopted by this general assembly will be submitted to the people of Iowa, and in the event either of its adoption or rejection will necessitate a change or a total repeal of all existing laws relating to prohibition.

MOSES BLOOM.

ERNST MUELLER.