

[Richfield (Richfield Springs), Otsego Co.]

### REV. F. O. HOKERK'S POSITION

Full and sufficient reasons were given by the Rev. Mr. [Frank] Hokerk of the Universalist church last Sunday morning, for his refusal to sign the paper being circulated in this town for the purpose of obtaining the required number of signatures to put local option in this town to the vote at the coming election. He doesn't believe in no license for Richfield Springs, and is man enough to say so openly.

Mr. Hokerk declared his conviction that the prohibition by law of the sale of intoxicating liquors prevents neither the use or sale of liquor and on the other hand creates crime in the inevitable secret infraction of such law. He questioned if local option were even the first step in the solution of the temperance problem. Bringing the application of prohibition to Richfield Springs he asked if its advocates would reimburse those who under the laws of this state and nation had invested large sums in property on which liquor is sold? Richfield Springs, he said, a summer resort, catering to a cosmopolitan business and in large measure dependent upon its summer visitors for the livelihood of its citizens, would in the abolishing of the sale of liquors be doomed as a summer resort. He is for the enforcement, to the letter, of the present liquor laws.

Speaking of the influence of the saloon upon young men, he very properly placed the burden of responsibility on the parents. Give the boy the proper training, make the home attractive and the normal boy will never consider the drinking place as a rival for his presence.

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