

INSIDE TESTIMONY.

Two saloonkeepers and a brewer were recently called as witnesses before Chicago's liquor traffic commission. Their testimony, as coming from "the trade," was highly significant. "It gave the commission something to think about," said the Chicago Tribune. These were some of the points brought out:

Ten per cent. of the city's saloons are lawbreakers.

Saloonkeepers conducting objectionable places do so "under concessions."

About 2,000 saloonkeepers are losing money every day.

Breweries own at least 3,000 of the licenses.

Saloonkeepers owning their places are not treated so well as saloonkeepers whose places are owned by breweries.

The brewer (retired) gave it as his opinion that cabarets in connection with saloons should be abolished and that saloon "hang-outs" for criminals should be closed. Of course, the keep-

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ers of brewery-owned places "believe that saloons would get along all right if the sale of spirituous liquors were prohibited and only beer and wine sold."

WILL ONE MILLION WORKING MEN LOSE THEIR JOBS IF THE SALOONS ARE CLOSED?

By Charles Stelzle.

According to the defenders of the saloon 1,000,000 workmen would permanently be thrown onto the labor market following the introduction of national prohibition. This argument is based entirely upon the absurd proposition that if the liquor dealers fail to get the money now spent for beer and whiskey nobody else will get it. It is assumed that if a man does not spend a dollar for booze he will throw that dollar into the sewer or into some kind of a bottomless pit, instead of using it to purchase some other commodity which will do good instead of harm, which will have a permanent value, and which will give the workmen of the country more work, more wages, and greater prosperity every way than if the same amount of money were spent for beer and whiskey.

A good deal is being said about the enormous amount of capital invested in the liquor industry; and yet, according to the Statistical Abstract of the United States, for every \$1,000,000 invested in the average industry practically four times as much raw material is required, four times as much wages are paid, and four times as many workers are employed as is the case in the liquor industry.

Let us take five leading industries in the United States, and compare them with the liquor business, with reference to the number of wage earners employed. For every \$1,000,000 invested in each of these industries the following number of wage earners are employed: liquor, 77; iron and steel and their products, 284; paper and printing, 367; leather and its products, 469; textiles and their finished products, 578; lumber and its manufactures 579. These figures prove that the iron industry employs nearly four times as many, paper and printing nearly five times as many, leather six times as many, textiles seven and one-half times as many, and lumber seven and one-half times as many workers for every \$1,000,000 invested as does the liquor industry.

What is the ratio of wages paid the workers to the amount of capital invested in the liquor business, as compared with each of the industries noted? Here are the figures: liquor, 5.6 per cent; iron, 17.6 per cent; paper, 21.3 per cent; leather, 23.5 per cent; textiles, 23.8 per cent; lumber, 27.1 per cent. A quick glance at these figures shows how comparatively little the labor man gets out of the liquor business. If the \$2,000,000,000 which we now spend for intoxicating liquor were spent for bread and clothing—the two staple articles in the life of the workmen—it would give employment to nearly eight times as many workers, who would collectively receive five and one-half times as much wages as is now the case in the liquor business.

Besides this, it would require \$600,000,000 worth of additional raw material to what the liquor industry now uses. It would not be necessary to spend all of the \$2,000,000,000 for bread and clothing if the liquor industry were destroyed, but if the transfer of this money into the legitimate industries mentioned above would produce the results described, is it not fair to say that substantially the same general results would be achieved if the total sum were distributed among

all of the industries that would receive the benefit of increased business were men to spend money for the necessities of life, as well as for its legitimate luxuries, instead of for beer and whiskey? If this were done, the men who make glass bottles, barrels, automobiles, signs, printing material, cabinet work, and other products for use in the liquor business, would find jobs in turning out these same materials for other industries.

The figures given by the liquor interests as to the number of men who would be affected by the abolition of the liquor traffic are greatly exaggerated. The Census Report for 1910 tells us that in all manufacturing industries there were then employed 6,616,046 persons. The liquor industry employed 6,920, or just about one per cent of the total. But of this number only about 15,000 were brewers and malsters, distillers and rectifiers. The remainder of the 62,920 were employed as engineers, carpenters, machinists, teamsters, bottlers, etc.—occupations which are not at all peculiar to the liquor business. There were more teamsters employed than there were brewers and malsters, distillers and rectifiers.

There are about 100,000 bartenders in the United States. What will become of these when the saloon is abolished? What is it that makes a successful bartender? It is his ability as a salesman, and a man who is a good bartender will make a good clerk or salesman in practically any other kind of business. Furthermore, it requires many more people to sell \$2000,000,000 worth of bread and clothing, for example, than it does to sell liquor of the same value. And it is more than likely that at least as many salaried employees, such as traveling salesmen, bookkeepers, and stenographers will be employed.

But what about the 15,000 or so brewers and malsters, distillers and rectifiers? They will, of necessity, be compelled to adjust themselves to changed conditions. But this does not mean that they will either go adrift or cause a labor panic. The constantly changing situation in the industrial world in this country often compels men to transfer from one occupation to another, many of them being required to learn entirely new trades. Take, for illustration, the situation when the Mergenthaler typesetting machine was introduced. The printers thought that their trade was destroyed. However, they immediately learned how to run typesetting machines, with the result that today there

are more printers employed than ever before, and they are receiving higher wages than at any time in their history. As a matter of fact, however, more workmen lose their jobs because saloons are open than would be the case were the saloons to be closed.

As somebody put it, "When liquor puts a man out of a job it unfits him for another job. When no-license puts a bartender out of a job it makes him a wealth-producing workman, instead of a wealth-destroying workman. It is better that the bartender should lose his job and get a better one than that dozens of his patrons should lose their jobs and be unfitted for any job."

PREACHING FROM PICTURES ON A POLE.

A Japanese Methodist preacher in Kynshin has recently put into practice a novel method of gospel propaganda. He hangs upon a bamboo pole the large Bible pictures from the Berean Sunday-school rolls and goes through the villages, showing the pictures, and from them preaching Christian sermons in simple language. Both children and grown people are attracted and listen to the message.

ONE DAY'S REST IN SEVEN.

The Court of Appeals in New York State has upheld the validity of the law requiring employers in mercantile and manufacturing establishments to allow one day's rest in seven to their employes. The law is based upon a recognition of the necessities created by modern industry for continuous operation of some industries, but requires that one day in the week shall be a rest day for every worker.

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