

INTEMPERANCE IN PANAMA.

Commissioners Adopt Stringent Rules Against Intemperance.

Gen. Davis, in talking to the members of the house committee, says, and all other American officials agree with his statement, that so great a tendency toward drink has manifested itself on the part of a goodly percentage of the men brought here, that many of them have had to be sent back home. They must back 30 out of 100.

If there is one thing upon which the canal officials are going to insist beyond all others, it is temperance—sobriety—on the part of all employees. The necessity for this is absolute. The health problem down here is not a particularly difficult one to men who keep alcohol out of their systems, and at the moment Mr. Wallace or Gen. Davis have evidence of too great a tendency toward drink on the part of any of the men under them, those men receive their walking papers. This has been the rule up to date, and it is going to be the rule as long as these men are at the head of affairs. Men stationed in the tropics seem to think they can, without harm to themselves, drink more than they could in a temperate or cold climate. Whether they can or not is a debatable question. That those who come to Panama are not to be permitted much experimenting on this line has already been demonstrated. And it has also been demonstrated that such experiments spell fevers and death.

The temptations are by no means small. The natives get drunk upon every provocation, it being about their only amusement. Into this atmosphere the young men who come to take places in the different departments of the canal work are thrown. It is the only phase of native life they see. As a bright young college man, who has been here for some months, attached to the engineering department, said: "The thing that influences so many of our men to dissipation is the absence of diversion of any kind. There is absolutely nothing here—nothing but the vices. Those of us on duty at Panama hang around our offices at night because there is nothing else to do; those out on the line are denied even that pleasure. There are no theaters, no dance halls, no clubs, and there is no home life open to them. It is an altogether desolate existence. While I have never taken a drink, I can say in all honesty that once in a while I have envied the fellows who do, for they seem to find a way to forget."

The same story on all sides. A good many of the people here now are pretty sore on it all. Unless a man comes for the love of the work and finds it his greatest joy, in its accomplishments, he had better stay away. Before things have progressed very much farther the commission probably will make provision for amusement of some kind.—New York Sun.

The Curse of Drink. Some striking facts have recently been brought to light in Berlin bearing on the pernicious results of indulgence in alcohol. The medical director of a large workmen's hospital, Dr. Stadelmann, says that nearly 30 per cent of the unhappy wretches who fill the large wards in his hospital are there because of the misuse of drink, and to these another 10 per cent may be added for those whose parents have been drinkers. Were drinking customs abolished not one hospital would be wanted for every three now in use and not one lunatic asylum in ten.

With reference to the effect of alcohol on suicides, instructive statistics show that of 300 suicides which occurred last year in Germany, in nearly 150 cases the suicide was under the direct influence of drink and 75 when the victims were recovering from the effects of intoxication. Of the remainder, 25 were children of drinking parents.—London Tatler.

Chicago's Poor Beer Market. Chicago's breweries experienced a poor year during 1904. The sales of beer did not fall off so much, the government revenue stamps issued reaching 3,829,554 barrels, or only 41,493 barrels less than 1903. With the cost of doing business fully 10 per cent higher and prices for beer averaging about \$1 a barrel lower on the various grades, it is estimated that the value of the trade was 12 1/2 per cent less than in 1903, reaching possibly \$16,000,000. The malt-making business also was a disappointment, selling prices averaging 10 to 15 per cent lower. In spite of the slow times, local jobbers in wines and liquors sold slightly more goods than the year before, the total business in Chicago and tributary territory reaching a value of \$38,500,000. The feature of the trade was an increased call for straight goods in whiskeys.

Moderate Drinking. If moderate drinking led to more moderation, and that to total abstinence, it would not be dangerous. The trouble is that it leads to more drinking and intemperance. Fifty years ago, in France, the people drank freely of light wines, using little strong drink. But the French people have learned a sad lesson. The wines created a thirst for intoxicants, and now strong drink has a firm hold on that people. Light wines are no longer satisfactory; distilled liquor and drunkenness are the common thing. The average consumption of alcohol is 35 pints a year to each inhabitant, twice as much as in any other country in Europe, except Switzerland; eight times as much as in Canada. It is a sad commentary on moderate drinking, but a very suggestive one.—Herald and Prebyter.

Everybody understands that an old boiler must be treated with care, but very few understand that an old stomach is as dangerous as an old boiler.

If Milk Has Been Watered. A simple method of testing whether milk has been watered is to take a well polished knitting needle and dip it into a deep vessel of milk and withdraw it immediately. If the milk is unwatered some of the fluid will adhere to the needle, but if it has been watered in the least degree the needle will come out quite free of the milky fluid.

Shepherds believe the wool on a sheep's back is an unfailing barometer. The curlier the wool the finer will be the weather.

Two of a Kind.

Able Editor (to new dramatic critic)—I like your work, sir. I am delighted with it! No matter how young and lovely, and pretty a new actress may be, you don't gush over her.

Dramatic Critic—No, sir. "That is what I like about your articles. With all my former critics I was in hot water half the time. They were all young fellows, and every Monday night they'd bring in a lot of fresh gush about some new actress, and every time, without exception, my wife would suspect me of writing those articles myself. See?" "I see. Well, there'll never be any such trouble while I'm with you. I have a wife, too, and she knows I write 'em."—N. Y. Weekly.

Crafty Count. "Do you remember how Count Cash-nought sympathized with America when he was wooing the daughter of the New York millionaire?" "I should say so. Why, he used to sing 'Yankee Doodle' two or three times every day." "And does he still sing 'Yankee Doodle' now that he has won her?" "No; now he sings 'Yankee Doodle.'"—Chicago Daily News.

His Choice. "Papa, I am going to get married, and myself and wife have decided to stay here with you and mother." "You and your wife will have another 'decide' coming to you, my son, when you have tried that little game. By the way, who is your wife to be?" "Our cook." "Bless you, my son, bless you! Keep her here by all means."—Houston Post.

Other Way Around. "I understand that Nacoyne had an attack of heart trouble brought on by financial difficulties." "You got it twisted. He had an attack of financial difficulties brought on by heart trouble. The wealthy Miss Van Rox jilted him, you know."—Cleveland Leader.

In the Same General Line. "Drug stores sell ice cream, soda,

water, confectionery and a lot of other things that are not medicine," said the man who complains. "That's true," answered the pharmacist. "But most of them are likely to lead to the consumption of medicines."—Washington Star.

Cause and Effect. She—Did you ever hear of a girl dying of a broken heart? He—Yes; once. She—Tell me about it. He—Oh, that isn't much to tell. She used a millionaire for breach of promise and lost out.—Chicago Daily News.

Naming the Baby. "You've got a good collection of works of fiction, Smithers." "Pretty fair. My wife bought them to look for a poetic name for the baby." "And what 'it' you call her?" "Susan."—"Tit-Bits.

Only One. "There's one thing I can't understand, don't you know?" "Then what Jack Huggler said about you is true?" "Awer—what was that?" "He said you were not such a fool as you looked."—Houston Post.

Secret of a Sphinx. The Man in the Iron Mask explained: "To prevent identification in case I am caught in an auto accident," he vouchsafed. Herewith he applied for a patent on the invention.—N. Y. Sun.

A Double Failure. "I understand Mr. Shook's last play was a failure," said the man with the thick eye-glasses. "Worse than that," replied the man with the gold tooth. "It was a double failure." "Yes?" "It was adjudged immoral enough to be suppressed, and at the same time was not sufficiently immoral to draw good houses."—Judge.

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SCENIC ROUTE TO THE WEST CINCINNATI, INDIANAPOLIS, ST. LOUIS, CHICAGO, LOUISVILLE, NASHVILLE, MEMPHIS, 2:00 p. m. and 11:00 p. m. daily. WESTBOUND LOCAL TRAINS. 7:30 a. m. and 5:15 p. m. week days. NEWPORT NEWS, NORFOLK AND OLD POINT. 9 a. m. and 4 p. m. daily. Local For Newport News and Old Point. 7:35 a. m. and 3 p. m. week days. JAMES RIVER LINE. 10:30 a. m. daily. 5:15 p. m. week days. 10:30 a. m. From West; 7:30 a. m. From East; 11:00 a. m., 11:45 a. m., 7:30 p. m. From West; 11:45 a. m., 11:30 a. m., 7:30 p. m. From East. (Daily; Ex. Sunday.)

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ATLANTIC COAST LINE EFFECTIVE MAY 27TH. Trains leave Richmond daily. For Florida and South, 9:30 A. M., 7:35 and 6:20 P. M. For Norfolk, 9:30 A. M., 5:30 P. M. and 9:30 P. M. For N. & W. Ry. West, 12:10 and 9:30 P. M. For Petersburg, 9:00 A. M., 12:10, 3:00, 6:20, 9:30 and 11:40 A. M., 1:00, 2:00, 3:30, 5:00 and 8:50 P. M. For Goldsboro and Fayetteville, 9:38 P. M. Trains arrive Richmond daily. 5:10, 7:30, 9:00 and 11:40 A. M., 1:00, 2:00, 3:30, 5:00 and 8:50 P. M. C. H. BOILEY, Gen. Pass. Agt. Div. Pass Agent