

DRINKING IN ENGLAND HAS BEEN CURBED

Public Drunkenness Has Been Reduced 50 Per Cent in 9 Months.

London, May 15.—The results of the resolute methods applied by England to the regulation of the drink problem nine months ago, after the first lessons of the war's demands had been learned, are discussed in an interview with a correspondent of the Associated Press by Lord D'Abernon, chairman of the Central Liquor Traffic control board, the organization having the work in hand.

Briefly, in areas accounting for 29 out of the 43 millions of population over which the board has extended its influence it has reduced public drunkenness roughly by 50 per cent. The new regulations, however, will not extend beyond England, Scotland and Wales.

One of Lord D'Abernon's most striking statements was the forecast that were the problem of intemperance attacked with vigor and skill, three-fourths of the drink evil might never recur.

"That, of course, is one man's opinion only," he emphasized, "but I believe it is fully justified in the light of what we have been fortunate enough to learn. I don't want to make the mistake of painting the picture in too rosy a light. There is certainly a tremendous work ahead, even though the mistle does appear to be parting some."

"Bear in mind that prohibition, as I understand its application in the United States and Canada, is largely rural, while these figures I have given refer to the cities. They compare with your own and the Canadian cities in the prohibition areas of reductions of about 66 per cent.

"One of the first points to bear in mind in grasping the situation here is that in the years immediately preceding the outbreak of war both the consumption of alcohol and the number of convictions for public drunkenness were steadily increasing.

"Also, in the past good trade has always coincided with an increase in the consumption of alcohol. It is disappointing, therefore, to realize that in 1910-14 increased taxation of alcohol, the temperance propaganda, and the licensing regulations in force, which heretofore had resulted in an average annual diminution of about 1,000 licenses, had not been sufficient to counteract the influence of good trade and high wages.

"In attempting to present a fair reflection of the situation, however, I must give you a brighter side of the picture. This concerns the highly gratifying readiness with which the public has shown itself willing to assist in seeing that all should conform to the drastic regulations of the past nine months.

"You may attribute this truly remarkable attitude, I believe, to the public's belief that the restrictions are in reality war necessities, and their willingness in a great crisis to subordinate personal convenience to national efficiency.

"Among the public at large it is re-

markable also that there is widespread and practically general approval of such provisions as that prohibiting treating. When a law interfering with a right as sacred to the Englishman as sense of personal liberty as that of treating is not only accepted but welcomed by a large portion of the populace, you may see how the nation is welded to win the war. Likewise the law that prohibits the extension of credit in alcohol sales and that permitting the dilution of spirits, have not only been approved, but elicited little or no criticism.

"It is true, of course, that more difference exists regarding the restriction of hours. The board has attempted to confine the consumption of alcohol to hours conflicting least with the working day and coinciding best with ordinary meal hours.

"One of the best outward results of the board's work is in the reduction of the number of convictions for drunkenness with aggravations, aggravations usually representing disorder and assault. The reduction in the number of these cases has been even greater than in the number of simple drunkenness. While not explained, this feature is proving of vast interest to all students of the problem.

"We are not only pleased to note the reduction in public intemperance and of convictions referred to, but to observe that they have been steadily maintained in areas in which our orders are in force, there having been no falling back from the best level reached."

"The government's success in inducing Lord D'Abernon to assume the difficult task of the liquor traffic control work confronting the liquor traffic board was considered a good omen from the start. He is also now chairman of the dominion's royal trade commission, and has been governor of the Imperial Ottoman bank at Constantinople and financial adviser of the Egyptian government, as well as the holder of other appointments of distinction.

Curious as it may seem, one of his slogans is that much may be done for the cause of temperance by placing the liquor traffic on a better financial basis. The true irradiness of this idea is that by consolidation of brewing interests and the reduction in the number of public houses or saloons, the temptation to drink will be correspondingly reduced.

"No one who has closely studied the present method of administration can fail to realize how ineffective and extravagant the present mode of retailing alcohol to the public is," said Lord D'Abernon, "and it is probable that the same argument holds good in a sense also in the United States and Canada. I mean the corresponding excess of temptation resulting.

"Licensed houses are not only too numerous from the standpoint of public order and the police—we all seem to realize that—but they somehow fail to realize that they are too numerous from the point of trade efficiency. They should be made to realize that the same net profit could be realized from licensed houses reduced in number by 30 or 40 per cent. Reformers have talked so much about the swollen profits of the brewing trade that many brewers here fail to realize how small their profits are in comparison with the enormous turnover involved. Unoubtedly if there were less extravagant competition and a little more intelligent adjustment and organization gross receipts which exceed the takings of all the railways in the kingdom by 50 per cent should afford very different net result from that now attained.

"Out of \$980,000,000 some \$220,000,000 are absorbed by taxation. The cost of materials and manufacture does not exceed \$200,000,000, leaving about \$410,000,000 for retail expenditure and for profit—too much of the farmer and not enough of the latter. There is a large margin for economy without detriment to anybody.

"Aside from the cost of maintaining inefficient public houses to the certain prejudice of public order and the increase of intemperance, large sums are frittered away by unnecessary transport. A brewery in the east of London has a few houses in the west and vice versa, each having to send wagons to carry beer and return empties. In the outlying cities conditions in this respect are even worse. Rail-

ways are blocked by necessary carriage of beer that under more intelligent administration of the trade would never leave its own district.

"Breweries are far too numerous for economy and standing charges would be largely reduced by amalgamation into up-to-date establishments. The object of reform should be, not to hit the brewer and distiller, but to get better results from them. And that is possible only if a broad view is taken of their position, if their duties are recognized, and if their co-operation is secured in modifying the present position and effecting economy in the existing widely extravagant system—which is the worst sort of a system for the temperance cause."

"Sometimes," confided Mrs. Long to her intimate friend, "I think my husband is the patientest, gentlest, best-natured soul that ever lived, and sometimes I think it's just laziness." (Christian Register.)

"Doctor, what shall I do to stop this ringing in my ears?" "Better have your telephone taken out."

DRILLING TO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY



Capt. Dorothy Dennis (left) and Private Phyllis Cleveland at National Service School.

Washington, May 11.—Two hundred students of the National Service school are gradually accustoming themselves to military regime, coarse khaki, sunburned noses, blisters, and stiff joints. Young women who have been ordering proud papers around are now taking orders from officers they never saw before—and liking it. And the woman's section of the Navy league, which is in charge of the woman's training camp at Cherry Chase, is well pleased with this feminine outgrowth of the Plattsbury training camp of last year.

There are women from fifteen different states among the 200 in the camp, and many who never saw one another are tentmates, with their beds almost touching. There is a big lavatory pavilion with showers, and a bigger mess hall, where the resident students eat their three meals a day, just as meals—barring the fact that they have butter at all of them instead of only once a day—as are furnished to the marine corps.

It is wholesome, nourishing foods, but it is not French cooking, and knowing how most of the girls out there are accustomed to living, visitors smile at the long bare tables with their bottles of oil and vinegar, their

coarse white sugar bowls, the inevitable ketchup, and pressed glass jars filled with spring onions by way of a relish. Of the coppers, one girl says, "the thick, white things. We could use them for ammunition if we had any cannon."

The camp uniform is not what one would pick out for stout elderly women. And there are quite a few of those in camp. The campaign hats are disturbing to elaborate coiffures. The one small mirror in the tents is overworked when five girls are trying to get their hair up in the scramble of dressing between reveille at 6:30 and turning out for military calisthenics at 6:45.

Breakfast is at 7:30 and camp inspection at 8:30, when the orderly tent occupants take turns at that job—as responsible for her tent's being in perfect order inside and outside. One "rookie" laughingly complained that she had raked and raked until she felt as if she was making a garden, in her effort to get her door yard properly tidy.

"I'd hate to be reprimanded for untidiness in person or tent," she said. "No, I don't mind the turning out at 6:30, but I'm ready to turn in at 9:30."

"That lady next door seems rather uppish."

"She can save her airs. I'm just as anxious not to get acquainted with her as she is not to know me." (Louisville Courier-Journal.)

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STATE COUNCIL HAS DISSOLVED

Chinese Body Quits to Acknowledge Responsibility to Monarchy.

Peking, May 11.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—Acknowledging its responsibility in the monarchial movement, the state council, sitting as an acting parliament, has dissolved itself to prove to the opponents of the monarchy that the acting parliament realized its worthlessness and the great error it made in urging the throne upon President Yuan Shi-kai.

The acting parliament was called in special session by the president and the president immediately he had announced the cancellation of the monarchy, and its session of March 26 was probably the last it will hold, as President Yuan Shi-kai will doubtless approve the dissolution of the acting parliament. Before adjourning the acting parliament took action restoring all laws of the republic which were cancelled or in any way affected by the legislation providing for the re-establishment of the monarchy.

Kiang Han, the member who moved that the acting parliament should dissolve itself as a proof of its guilt in advising a change in the form of government, said: "The change of government was brought about rashly without due and careful consideration. For a mandate shouldering all the responsibilities for the crime by abruptly cancelling the same. Careful consideration will show that although those who first advocated the monarchy cannot escape blame for having done so, the Tsan Cheng Yuan (state council) nevertheless also shared in committing the crime for acting as principal representatives of the people. A man so ignorant of law like myself is unable to say whether the organization of the convention of the citizens' representatives was legal, but I am convinced that in spite of the cancellation of the monarchy, it is doubtful whether the parties in the south will be satisfied with it or if the province of Yunnan and Kweichow will cease fighting. In addition to these facts we must also remember that a strong neighboring country has been eagerly expecting."

"Since the great president has courageously taken on himself the responsibility of the crime, we should

also wind up our business and ask the government to dissolve the organ in order that, on the one hand, we may thus offer apology to the citizens, and, on the other hand, to the great president, while at the same time appeasing our own conscience."

LIANG SHIH-YI and other prominent leaders opposed the motion, saying it was the duty of the members of the acting parliament to stick to their posts in spite of troubles which have come upon the country, and try to

save the government rather than their own faces. After a spirited debate, the acting parliament adopted the measure by a majority vote.

CRUEL COMFORT. "If you don't mawwy me, Miss Gladys, I'll blow out my brains." "Would you put the poor coroner to a microscope inquest to determine the cause of death?"

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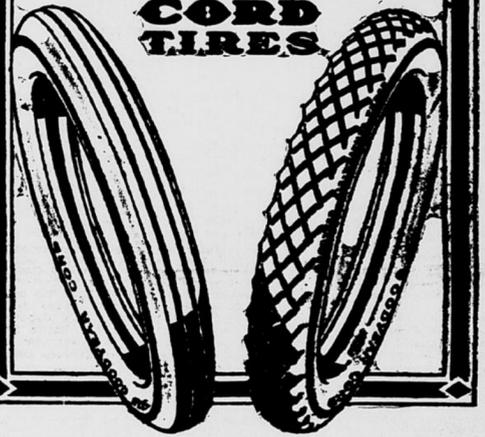
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