

MR. EDWARDS DISCUSSES THE LIQUOR PROBLEM

Editor Advertiser: At the request of the Anti-Saloon League I herewith offer you for publication an article which embodies the positions taken by me in a public address delivered some time ago...

THE PERSONAL ELEMENT.

It is quite common to attack the saloon evil as an indefinite, impersonal, intangible entity. I have no objection to this method of procedure. However, it will do us good occasionally to remember that the evil itself exists only because there are men willing to perpetuate it...

PRINCIPLE STATED.

To take the fruit of another's toil without rendering due compensation therefor is wrong. In the business world it usually constitutes a crime. No business can legitimately be called a business that does not seek to render a service as well as secure a profit...

a mistaken idea that guilt or crime is always constituted by legal enactment. That which is really criminal is criminal regardless of whether the law recognizes its criminality. Boodling, gambling, slavery, etc., have ever been as criminal as now...

I now wish to apply the test to the liquor traffic. That it is prosecuted for the sake of profit no one will deny, not even the liquor men themselves. Then, the only thing which can save it from being criminal is that it shall render a service...

THE INDIVIDUAL WHO DRINKS.

First, with respect to the individual who drinks the intoxicant. Does it benefit him? How about his body? Can he withstand more cold? Can he endure more heat? Can he do more work? Can he more successfully fight off disease?

Liquor then does not help one in body, brain, or morals. From an economic standpoint it destroys productive power and lessens earning capacity. It weakens the whole physical being and also leaves a man spiritually worsed.

out his lifetime average. They will not insure habitual drinkers; and in a very comprehensive test made in England they have proved that about 97 per cent. of moderate drinkers die at the lifetime average while in the case of total abstainers the percentage is 69.

The effect on a man's body is not different from that on his brain. Therefore it will not be necessary to dwell on the question as to whether the brain is helped or impaired by drink. Nor should it be necessary to spend much time discussing whether the individual's moral sense is made more keen through intoxicants...

Liquor then does not help one in body, brain, or morals. From an economic standpoint it destroys productive power and lessens earning capacity. It weakens the whole physical being and also leaves a man spiritually worsed.

Ab, but says one, when a man is in trouble or is despondent intoxicants help him to forget his trouble. They make him feel rich and happy. Do they? Then weren't they very unkind in San Francisco to deny the solace of this great boon in the days following the recent disaster?

THE DRINKER'S FAMILY. Well, how about the drinker's family? We can afford to sacrifice the drinker for the larger circle of his home provided it is served. Can the agent for the liquor traffic lay claim to being worthy of honor at this point?

I have spoken largely of the drunkard's child. I shall not attempt to describe the woes of his disappointed, unhappy wife. How many of them with broken hearts are living the lingering death! We deny them the ballot and then put them at the mercy of appetite and greed where they must not only suffer themselves, but where they must see that which is worse, the suffering of their little ones...

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Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass., U.S.A.

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