

## BRITISH PRESS REPORT LIQUOR TRAFFIC'S EFFECT UPON YOUTH WHERE SALOONS ARE LICENSED

Furnishes Contrast of Conditions Obtaining Between Wet and Dry Countries; Liquor Traffic Licensed Bids for Trade of Youth; Recalls Old Days in United States

### BOYS BUY POISON HOOTCH IN GLASGOW SALOONS

Authorities Powerless to Prevent Sales Under License System; Fifty to Eighty Per Cent of Boys and Girls of Wine Region of Hungary Arrive at School Drunk

Two recent news items carried in British newspapers furnish facts as to how licensing the liquor traffic "protects" the youth from the evils of alcoholism. They reveal a situation particularly interesting at this time when those who are striving to restore some sort of license system in this country are saying so much about prohibition's ruining our youth. One of these items is carried in the Eastern England News, the other in the Glasgow Daily Record and Mail.

#### Poison Hootch in Glasgow Saloons

We first quote from the Glasgow Record.

At a meeting of Dumbartontown Council, Bailie Irwin requested that the council discuss the conduct in the burg streets on Friday and Saturday nights.

The trouble unfortunately, he said, was the conduct of their young men, and the cause in his belief was the sale of a particular stuff which was ruining the morale of their young men.

Drinks sold to young men at 2d. a glass and 4d. a gill, was absolutely ruining the men. They saw them going into the shops where it was sold, and coming out in a short time delirious. The council ought to step in and resolve that this stuff should not be sold.

Provost Garrick questioned if they had any power in the matter. If this thing was known to the police, it could be reported to the Licensing Court and the magistrates could then take some action.

Dean Guild McKinney asked if it was not a matter for the Sanitary Inspector, but the Provost replied that publicans selling this cheap drink were not practicing any deception on anybody. The men who paid that price for a drink knew quite well not to expect good spirit.

Attention is called to the fact that the Provost questioned whether Council had any power in the matter.

Here were the young men of the town buying stuff at four cents a glass, or eight cents a gill, that almost as soon as they swallowed it made them delirious. And yet the city authorities apparently were unable to prevent its sale.

This situation sharply contrasts the difference between a legalized traffic and an outlawed traffic. The claim is made by enemies of prohibition in our country that the youth buy bootleg liquor which is of such poor quality that it drives them temporarily insane. Not even the wettest of these pleaders for the return of the licensed traffic will contend that the public officials have no power to prosecute this stuff and close his place of business. But under the protection of his license the publican, or saloonkeeper, of Glasgow continues to sell this cheap, poisonous concoction to the boys and the plea is made that the publican, or saloonkeeper, is guiltless, because he is not practicing deception, "that the man who

pays such a low price for drink knows perfectly well he is not getting a good quality."

#### No Guarantee Against Hootch

It is also worth noting that here breaks down the argument, so often heard in this country that licensing the liquor traffic will insure the sale and consumption of only pure liquors. It is quite evident that it doesn't work that way in Glasgow, and those whose memory goes back ten years will recall that it did not work that way in our own country.

Anyone familiar with the old West Madison Street district of Chicago, for instance, will recall that poison liquor, commonly known as "nickle disturbance," was on tap in practically every West Madison Street barrel-house. Who has forgotten the long-drawn out controversy which held attention a few years ago on the question, "what is whisky," and the revelations that were made disclosing the poisonous concoctions that were being foisted upon the drinking public in spite of the pure food and drug law?

#### School Children Drunk

We quote the other item from the Eastern England News, as follows:

It does not surprise us that America should give us a lead in social reforms, but there is a shock to our pride that Hungary should leave us behind. It is true that Hungary was in desperate need of the law just passed, which makes the sale of all kinds of alcoholic beverages to anyone under eighteen years of age illegal. The Hungarian Parliament was filled with consternation when M. Vass, the Social Welfare Minister, related the appalling fact that in many parts of Hungary, especially in the lowlands where light wines are abundant and the water supply rather poor—from 50 to 80 per cent of the school-children arrive at school at 8 o'clock in the morning in a drunken condition.

The government intends to deal with the water supply, but Parliament proposes to do more than that. It passed a resolution calling upon the government to render illegal the sale of all alcohol from Saturday noon to Monday morning. Nor is that all. M. Vass stated that his ministry is preparing to launch a campaign to educate parents to see that they are poisoning their children when

they give them alcoholic drinks.

#### Where Stands England?

That is Hungary! Where does England stand? The president of the National British Women's Total Abstinence Union, Miss Agnes E. Slack, in a letter to the press, makes the following statement:

"On the application of Messrs. Barclay Perkins, owner of the Fellowship Inn, a 'reformed' public house on the County Council's Bellingham Estate, the magistrates granted permission for the partitioning off of a portion of its roof garden to be used by children whose parents are drinking on the premises, a special attendant being also provided."

Comment is superfluous.

Here then is seen further "beneficent influences" upon childhood of the liquor traffic!

Fifty to eighty per cent of the school children in many parts of Hungary arriving at school in the morning in a drunken condition—and drunk on wine—that "harmless" drink which our friends, the nullificationists, are demanding as a means to save our present-day youth!

And that saloon of Messrs. Barclay Perkins, where provision is made for the care of children while father and mother are enjoying their personal liberty at the bar! What a crafty, foxy move that is! Messrs. Barclay Perkins know that the little tots in the adjoining room under the "care of an attendant" and playing innocent games, are potential customers.

It is some such scheme as this that the nullificationists have in mind when they plead for the return of the liquor traffic on the theory that it will benefit the youth of our nation?

These facts gleaned from the English press revealing conditions in localities where the licensed liquor traffic is holding full sway ought to be sufficient warning to the people of this nation. We don't want that system here. The illegal liquor traffic bidding for victims from the ranks of our youth is bad enough, but it is infinitely worse where the protection of law is thrown about that traffic.

#### OBEY LAW, SAYS ROCKEFELLER

Characterizing the four qualities which he deemed essential to insure success in business as integrity, obedience to law, clean living, and singleness of purpose, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., urged that laws good or bad be obeyed so long as they are on the statute books. He said:

One has respect for the man who seeks by legitimate means to bring about repeal of a law he actually thinks contrary to the public interest, but law is law whether it affects personal liberty, social well-being, or business. So long as it remains the law of the land it should be obeyed by individuals and by corporations. The alternative is anarchy.

The man or organization that stands for the nullification of the Eighteenth Amendment is as much a traitor of the government as was Benedict Arnold.

## WILL PROSECUTE CHEMISTS

Chemists Who Test Bootleg Liquor For Prospective Customers of Bootleggers, Are Violating Law, Doran Says

Prohibition Commissioner Doran, in a statement carried by the Associated Press under a Washington dateline of December 24, says that commercial chemists who test alcohol and liquor to determine its purity for drinkers are violators of the prohibition law. Dr. Doran has instructed agents to arrest and prosecute these chemists.

At the same time he announced that liquor now on the bootleg market is "terrible." He says that prohibition bureau chemists report this liquor to be made from denatured alcohol and moonshine, and that there is no genuine smuggled liquor available. Liquor sold as "pure Scotch," is nothing but colored and doctored alcohol, and what little smuggled liquor gets into this country is adulterated and cut to such an extent that it is not recognizable when it gets to the consumer.

The commissioner expressed the belief that deaths resulting from poisoned liquor during this holiday season would be reduced to the minimum, as poisonous ingredients have to a large extent been eliminated from denatured alcohol.

#### GERMAN DRYS ACTIVE.

Adopt Resolutions Calling for Number of Advance Steps in Temperance Reform.

Important resolutions in the direction of propaganda and legislation against alcoholism were adopted by the thirty-eighth annual convention of the German Society Against Alcoholism, meeting in Dresden, according to information in that society sent to the World League Against Alcoholism.

One of the resolutions asks the passage of a law restricting the issuance of licenses. It would abolish lifetime concessions. It also would prohibit the sale of spirituous liquor in sport, bathing and recreation places and would prohibit alcoholic advertisements in and around all public traffic situations. Still further, it would compel all saloons to offer to their patrons non-alcoholic drinks at proper prices. The supplying of liquor to boys and girls under 18 years of age is another inhibition contained in the proposed measure.

The resolutions make a plea for a program of temperance work for women and women's societies. They also call for non-alcoholic fruit juices as against alcoholic fruit juices.

In the interest of safety of the general public government officials are asked to take action to prevent accidents by giving instructions to traffic officials and motor drivers on the evils of drink and by demanding strict abstinence for officials and employes on trains, street railways, motor cars and other means of conveyance.

#### COLLEGE ATTENDANCE INCREASES

According to tabulations received by Dean Raymond Walters of Swarthmore College, enrollment in American colleges and universities has increased 25 per cent in the past five years. The figures are from 211 institutions on the approved list of the association of American universities showing their registration for November 1, 1927, as compared with that of November 1, 1922.

In their enrollment of full-time students, these 211 institutions have a total of 410,712, or an increase of 81,859 in the last five years. With the saloons closed there is more money available in many homes for educational purposes.

## WHY IS THE ENQUIRER NOW DISTURBED?

A Cincinnati doctor says that between 1920 and 1927 there were 65,000 deaths in this country caused by liquor, and the Enquirer of that city is horrified, and, of course, lays the blame on prohibition. Perhaps the Cincinnati doctor is right, and perhaps he is merely guessing. However, a number of years ago when the population of the country was far less than today and when saloons flourished, a noted insurance actuary placed the number of deaths annually due to liquor directly and indirectly, at 60,000. Had that rate been maintained from 1920 to 1927, the number of deaths would have been 420,000 instead of 60,000, and this, too, without taking into account the increase in population. The Enquirer was not horrified at the greater number of deaths under the saloon régime.