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How About Gary?

In the newspaper accounts of the movement in Gary, Indiana, to have the anti-saloon law suspended for the benefit of the men who work about the furnaces there is a woeful lack of names.

Much is said about merchants and business men pleading with the stubborn anti-saloon people for permission to open a few nice saloons so that the foreigners who work in the steel mills won't all yump their jobs and shake the dry dust of Gary from their feet.

But who are these merchants and business men? Are the managers of the steel plant among them?

Are the majority of the substantial, thoughtful, moral business men of Gary pleading for a restoration of the licensed drink traffic? Are the men of high character and devotion to the public good interesting themselves in this so-called movement?

In every town where saloons have been voted out of existence there can be found men who want them voted back. But are they the men who are always to the front in movements for the real benefit of the town and the people?

A great deal that is being printed about this Gary situation is important if true. But is it true? Its most striking feature up to date is that it is frightfully vague.

The Gary men who look upon beer as a necessity for laborers who have to endure the fearful heat of the furnaces are strangely at variance with eminent scientists and physicians who, as the result of the most exhaustive study and experiment, declare positively that the persistent use of alcohol in even the smallest quantity is injurious to the human system and that the drug should be treated as a medicine and used only as prescribed by a doctor if used at all.

But if scientific testimony is to be spurned what about the great steel manufacturer, Frick, who has put a stop to the drinking of beer and other forms of alcohol by all of the many thousand steel workers under his control?

Who stands for this Gary "movement"?

Society and Drink

It has long been in the mind of the writer of these lines to print a cartoon representing in some measure the logical attitude of society toward the sale and use of intoxicants as a beverage.

Various artists have been asked to draw pictures on this subject, and the one appearing on the first page of this paper seems the nearest approach to a satisfactory performance in that line that has yet been made.

The man behind the bar fairly represents the type of saloonkeeper which has so intensified the feeling against that line of tradesmen. Not all saloonkeepers, and certainly not all bartenders are like him. There is a class of men in the saloon business whose kindhearted and generous natures make them seem out of place there, and if they add good sense to their other good qualities they know they are out of place there and they are ashamed of themselves for being there.

There are many men behind the bar, employed by these saloonkeepers, who got into that vocation through some mischance and are anxious to be out of it. The business does not yield them even the pitiful comfort of "easy money" which the proprietor enjoys, for they get barely a living out of it for themselves and their families.

They know they are "looked-down-upon" by the better class of people, they are discriminated against by landlords, by insurance companies and by social organizations and rejected by most of the fraternal orders. Their wives are scorned if they hold up their heads and pitied if they don't. Their children are treated as unfortunates.

And all this for the privilege of gaining a livelihood by work! No wonder they want to get out of it. If society had only these and their kind to deal with it could easily find them other employment and close up the business.

The business would die of itself if all the men engaged in it were as good as the best of them, for they would quit it of their own free will and none as good as themselves would step into their shoes.

Therefore society is compelled to deal with saloonkeepers in general as if they were all as bad as the worst. In representing a typical saloonkeeper the artist has carried out this idea. The man behind the bar in the picture, as in