

## Pigs in Wet Towns

This is from the Beverage Trade News, a liquor paper:

The Indianapolis News of recent date has the following editorial in relation to which we desire to say that the responsibility for the illegal sale of intoxicating liquor rests solely and definitely upon the police department of the different cities and rural communities.

If the law is not enforced it indicates a laxity in the administration of the law upon the part of those whose sworn duty it is to see that it is enforced, and desire to place ourselves on record as favoring the enforcement of law in all circumstances.

If officials fail to act in harmony with their oath of office they should be removed and honest men substituted.

We can not conceive of a situation under which the state of affairs here presented should be permitted to exist.

"In a recent article in The News it was shown that there are in Indianapolis 383 places where liquor is sold that are operating without city or state licenses and in violation of the liquor laws. They are what are known as 'blind tigers.' This number was arrived at by deducting from the number of government licenses issued to Indianapolis persons and firms the number of saloonkeepers and others holding city and state licenses and the number of other dealers in liquor, such as druggists, who hold government licenses, but who do not have to take out city or state licenses.

"Although people in these days are ready enough to believe that city and county authorities are not doing their duty, a showing that in the city of Indianapolis the United States Government collects liquor taxes from 383 persons that are overlooked by the city and county and allowed to run, without city or state licenses, really seems preposterous. One would be disposed to say that the figures are wrong. But they are not wrong—at least they are approximately correct. And the explanation is simple. By the process of elimination it was shown in the article referred to that about 330 of these places where liquor is sold without state or city license are resorts conducted by women. The government collects liquor taxes from them, but the city and county do not and never have. In fact, under the Nicholson law, which prescribes just how and in what kind of rooms liquor may be sold, these women could not get licenses, and there is no way in which they may legally sell liquor.

"If the selling of liquor were stopped in these resorts probably 300 of the 330 would go out of business. Their income is derived very largely from the illegal sale of liquor at exorbitant prices. And yet these people are permitted to run places which are themselves in violation of the law and to add to that violation the illegal sale of liquor."

As the News article pointed out:

The liquor sales at illegal resorts are said to be enormous, making a very profitable side issue for the brewers. There is absolutely no regulation of that business except arbitrary police supervision unknown to the public at large and unsupported by any law. In their sale of liquor, the disreputable houses know no law. Liquor is sold at those places at all times of the day and night, and also on Sunday. In fact, the Sunday sales, according to report, are immensely profitable. The beer and other liquors are sold at exorbitant prices. Prices charged for beer are all the way from 35 cents to \$1 a bottle, and the brewers get more money for beer from the keepers of these resorts than they do from the saloons.

Here is a field that would repay investigation by some

practical reformer. It might well be brought to the attention of the various candidates for mayor.

Now, mind you, all the foregoing except what is within the quotation marks is from the Beverage Trade News, a liquor organ. The portion within the quotation marks is from the Indianapolis News.

## Unkindest Cut of All

(This article is from Bonfort's Wine and Spirit Circular, the leading liquor organ of America. It is published by Leoser Bros. & Gilmore, New York, but the Gilmore is our old friend Tom of Louisville, Ky., who stands for the whisky end of the liquor traffic.)

There is a paper published in Philadelphia called the Beverage Trade News, and, according to its own statement, it is a consolidation of The Wine and Spirit Gazette of New York, established in 1887, and the Philadelphia Liquor Dealers' Journal, established in 1905. This paper is a weekly and calls itself a common sense journal.

The editor of this journal, in the issue of July 23, published an article taken from the American Journal Examiner, entitled, "Fattening of Harriman; or, The Restoration of a Railway King." The article sets forth the diet prescribed by the Austrian professor in attendance on Mr. Harriman. In the article the American Journal Examiner has an editorial comment, in which it takes the stand with the Austrian professor that a glass of beer forms a proper part of the diet, but unfortunately the article goes further. It states:

This diet, prescribed by the greatest living expert, justifies what we have often said to our readers, that true temperance is to be brought about, not by condemning stimulants indiscriminately, but by fighting the poisonous stimulants.

Further on is the following:

Whisky and gin and such poisons would no more have been prescribed by this famous professor than would arsenic or prussic acid. Whisky is a drug and not a drink. It should be classed by law among drugs, and regulated as such. The wisest man drinks little or nothing, and touches spirits never.

The editor of the Beverage Trade News lets this unwarranted attack on whisky and gin go unanswered. He seems to think that because the editor of the Examiner favors the use of a little beer he is helping the cause wonderfully, but though he favors the use of a little beer he is striking a hard blow at and stating what is far from truth in regard to a large part of our industry.

Another article appears in this same paper in the issue of July 9, that runs very much on the same order; it is copied from the New York Evening Journal and is published in full by the Beverage Trade News, again with no editorial comment. It attacks whisky, gin and brandy in very much the same way. One paragraph states, "Fight opium, morphine, whisky, gin and brandy; these things are poison. They mean ruin, death and crime."

Why does the Beverage Trade News seemingly delight in publishing such articles, making no attempt to answer the arguments therein or to defend the interests of a great many of its advertisers and doubtless of a great many of its readers? If it is, as it professes to be, a common sense journal, it certainly would seem that it ought to be devoted to the interests, not only of the beer and light wine industry, but also to the distilling and wholesale liquor industry.

The Beverage Trade News knows its own business best, no doubt, but we fail to see how it can be of any benefit to the trade which it, in part at least, is supposed to represent, by publishing without comment the articles referred to and which are flagrant attacks upon the distilling and whisky business.